

DIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

NCC SUPPORTS UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS



As president of Norwalk Community College (NCC), I am extremely proud of our diversity. We are leaders when it comes to demonstrating how an environment that celebrates an array of traditions enriches all of our lives. In reviewing social scientific research on diversity, Moises Velasquez-Manoff, writing in *The New York Times Sunday Review* on March 4, 2017, states that “The point is that diversity

– of one’s own makeup, one’s experience, of groups of people solving problems, of cities and nations – is linked to economic prosperity, greater scientific process, and a fairer judicial process.” As an educational institution, NCC is proud to put such findings into practice!

Over the past few weeks, I have heard from many members of the NCC community who have expressed concern for our undocumented students or those whose immigration status has changed. While it is difficult to predict what lies ahead, I can assure you that NCC is and remains committed to providing a safe campus, support services and resources to ALL students! Please see our website <https://norwalk.edu/admissions/undocumented-students/> for further information.

In collaboration with CT Students 4 a Dream, we will be hosting *UndocuPeers: Liberating Campus Climate* in March and April. Please look for announcements of these workshops. CSCU President Mark Ojakian reminded members of the CSCU system that our campuses should not be the focus of enforcement action. I not only echo this sentiment, but as president, and as an educator, I feel compelled to reconfirm my support to every student.

Through the dissemination of pertinent information, training for faculty and staff, I want to make it clear that all students, regardless of race, religion, immigration status, national origin, or any other trait makes us #NCC PROUD!

~ NCC President David L. Levinson, Ph.D.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

First African American History Course at NCC.....	2
Chinese New Year	3
Women’s History Month	3
Diversity Quiz	4
Interfaith @ NCC	5
CDI Student Representatives.....	6

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- President Levinson speaks about our undocumented student population
- Dr. Streets teaches 1st African American History course at NCC
- Find out how much you know about diversity with our diversity quiz
- Interfaith @ NCC



Dr. Streets was the first African- American chaplain at Yale University. He holds a Doctorate of Philosophy degree in Social Welfare from Yeshiva University, Certificate in Professional Education from Harvard Graduate School of Education, Masters of Divinity from Yale University Divinity School and Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology from Ottawa University. To learn more about Dr. Streets, visit www.jerrystreets.org

Dr. Frederick Streets Teaches First African-American History Course at NCC

By Elva Edwards

NCC offers a new African American History course (HIS 218) this spring, 2017 semester. Students were so enthusiastic about enrolling in the course that all 35 seats were filled within 2 weeks. In fact, the interest was so overwhelming, it became necessary to move the class to a larger room. This course covers a history of African-Americans from the 17th century to the present, starting with the African background and emphasizing the impact of slavery and the struggle for freedom in the colonial, early national and antebellum periods; the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction on African-American socioeconomic and political aspirations; and the continuing 20th century issues of black activism and the struggle for full civil rights and equality in American society. Teaching this monumental course is Dr. Frederick Streets. Dr. Streets background is deeply rooted in activism of the civil rights movement of the 1960's and 1970's. In his cover letter, Dr. Streets states this about his philosophy of teaching.:

"I value an interdisciplinary approach to teaching and use these methods as a teacher. I bring to my teaching and working with students a sensitivity to the psychological development process of young adult and older undergraduate learners. I use this knowledge, experience and empathy to facilitate their learning and help them to negotiate the value conflicts that are inherent and can arise in their experience as adult learners. I have through my teaching, research and advising students assisted them in developing self-awareness and a love of learning."

The Committee for Diversity and Inclusion welcomes Dr. Streets to the Norwalk Community College community and look forward to a positive learning experience for our students.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION



Chinese New Year celebrations, which is also known as the Spring Festival, in China starts on the 23rd day of the 12th lunar month of the Chinese calendar. The festival lasts for about 23 days, ending on the 15th day of the first lunar month in the following year in the Chinese calendar. In 2017, the first day of the Chinese New Year is on Saturday, January 28, initiating the year of the Rooster. This year's celebration took place in the Multicultural Affairs Center on January 31st. Students, faculty and staff were given red envelopes with messages of well wishes and prosperity; an activity of teaching traditional Chinese calligraphy was taught by members of the Chinese Cultural Club.

