Dear Advocates,

We hope that you had a wonderful summer, and are excited to welcome students, both new and returning, to campus. We wanted to contact you not only to get some dates on your calendar, but also to fill you in on some ideas that the Division of Student Affairs Diversity Committee has been talking about over the past few months.

First of all, we would like to say that we are so happy to have each of you as a Diversity Advocate. We now have over 160 advocates in the network, and we continue to get requests to attend our orientation sessions. While there is strength in numbers, we are aware that as a committee we have done very little to engage advocates after that first orientation. We hope to change that in the coming year through a variety of ongoing and new initiatives, to both further the education of members in the network, but also to tap into the expertise that is already present among the advocate group. In this newsletter you will find a number of opportunities to get more involved that we hope will pique your interest.

We look forward to working with you in the coming year!
Division of Student Affairs Diversity Committee

http://www.marquette.edu/diversityadvocates

We are in the process of updating the DSA Diversity Committee webpage. We are aware that there are several errors/omissions, and we are working to correct those. Please check your “listing” to ensure that the information we have for you is correct.
http://www.marquette.edu/dsa/diversity/find-advocate.shtml
We also have a new feature on our site – the feedback form! Here, students and employees can leave questions or suggestions for the network. Check it out! http://www.marquette.edu/dsa/diversity/feedback.shtml
Brown Bags & Book Dialogues

Brown Bags
The brown bag series that we ran last year was very well received by the advocates who took advantage of this opportunity. We hosted 3 brown bags, addressing the topics of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) students, transgender issues, and first-generation students. This year we hope to expand the brown bag program, and will be hosting one brown bag topic per month. While we are still working on specific dates and topics, fall sessions will be held in October, November, and December (book discussion), and spring sessions will occur in the months of February, March, and April (book discussion).

Some ideas that have been raised for potential topics include immigration, the post-9/11 climate for Muslims and Arab-Americans, and ADHD. If you have other topics you would like to see covered in a brown bag, or if you have an area of expertise that you would like to share in that format, please let us know!

Book Dialogues
As you can see, we are also proposing that the December and April brown bags serve as book discussions. We are soliciting suggestions for books we might read as a network, and discuss over lunch. If you have any thoughts, please share those with us. We are particularly interested in books for the fall dialogue that pertain to LGBTQ issues, particularly as they relate to the campus environment or the age group of our students.

Syllabus language
It was suggested to us that we offer faculty members some language they can use in their syllabi to alert students to the existence of the Diversity Advocate Network as a resource. Here is some suggested language that you may use in your syllabus if you like, or modify it as appropriate for your needs.

Diversity Advocates
The Diversity Advocates are a network of faculty, staff and administrators committed to creating an inclusive campus environment by promoting awareness and appreciation for diversity and by providing support, mentorship, and advocacy to students of all backgrounds. To learn more about the network, find an advocate, or ask questions of the Diversity Advocates, you may consult with your instructor or go to http://www.marquette.edu/diversityadvocates for more information.

Meet & Greet
October 7, 2010
Lunda Room
4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
There will be a brief presentation at 5:15 p.m.

This reception is an opportunity for Diversity Advocates from all across campus to network with each other, to learn about the exciting new direction the Diversity Advocate Network is taking, and to reaffirm your commitment to being an advocate for our students and each other.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by Friday, October 1, 2010 on the website: http://www.marquette.edu/dsa/diversitycommittee/feedback.shtml or to turquoise.welch@marquette.edu.

We look forward to seeing you there!
The committee has also been recognizing the need to offer programs and workshops to various constituents on campus that focus on issues of diversity, inclusion, and pluralism. Our initial “working” goals for this initiative are to:

- Identify available expertise on campus pertaining to issues of inclusion and diversity.
- Create a workshop series for various campus groups (e.g., residence hall floors, student organizations, administrative and academic departments) that increases awareness, skills, and knowledge surrounding issues of inclusion and diversity.
- Provide ongoing diversity training, both in-house and from external sources, to interested individuals and groups within our campus community.

