From the desk of our director

by Michiko Nakashima-Lizarazo

Our humble beginnings as a consortium of student organizations occurred in 1968 followed by the 1970 establishment of the “Ethnic Studies Institute” (supported by the Utah State Legislature) that paved the way for the creation of the Minority Student Coalition in 1975. An exploratory plan was submitted and two years later (1988) the Multicultural Education Resource Center (MERC) was established.* (Crawford, 16-21). The state legislature, our administration, faculty, staff, students, and community recognized the need to provide a place for our multicultural population 44 years ago. We are deeply indebted to you! Our Center is extremely appreciative of those who continue to support, mentor, and guide us.

We have experienced some neat changes this past semester, including the hiring of four extremely talented, experienced, and dynamic professional staff; the Center Suite renovations with improved access to study areas and computers have more than doubled with these particular student visits (294) at the Center; the STEPS Marketing & Promotions team (Nestor Robles, Ana Reyes, Amber Fast, and Sujely Mendoza) has added value and branding to our department with clever outreach efforts including an enhanced website (Ana) with 41% increase in pageviews and social media access (Nestor); and the successful implementation of accountability and leadership in the Student Training Employment Program & Services (STEPS) lead by Areli Thomas and supported by Sarah Hanisko and Data Specialist, James "Riley" Painter. With the team efforts of the entire MSC staff which includes STEPS, we have been able to serve 791 students (3,267) sessions (July 1, 2014- January 29, 2015). This is a 78% increase from 2013. We are also delighted to report that our Fall 2011 Scholarship Program cohort had an 86% (2012) and 90% (2013) retention rate taking an average of 5.6 years to obtain a Bachelor’s Degree. Once again, I attribute our success to you.

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.

by Amber Fast
Peer Assistant | amberfast@weber.edu

Martin Luther King Jr. addresses a crowd from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial where he delivered his famous, “I Have a Dream,” speech during the August 28, 1963, march on Washington, D.C.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a day to honor him for being the spokesman for nonviolent activism in the civil rights movement, which successfully protested discrimination in federal and state law. It is celebrated on the third Monday of January each year, which is around King’s birthday, January 15. The Ogden community had many events planned including: Marshall White Center watching of King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, free breakfast sponsored by the NAACP, voter registration booths, along with a community march for MLK service week.

I know how it is, not as an African American, but as a Caucasian student, to be the only race in the classroom. I know how it is to be discriminated against, and I would never wish it upon anyone else to experience this. If it wasn’t for King’s dream to have equal rights among all races, then I may have never experienced all the different cultures and ethnic groups. I am extremely proud that my community is willing to take time out of their week to not only serve others, but also do it in honor of a great man.
Looking for a job can be a very stressful task for many people, especially for students. That’s why we are lucky to have the Career Services Office available to us. Career Services is located in the Student Services building room 230, and are open Monday thru Thursday 7:30 am to 5:30 pm and Fridays 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. Career Services has different resources that are helpful to find right now or for your career later on, which include resume and cover letter writing workshops, mock interviews to help students prepare for actual interviews, assessment test that determines the career path that best suits you, online job searching, between other great resources.

Career services also has many events that are hosted to aide students, these events include, the weekly Career Cafe, Student job Fair, Graduate school Fair, Summer Job Fair, Career Fair, and Information sessions with Employers. If you have any questions you can visit the Career Services Office or visit their website http://www.weber.edu/careerservices, and if you are looking for a job on-campus please visit the following website https://jobs.weber.edu.

There are many things we should know once we have landed a job interview. First, it is important that one practices answering questions that might be asked during the interview. This will help us feel more confident during the interview, because we know exactly what we are going to say. Second, it is very impressive when a potential employee is knowledgeable about the company’s history, its beginning, and its motto before they start the job. It should be a priority to learn as much as one can about the company. Third, take a deep breathe, it is normal to be nervous before and during an interview but remember that these people are judging on how well we perform.

Sometimes anxiety gets the best of us and that’s why it’s important to stay calm, which can be achieved by taking deep breaths before going in to the interview. Fourth, the way we present ourselves is very important, and is advised that one dresses professionally. Our clothes should be neat and tidy and we should be well groomed; having great hygiene speaks a lot about ourselves. Last but not least, one should be on time for the interview, which is at least 10 minutes before the interview time. Punctuality tells a potential boss how much they can rely on us and how much we actually care about the job. After the interview it is recommended that we follow up with the person; this will show them persistence and interest.

The Multicultural Student Center has a wide range of resources that are installed to support and guide students through the college process. One of our biggest and most abundant attributes is our scholarship activity waivers that we give away to numerous students each year.