*“I want to be remembered as someone who used herself and anything she could touch to work for the justice and freedom...I want to be remembered as one who tried.”
-Dorothy Height (Civil rights and Women's rights activist)*

WOMEN'S {HER}STORY MONTH

During the month of March, we pay homage to all the women, past and present, who through their hard work and dedication have changed history in fighting for the rights of women. To celebrate there were various events that took place taking place on campus.

Events included various workshops, a documentary screening, and a month long collection of goods to be donated to a women's shelter. For the latter, we collected sweatshirts, sweatpants, socks, and personal care items. All items were new and unused. Thanks to the generous donations from our NCC community we've collected over 700 items. Items were donated to local women's shelters. If you have any questions, please contact Pracilya Titus at 203.857.6822 or ptitus@norwalk.edu or Courtney Anstett at 203.857.3369 or canstett@norwalk.edu.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

MARCH

Working Across Gender Lines

12-1:30pm 3/21
E-215

Miss Representa- tion

12-2pm 3/22
GenRe Forum

[HER]Story Women Who Work in Non-traditional Fields

12-2pm 3/30
E-215

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

Academic Festival

April 4th –6th
various locations on
campus

Fresh Check Day

April 19th
11-3pm
West Campus Cafete-
ria

DIVERSITY QUIZ

BY: DENISE RAWLES-SMITH

Test your knowledge and take the Diversity Quiz!

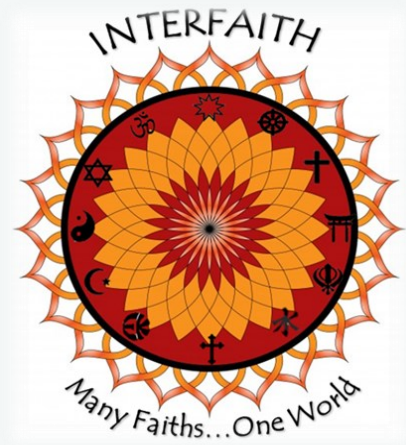
- Students at Norwalk Community College hail from:
 - 25 Countries and speak 30 different languages
 - 50 Countries and speak 42 different languages
 - 80 Countries and speak 54 different languages
 - 100 Countries and speak 62 different languages
- Which U.S. President issued the Campus Interfaith Challenge to the Presidents of Institutions of Higher ED?
 - President Bush
 - President Obama
 - President George W. Bush
 - President Clinton
- Which student population made up the largest racial distribution at NCC during fall 2016?
 - Asian
 - Black or African American
 - Hispanic or Latino
 - White
- Which professor is teaching NCC's first African American Course?
 - Professor Fredrick Streets
 - Professor Steve Berizzi
 - Professor Robert Howard
 - Professor Eileen Brown
- NCC received a 2.3-million-dollar Title V grant because they are recognized as a:
 - Developing African American Institution
 - Developing Asian Institution
 - Developing Hispanic Service Institution
 - Developing Institution of Multiple Races
- Which Historian was the brainchild of Black History Month?
 - W. E. B. DuBois
 - Carter G Wilson
 - Martin Luther King Jr.
 - George Washington Carver
- Diversity and Inclusion are supported by law under the following:
 - Equal Pay Act of 1963 & Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - Age discrimination Act of 1967
 - Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
 - All of the Above
- What year did Congress establish National Women's History Week?
 - 1900
 - 1955
 - 1965
 - 1981
- NCC students age range from:
 - 14 to 65
 - 15 to 90
 - 16 to 67
 - 17 to 70
- What year did Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, U.S. Supreme Court rule that racial segregation in public schools violates the 14th Amendment?
 - 1954
 - 1953
 - 1950
 - 1947

Diversity Quiz Answer Key: 1. C 2. B 3. D 4. A 5. C 6. B 7. D 8. D 9. B 10. A

INTERFAITH AT NCC

NCC Interfaith Council Mission & Goals

The Norwalk Community College Interfaith Council is a group of NCC administrators, faculty, staff, and student leaders committed to encourage opportunities for multi-cultural awareness and life-long learning as it relates to the spiritual dimension of our campus community. The council will engage the community in an academic setting seeking to explore the connection between faith and understanding in a safe environment bringing together individuals for various religious and non-religious backgrounds through interfaith dialogue, education, and activities.



