Endings and Beginnings

By Belinda Higgs Hyppolite, Ed.D.
Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The end of the semester is filled with a long list of things to wrap up. As we finalize our to–do lists, do not forget to celebrate all you have accomplished and take a moment to say *thank you*.

Thank the people who helped support you along the way by pushing or carrying you across the finish line.
Thank the people who struggled to be present because they were pulled in multiple directions.

Thank the people who fell short and maybe even disappointed you a bit. Yes, they too, deserve acknowledgment.

Thank the people who cheered you along and showed up whenever needed.

As we close out budgets, wrap up final exams, complete end–of–the–semester reports, and say goodbye to some and hello to others, remember to take pauses, reflect, breathe, and smile.

We did it!

As we embrace this ending, know a new beginning is just around the corner!

Congratulations to our graduates and have a wonderful summer break!

Community Events

Six–Week Challenge: Explore, Learn, and Reflect

Mark your calendar!
May 30, 2021

The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in partnership with LiveWell OU are challenging you to explore your identities and the identities of others, to learn about the -isms, and to reflect on how you can influence systems of oppression and even disrupt them!

Visit our webpage to stay informed.

Pride Parade: Let’s Walk Together!
The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, OU Health, and OU Partners will walk in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa Pride Parades. Walk with us!

Saturday, June 26

Oklahoma City
10 a.m. | Scissortail Park
Register by clicking here

Tulsa
6 p.m. | Dennis R. Neil Equality Center
Register here to receive more information

News and Involvement Opportunities

Lifting the Voices of Inclusion: The Joy of Meeting in Person

In April, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion inaugurated Lifting the Voices of Inclusion, a recognition program that acknowledges the work of students, faculty, and staff who promote inclusion across campuses. Culminating in an award ceremony, the celebration brought close to 100 attendees together in a virtual space.

Yet, something was missing: the joy to thank award recipients and the Diversity Liaisons Council face–to–face. To restore that feeling, the Award Planning Committee organized a come–and–go reception on each campus and invited the award recipients and the liaisons.

Being in each other’s presence induced a shared feeling of joy and a glimpse into a time when occasions to meet in person will be more frequent. That feeling was so intense, that the mask could barely contain it.
Reflect, Reevaluate, and Rebalance: How to Shift to a Work–Life Balance

Jasmine Willis-Wallace, Ed.D.

Creating a work-life balance can be a challenge, but it is essential to improving one’s physical, emotional, and mental well-being. Often, we tend to spend more time and energy on one area of our lives but overlook other areas that are equally important. That neglect results in work-life imbalance.

Continue Reading

Change Brings Opportunities

Interviewed recently by Diverse, Hyppolite, Ed.D., amplified President Harroz’s leadership and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. His vision is captured in the 2020 strategic plan already in its implementation phase.

Changes reflecting the plan are visible across campuses: from new talent joining OU to a burgeoning array of initiatives that apply diversity, equity, and inclusion to increase belonging and emotional growth for all.

The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion partakes in this change with an expansion that Dr. Hyppolite announced on May 5 and with some job opportunities listed at jobs.ou.edu.

At OU, we change lives!
DEI Progress Report Update

The 2020 strategic plan ushered a high standard of accountability and rigor in tracking the effectiveness of university policies and practices. To fulfill that standard, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion has launched the DEI annual progress report.

To guide colleges, divisions, and administrative offices throughout the submission process, the office has developed a webpage with FAQ and a summary of the report questions.

If additional questions arise, please contact us at diversity.inclusion@ou.edu.

OU Employee Resource Groups

At OU, the Employee Resource Groups are an open forum for individuals with a shared identity to build community and a place of belonging.

ERGs are available at all three campuses and include Black faculty and staff/African American faculty and staff (OUHealth), Latinx Coalition, Indigenous faculty and staff Circle, LGBTQ+ faculty and staff, Middle Eastern North African faculty and staff, and Asian Pacific Islander Desi Indian faculty and staff.

For any questions about ERG please send an email at diversity.inclusion@ou.edu.

The Aspiring Health Professions Summer Academy Is Growing

Danielle Pullen

Yes, I have favorites! The Aspiring Health Professions Summer Academy is one of them. As a program coordinator, I am elated to engage with high school students and watch how their knowledge blossoms on different areas of health care.

Every summer, AHPSA recruits high school seniors interested in health care to explore professions in all seven of the OU Health Sciences Center colleges. Although designed for in-person attendance, the program moved to a virtual space in 2020 due to the pandemic. It took the creative efforts of an innovative team to construct the academy on a virtual platform and to keep the students engaged.

This year, the academy is growing. Thus far, 75 students have already enrolled, 10 of whom are from Texas. I am excited and expectant to see how the students' experience will unfold.

Training and Development
Apply to Aspiring Health Professions Summer Academy

AHPSA is a week-long academy hosted by the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. It is geared toward high school incoming freshmen through graduating seniors who are interested in pursuing a career in health care or research.

Participants will interact with professionals from the Health Sciences Center colleges through hands-on activities, discussions, and simulations.

July 12 - 16
Virtual Academy

Application Deadline: Friday, June 4
Apply Here
Please direct your questions to:
Danielle-pullen@ouhsc.edu

This Month We Honor...

May Awareness
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
Jewish American Heritage Month
Older Americans Month
National Nurses Week (6 – 12)
Stroke Awareness
Arthritis Awareness
Skin Cancer Prevention
National High Blood Pressure Education
National Women’s Health Week (10 – 16)
National Osteoporosis Month
Mental Health Month
Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

May Observance
1 - International Worker’s Day
3 – World Press Freedom Day
5 – Cinco De Mayo
8 – Laila Al-Qadr
9 – Mother’s Day
13 – Ascension Day
13 – Eid Al-Fitr
17 -18 – Shavu’ot
21 – World Day for Cultural Diversity
23 – Declaration of the Bab
23 – Pentecost
26 – Visakha Puja
28 – Ascension of Baha’u’llah
30 – All Saints Day (Orthodox)
31 – Memorial Day

The Importance of Giving
Give to the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion uses donations from people like you to fund grants, sponsorships and scholarships, as well as events and lectures to make the OU community more diverse, equitable and inclusive.

These contributions have helped many in the past, and will continue to do so in the future. For that, and for all types of support, we thank you!

Donate Here