March 2010

Multicultural Life at USU

Moises Diaz

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/advance

Part of the Law and Gender Commons, and the Other Education Commons

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/advance/399
Multicultural Life at
Utah State University
www.multiculture.usu.edu
A Commitment to Cultural Diversity

At Utah State, we're serious about reaching out to our students and supporting them once they're here. The Office of Multicultural Student Services (MSS) is a reflection of that commitment.

Efforts start even before students get to college through our Community Outreach program. In conjunction with the Office of Admissions, MSS representatives visit Utah's high schools to identify promising students of culturally diverse backgrounds and assist them in applying to and enrolling at Utah State.

Our commitment to cultural diversity doesn't stop once students set foot on campus—it just gets stronger. A wide array of services, education programs, and social activities unifies all students at Utah State University. If you choose to come here, you'll be joining a family—like community of students and staff who will support you and challenge you throughout your time at the university.

Just for Freshmen

The first year of college can be a daunting experience. But at Utah State, our diverse students often find the freshman year to be one of their best. Why? Because the Office of Multicultural Student Services (MSS) has developed several programs just for new freshmen to help make the transition to college life a smooth one. Here are some of the options.

Multicultural Student Organizations at Utah State

- Asian-American Student Council
- Black Student Union
- Hispanic Student Union
- Native American Student Council
- Polynesian Student Union
- Psi Sigma Phi Multicultural Fraternity
- Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority

"Through Multicultural Student Services I started making friends and networking. It started here, then I was able to expand that throughout the whole campus."
—Susan, Social Work major
Realizing Educational Potential (REP) This fun and interactive week of activities, training, and workshops takes place in conjunction with "Connections," the Utah State orientation experience. REP is designed to introduce new multicultural students to Utah State's services and to each other.

Transitional Opportunities for Progressive Students (TOPS) This fall-semester course provides newly admitted multicultural students with a supportive network in the campus community. A variety of programs, seminars, and activities explore academic, leadership, and personal relationship issues. For more information, contact TOPS coordinator Fawn Groves at fawn@cc.usu.edu.

Financial Aid As a new freshman, if you apply to Utah State by February 1 and are admitted, you will automatically be considered for university scholarships. In subsequent years, you may qualify for private scholarships through MSS. Multicultural Student Services can advise you on what university scholarships might be right for you as well as guide you through the application process. To find out more, contact MSS at (435) 797-1733. For information regarding federal financial assistance (Pell Grants, Student Loans) contact the Utah State University Office of Financial Aid at (435) 797-0173.
Beyond the Classroom

The bonds that students form through multicultural orientation programs extend to daily life at Utah State. After class, our students have various opportunities to celebrate and share the history and richness of their cultures through a wide variety of extracurricular activities.

Clubs & Activities Among the more than 200 student-run organizations offered at Utah State are several culture-specific clubs that are open to all students at the university. You could be a part of the Black Student Union, participate in the annual Pow-Wow offered by the Native American Student Council, learn to dance Salsa and merengue at the Hispanic Student Union's "Salsabration"—and much, much more.

Greek Life In addition to eight fraternities and sororities, Utah State also offers one fraternity and one sorority for students specifically

Creating Leaders

It doesn't take long for students to feel comfortable at Utah State. Before they know it, they're involved in all kinds of academic and social activities. Because these experiences can be such an important part of the college experience, MSS has developed two programs that help students develop and practice leadership skills:

**Attitude, Character, Exploration, Synergy (ACES)** The goal: self improvement. The tool: empowerment. This program teaches students to set personal goals and achieve them with charisma and determination. ACES promotes academic excellence through a structured curriculum of activities, service projects, and study sessions. The program's goals are to build strategies for academic success and to promote diversity in campus leadership.

**Multicultural Leadership Class** A two-credit university course, this class provides training for emerging multicultural leaders at Utah State. Classes focus on developing basic leadership skills such as delegation, goal setting, understanding diversity, team building, and writing and implementing mission statements and strategic plans. For more information or to enroll, contact MSS at (435) 797-1733.
interested in a multicultural Greek experience. Both of these organizations are dedicated to the understanding and appreciation of different cultures.

... and More. These multicultural opportunities are just a few of the hundreds of ways to enjoy life beyond the classroom at Utah State. In addition to clubs and activities, there are varsity, club, and intramural sports; weekly dances, movies, and events at the student center; and an amazing array of outdoor adventures in Logan Canyon or the nearby Wellsville Mountains.