Our Goals

- ◆ Encourage greater understanding and acceptance of all members of the community;
- ◆ Recognize and respond to the rapid change, evolution and increasing complexity of students, staff and faculty.
- ◆ Facilitate interfaith networking for collaborative community service and civic engagement.
- ◆ Engage our community in interfaith events, and implement ways to introduce our student body to these opportunities.
- ◆ Create and maintain a physical space on campus for all members of the NCC community from all faith and spiritualities to use during their time on campus, which respects those various faiths and traditions.
- ◆ Create opportunities for secular faith-based dialog

In fall 2016, the Interfaith Center and Meditation/Prayer/Quiet (MPQ) room was open. The Center is divided into 2 areas. The front room is an area for deep, meaningful, guided conversation/dialog about faith, values, and motivation. The second room is the Meditation/Prayer/Quiet (MPQ) room, which persons of all faiths or non-faiths can take personal time to think, pray, or reflect. The Center is open Monday through Thursday.

The Council will provide regular programming in the Center to enhance and support the mission and goals. Embracing religious diversity on campus means accommodating the spiritual needs of students through programming.

NCC's Interfaith Center spring 2017 hours are::

Monday: 1 - 4:30 pm

Tuesday: 9 am - 4:30 pm

Wednesday: 1 - 5:30 pm

Thursday: 9 am - 4:30 pm

If you have any questions, please contact Courtney Anstett at canstett@norwalk.edu, Denise Rawles-Smith at drawles-smith@norwalk.edu or Renae Edge at redge@norwalk.edu.

INTRODUCING CDI'S STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES.....

NO
PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Name: Maria Antonieta Sandoval Munoz - "Toni"

Major: Communication Arts: Film and TV Production

Career goals: I consider myself an artist, since I like to create and mix all kinds of art. I would like to be a film director.

What does diversity mean to you?

Diversity has always been present in this world. Diversity means freedom. The big problem we have nowadays is the protection of this diversity, which gets limited by segregation and discrimination.

Diversity is what makes out life rich. What would it be of us in a uniform world?... It would be extremely boring! Diversity is a reflection of the freedoms of society.

Motto: Passion and commitment lead to perfection.

Fun Fact: I practiced trapeze in my last year living in Chile.

Name: Juan Pablo Ruiz

Major: Accounting

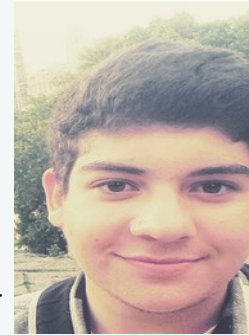
Career goals: I aspire become a public accountant after getting my bachelor's degree at a 4-year university. I would also love to work in one of the "big four" accounting firms in the future.

What does diversity mean to you?

What diversity means to me is the opportunity to showcase the voices and stories of everyone, especially people whose experiences have been marginalized due to their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental illness, disability and/ or religion. We all deserve a chance to be heard.

Motto: Don't rush life, everything will come at the right time.

Fun Fact: When I was a kid, I asked to be abducted by aliens as my Christmas present.



All are invited to attend Committee for Diversity and Inclusion meetings. Meetings are scheduled for 2:30pm on the 3rd Monday of every month.

Location: Center for Multi-Cultural Affairs E-215

Upcoming meetings 4/17, 5/15

DIVERSITY NEWSLETTER IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE COMMITTEE FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION NEWSLETTER SUBCOMMITTEE : KARLA LARA, WENDY MENDES, DENISE RAWLES-SMITH AND PRACILYA TITUS.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE DIVERSITY NEWSLETTER .

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL [PRACILYA TITUS](mailto:PRACILYA.TITUS@NORWALK.EDU) AT PTITUS@NORWALK.EDU