We understand that the final goals and outcomes of the initiative may be influenced by those who choose to participate in its development, and we are excited to create a shared vision for what an inclusive campus looks like and what it will take to achieve it.

If you are interested in either 1) serving on the steering committee for this initiative; 2) offering your time and expertise as a presenter; or 3) would like to suggest a workshop topic, we would love to hear from you. We are looking at using the 2010-2011 academic year to plan for a fall 2011 implementation of the initiative.

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**About the Division of Student Affairs Diversity Committee**

**Our Vision**

The Division of Student Affairs Diversity Committee envisions a campus where valuing and celebrating diversity in all of its forms is the norm, and community members are provided opportunities to learn and grow in their cultural competence.

**Our Mission**

The Marquette University Division of Student Affairs Diversity Committee exists to create a culturally competent campus community and to promote the appreciation of each individual within that community. We do this in three ways:

- **We educate** staff, faculty, administrators and students about issues of diversity. We seek to educate ourselves so that we can serve as a resource to others on campus.
- **We advocate** for students by listening to their experiences, mentoring, and recruiting a wider network of individuals who seek to support students through advocacy.
- **We support** the efforts of others on campus who are working toward a more inclusive campus environment, such as university departments and colleges, student organizations, and individual members of the campus community.

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**DSA Diversity Committee 2010-2011**

Stacie Dooley, Residence Life (co-chair)
Turquoise Welch, Student Affairs (co-chair)
Tara Huss, Residence Life
Ann Mulgrew, Campus Ministry
Julie Murphy, Student Development
Maria Oropeza, Student Development
Heidi Vering, Disabilities Services
Angela Zapata, Counseling Center
IN SUMMARY…

To recap, here are some ways you can be involved this year with the Diversity Advocate Network:

- Attend the Meet & Greet, Thursday, October 7, 2010, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
- Volunteer as a facilitator for Dinner for Change (more coming on that in September)
- Recruit other advocates to the network – let them know about our fall and spring orientation dates, and ask them to RSVP for one of the sessions.
- Suggest topics and book titles for brown bags.
- Offer to present a brown bag session on your area of expertise.
- Attend brown bags and book dialogues.
- Serve on the planning committee for the Creating an Inclusive Campus initiative.
- Share resources you have that we can place on the website or share with the Network.
- Tell us about upcoming events that you think would be of interest to other advocates.
- Send us your biography, and tell us why you’re interested in issues of inclusion and diversity. We may feature you in a future newsletter!
- Tell us what you or your area is doing to promote inclusion and diversity on campus – it helps to know what’s “out there” as we seek to provide good resources to students.
- Display the advocate logo on your e-mail signature. If you need the file, let us know and we can send it to you.
- Share your thoughts and ideas with us about the Advocate Network, and how we can be more effective in promoting a campus climate that “recognizes and cherishes the dignity of each individual” (Marquette University Statement on Human Dignity & Diversity).
- Please direct all feedback to our website at: http://www.marquette.edu/dsa/diversitycommittee/feedback.shtml

Finally, THANK YOU for all that you do on a daily basis, in big and small ways, to ensure that every Marquette student feels welcome and valued. We hope that we can continue to find meaningful ways to engage you as a member of the Advocate Network.

Have a great semester!

Advocate Spotlight: Office of Student Development

Each year the Office of Student Development (OSD), through their New Student and Family Orientation programs, cultivates a welcoming environment for incoming students. OSD hosts a number of programs to specifically welcome students from diverse backgrounds. Initiatives this year include Cross-Cultural Connection, a reception to welcome African-American, Asian-American, Latino, and Native American students, and Connections: A Multicultural Welcome, to introduce students to the different resources offered by the Multicultural Affairs area of OSD. New to the schedule this year is a Welcome Reception for LGBTQ Students and their student allies, to ensure that students are not only aware of resources available to them, but that they also begin to feel that sense of belonging and support that is so important to the college experience. There are a number of dedicated Diversity Advocates within the Office of Student Development, and we thank them for their wonderful efforts to welcome all of our new students!