WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE: CHAOS OR COMMUNITY?

"In the days ahead we must not consider it unpatriotic to raise certain basic questions about our national character." Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

DIVERSITY.COFC.EDU
GREETINGS

From the Associate Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer

Last fall was busy with transitions, planning, and execution of events. Our Director of Diversity Training and Education, Dr. Charissa Owens, stepped into her role with apparent ease and quickly built meaningful relationships with students, faculty, and staff across campus. Dr. Owens led weekly workshops throughout the semester: sharing how we can be a more inclusive campus.

The rest of the office stayed busy with student and community engagement through events such as Faces of CofC, Hispanic Heritage, Creative Concepts, and our Holiday Drop In. We look forward to all the upcoming events in the spring semester most notably our Black History Intercollegiate Consortium MLK Program, Heritage Tourism workshop, and Be Well Expo.

Continuing programs in the spring semester will be Faces of CofC, and the College Cares program. We are proud of how The College has already come together to support The Shifa Clinic and can’t wait to see how you all continue to generously donate teddy bears for children served by the clinic.

Diversity and inclusion requires that intentional effort be put forth. Our goal as an office is to educate, empower, and unite all peoples toward the common goal of acceptance, access, and inclusivity for all.

Before I sign off, I would like to leave you with the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. from his Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech, “I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality…. I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word”.

Wishing you all validation and empowerment in this New Year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rénard Harris

Associate Vice President/Chief Diversity Officer
Office of Institutional Diversity
We’re proud to be well into our second year of the Crossing the Cistern program. This program was designed for students who are just out of reach of traditional scholarships to provide a holistic boost back into the campus community. Over the past semester the students in the program volunteered with an after-school program, attended monthly speaker events, went to the Center for Student Learning weekly, partnered with a peer mentor, and became more engaged with campus activities. In addition to continuing the progress these students have been making, this semester they will complete internships and are preparing for our end of the year networking trip with alumni. We have been excited about the program and the initiative we’ve seen in these students as they take their learning into their own hands. We’re especially excited for the alumni trip coming up in April. We plan on having this program again next year so be on the lookout for more information and an application to become available in the summer.
January Workshops

Beyond the Caricatured Stereotypes at CofC
January 16

Spotlight on Responding to Stereotype Harms
January 23

TRUCE! Healing after Stereotype Endorsement
January 30

Stern Student Center Room 205
FREE LUNCH
12:00 P.M.
After a lengthy absence, CofC rejoined the Black History Intercollegiate Consortium last semester. The organization – comprised of TTC, Charleston Southern University, MUSC and The Citadel – was started 29 years ago by Bob Gillis – CofC’s second affirmative action officer and Dr. Earl Higgins of MUSC in 1988 – as a way to enhance racial harmony between the three colleges on the peninsula schools. Dr. James B. Edwards – former president of MUSC – believed in the organization’s cause so much that he provided seed money for the group to get started. Two years later, TTC and CSU joined and BHIC held its first program in 1990.

The Black History Intercollegiate Consortium presents the 29th Annual MLK Celebration

“Living the Dream: Advocacy, Allyship, and a Call to Action”

Tuesday, Jan. 29 | 6:30-8 p.m.
Trident Technical College
Thornley Campus (formerly Main Campus)
The College Center (Bldg. 920)
7000 Rivers Avenue

Program Features:
- Performances from the MUSC, College of Charleston, Citadel and Charleston Southern University Gospel Choirs
- MLK tributes from each member institution
- Recognition of MLK honorees

Reception immediately following ceremony

The theme of this year’s program is “Living the Dream: Advocacy, Allyship and a Call to Action.” CofC’s Dr. Anthony Greene – associate professor of African American Studies – will be one of five honorees from each of BHIC’s member institutions receiving the MLK, Jr. Humanitarian Award. Iriana Rucker – a freshman at The College – will read an original poem celebrating Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s legacy, and CofC’s Gospel Choir will render a selection.
February Workshops

Microaggression-ish/
Microaggressions at CofC

February 6

Stern Student Center Room 205

FREE LUNCH

12:00 P.M.
The College of Charleston Presents:
BRIDGING THE DIVIDE
Placemaking for Communities of Color in the South Carolina Lowcountry

Tuesday, February 5, 2019
6:00 p.m.
Alumni Hall (Randolph Hall Bldg.)

