Staff Diversity Committee

November 18, 2011, 2:00 p.m.

**Present**: Sherri Pierce (chair), Debbie Chesser, Ray Navarro, Fusako Yokotobi (advocate), Dr. Joseph Morris, Chief Leonard Knight, Ed Haeberlin

Recorder: Jeri Kay Falkowski

We have $29,000 in Diversity funds this year.

April is going to be wellness month with the health benefits fair. We would like to spotlight Diversity in March.

The goal of Diversity month is to broaden scope of awareness, sensitivity, and provide education both mentally and internally to gain understanding of cultures. The committee would like to provide an avenue to start moving in a direction to eliminate stereotypes and improve relationships which could improve campus climate.

We can’t change perceptions, we can inform and educate. Our campus culture is changing as students are changing. Students are our clients and we need to adapt to their needs.

Ideas for Diversity Month:

* Guest speakers throughout month that tie into Diversity topic
* One day with multiple speakers. Audience (or speakers) rotate through room.
  + Speaker suggestions: Dolores Huerta, Tupock Shakur’s grandmother
* Panel discussions after event (immediate feedback before bias sets in).
* Anonymous feedback via survey monkey
* Involve restaurant management in preparing a variety of ethnic foods.
* Diversity production with a variety of situations featured
  + Cultural sensitivity, religious bias, sexual orientation, disabilities, etc.
  + Presented in readings, skits, songs, poetry, dance, monologue, etc. with poignant message. Quilting and how the Aids quilt evolved. Clip from Holocaust.
  + 1 ½ hour production (with intermission)
  + Start presentation with a T/F quiz, “Is this Diversity” subject.
  + Open production to public, invite local high school participation.
  + Hold auditions.
  + Advertise through PIO and local newspaper, radio, etc.
  + Quotes related to diversity throughout the program and venue.
  + Names or terms related to diversity hanging throughout venue to promote awareness.
  + Pre and post assessment/questionnaire.
  + Dance with refreshments following production.
  + Date set for Saturday, March 17, 2011

Committee was asked to give suggestions for speakers to Fusako so she can contact and schedule.

Fusako will talk to Debbie Peterson about restaurant management involvement.

**Other business**: Sherri Pierce would like to step down as chairperson of this committee. Question was asked if anyone present would be willing to chair. Tabled until next meeting.

**Next meeting**: Friday, December 2, 2011 at 2:00, DSPS Conference Room.

**Adjournment**: 3:30 p.m.