Through participation within our department, students are able to receive annual tuition waivers that will help them pay for college. To become nominated to receive one of these waivers, a student must first meet with one of our advisors. By doing so, students may also find out more information about private scholarships from the community that pertains to their ethnicity, school, and extracurricular involvement. The key to receiving Weber State scholarships and tuition waivers is to first complete the scholarship application located on your eWeber portal before the priority deadline. Some opportunities for scholarships include:

Student Involvement & Leadership Department, Women’s Center, Non-Traditional Student Center, Veteran’s Affairs, College Departmental scholarships, Academic Scholarships, Army-ROTC Scholarships, Financial need-based Scholarships and Wildcat Activity Scholarships. For more information, please visit Weber State’s financial aid and scholarship webpage: www.weber.edu/GetIntoWeber/ScholarshipsFinancialAid.html
Federal Student Aid is responsible for managing the student financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. These programs provide grants, loans, and work-study funds to students attending college or career school. For federal aid, submit your application as early as possible, but no earlier than January 1, 2015. They must receive your application no later than June 30, 2016. Your college must have your correct, complete information by your last day of enrollment in the 2015-2016 school year. Online applications must be submitted by midnight Central Time, June 30, 2016.

Any corrections or updates must be submitted by midnight Central Time, September 17, 2016. The Multicultural Student Center is a helpful resource for FAFSA information and helping students complete the process. In order to be eligible for financial aid you must:

- Be a legal Utah resident
- Have a household income of $40,000 or less
- Qualify for federal Pell Grant funds
- Be an undergraduate student with less than 150 credit hours

Weber State University has a FAFSA Frenzy in February and March which is another great resource for those in need of help. Below are the times, dates, and location where it will take place:

**February 28, 2015 – 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**
One-on-one assistance from professional staff for seniors and their parents to submit FAFSA before the priority deadline for any college or university.

WSU Ogden Campus
Shepherd Union Computer Lab (Room 230C)

WSU Davis Campus
Building D3 Room 230

**March 28, 2015 – 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**
WSU Ogden Campus
Shepherd Union Computer Lab (Room 230C)

WSU Davis Campus
Building D3 Room 230

How do you apply for work-study? It’s simple! When you fill out FAFSA, there will be a question in regards to your interest in work-study and that is where you would want to click “Yes.” The deadline to apply for that would be the same as FAFSA, April 1st. After FAFSA, you’d want to make sure that the WSU Financial Aid application is completed which could be found through your portal. In addition, go online to jobs.weber.edu to look and apply for perspective employment. Once all of it is completed and you’ve been hired, you’re good to start at your work-study job!

Not sure if you qualify? No problem! Financial Aid office in the Student Services building is a great place to go and quickly check! Also, in FAFSA itself, you can look off to the right and there should be a brief description for work-study and how you would qualify. As an additional tip, each question usually has a brief description so if you’re stuck, take a glance over to the right side of your screen!

Interested but you’ll need some assistance going through the process? The Multicultural Student Center Peer Mentors are here to help! Come on down to SC 150 and we’ll be happy to guide you through the whole thing. Don’t forget your taxes for FAFSA!
Upcoming Events on Campus

By Sujely Mendoza | Peer Assistant | sujelymendoza@weber.edu

This is a day to make your transition to college easier. It will be located in the Shepherd Union and will be held on Wednesday February 4, 2015 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. or 3:30-6:00 p.m. An event for future students, counselors and parents to visit WSU. There are many things that you can accomplish this day for example you can get a scholarship offer and accept it, explore campus with a guided tour, explore 225 majors and attend different information sessions.

He is Nelson Mandela's Grandson, Co-Founder & Chairman of Africa Rising Foundation. This will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 in the Union Room TBD. At noon, will be free and also open to the public.

Come dance the night away on Friday February 13, 2015. This event will be held in the Shepherd Union Ballroom C from 8:00PM to 12:00PM.

Come celebrate the life of Adrian Maxson at this concert on Saturday, February 21, 2015. It will be held at the Egyptian Theater from 7:30PM-9:00PM.

wildcat welcome

Tasty Thursday

TASTY THURSDAY: ASIA
Come get a Free delicious sample of Asian cuisine & embrace a cultural enrichment activity

11am - 2pm
2/19/2015
Student Services
Suite 150
* Funded by Student Fees

continue from the desk of our director

our success to the dedicated staff members and fabulous students who work hard and are diligent in completing program requirements and achieving their dreams. We are humbled by the fact that the students still call the MSC "home" throughout their WSU program of study. Our ongoing commitment to multiculturalism, while providing quality programming and services for successful degree attainment is our top priority. We look forward to seeing you at the Multicultural Student Center!