IF YOU’VE EVER WONDERED:
• How more people of color can take a seat at the table in Charleston’s tourism industry
• What’s needed to make cultural institutions more affordable for families of color, or
• If there’s a way to create an inclusive narrative at plantations and other heritage sites
join us for an evening of discussion as we explore these topics and more.
Fall 2018 Scholarship Recipients

Darius Evans
Gillian Torres
Vanity Reid Deterville
Tanner Crunelle
Adeyemi Oduwole
Beyonca Goodson
Tatijana Washington
Shykeria King
Elizabeth Wicker
For this edition of Student Voices, OID caught up with CofC's Student Ambassadors Program to give more insight as to what the organization is all about.

**BB: What is Student Ambassadors?**

Student Ambassadors is a student-run organization managed by the College of Charleston's Office of Admissions. It is a diversity initiative and Student Ambassadors are at the forefront of improving diversity at CofC.

**BB: What is the purpose of the organization?**

Student Ambassadors assist in the recruitment and retention of students of color and/or first generation students at the College of Charleston. Student Ambassadors are responsible for information sessions, providing campus tours, meeting with prospective families, visiting high schools, attending college fairs, hosting prospective students overnight and actively-participating in admissions recruitment events.

**BB: Why was the group started?**

The Student Ambassador organization was started in effort to increase diversity on the College of Charleston campus by allowing current students to actively-engage in the recruitment and retention of minority students.

**BB: How can interested students be a part of it?**

Students who aspire to become a member of the Student Ambassador Organization can contact a current member or email the organization’s adviser Mr. Kenyatta Grimmer at: grimmagekc@cofc.edu
OID Needs Your Help!

OID’s goal is to deliver 200 teddy bears to the clinic this spring. Members of the campus community may support the initiative by dropping a teddy bear off at one of the following locations: Institutional Diversity, Honors College, Center for Civic Engagement, Women’s and Gender Studies, Academic Affairs, Student Health Services, Multicultural Student Programs and Services and the School of Sciences and Mathematics. The drive will run through March 29, 2019.

The College Cares
HELP US SUPPORT THE SHIFA CLINIC
November 12th - March 29th

SHIFA HAS DONE A LOT FOR THE COLLEGE...
- 10 B.S. Public Health interns since Spring 2015
- Health Services for uninsured and under-insured CofC Students since 2016
- Creation of CofC’s Muslim Student Association

NOW...
LET’S DO SOMETHING FOR SHIFA!

Gather your teddy bears and drop them off at one of the locations listed! The bears will be given to children served by The Shifa Clinic.

OR
Contribute $1 towards the purchase of a bear.

OUR GOAL: 200 BEARS

DONATION SITES
Office of Institutional Diversity
Student Health Services
Academic Affairs
Honors College
Women’s & Gender Studies
Civic Engagement/Career Center
School of Sciences & Mathematics
There are many songs that are intertwined with the Civil Rights Movement and the fight for black liberation. Here are a few that encapsulate the focus of this month's programs and workshops.

"To Be Young, Gifted and Black" - Nina Simone

"A Change Is Gonna Come" - Sam Cooke

"Say It Loud, I'm Black & I'm Proud" - James Brown

"DNA. (clean)" - Kendrick Lamar

"Blackbird" - Nina Simone

"La Negra Tiene Tumbao" - Celia Cruz

"One Love" - Bob Marley

"This is My Country" - The Impressions

"Miss Black America" - Curtis Mayfield

"Am I Black Enough for You" - Billy Paul

"Astronomy (8th Light)" - Black Star

"Umi Says" - Mos Def