**TASK FORCE FOR DIVERSITY PROGRAMMING**

**Preliminary Report**

**Deadline: November 25, 2013**

**Fall 2013**

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| **Representative, Title**  Dr. Darlene Unger, Associate Professor Special Education/Center for Autism Studies | **College**  Beeghly College of Education |
| **If your college has a diversity committee, who is the chairperson of the committee?**  **(Provide name, title, extension and email)**  The college is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). Diversity is integrated in all 5 accreditation standards. College-wide committees lead the effort to meet these standards and the diversity expectations integrated within them. The CAEP Coordinator, Associate Dean Mary Lou DiPillo, coordinates these committees (mldipillo@ysu.edu). Diversity concerns figure prominently in Standard 1 (understanding learners, equity in instructional practice); Standard 2 (clinical partnerships in diverse settings); Standard 3 (quality and diversity in recruitment of diverse teacher candidates); and Standard 4 (demonstrating an impact on the learning of all students). A Standard 3 subcommittee has been constituted to focus on recruiting diverse students. Dr. Patrick Spearman ([pspearman@ysu.edu](mailto:pspearman@ysu.edu)) chairs the subcommittee. | |
| **Provide a description of what your college is currently doing to meet the diversity criteria.**  **1. Develop and Implement the National Education Association’s (NEA) Read Across America Celebration.** NEA’s Read Across America is an annual celebration of the birthday of children’s author, Dr. Seuss. Every year, the student chapter of the NEA at Youngstown State University, Youngstown Student Education Association (YSEA), organizes a Read Across America celebration to promote reading among children through various Dr. Seuss book related activities. This celebration benefits young students in the Youngstown, Ohio area because it motivates them to read and helps them become successful readers, as well as successful students.  **2. Develop and Implement the Upward Bound Christmas Party**. BCOE faculty and staff work with the YSEA to develop and implement the Upward Bound Christmas Party. The purpose of the Upward Bound Christmas Party is to allow students the opportunity to have fun around the holiday season in a safe environment. Upward Bound is a program on campus that focuses on helping students who will be first-generation college students and some at-risk students, all from diverse backgrounds. Students will receive a Wal-Mart gift card to purchase hats and gloves. All participants will also learn the gift of giving by decorating and send Christmas cards, cookies, and ornaments to one of the local nursing homes in the greater Youngstown area: Shepard of the Valley. Working in groups, the students also decorate gingerbread houses; this allows for friendly competition and team building. The winning team receives a prize for their creativity and ability to transport the house using teamwork and communication. The program not only provides fun for the students, but gives the students the opportunity to meet the Dean of the College of Education and interact with YSU students, faculty, and staff.  **3. Develop and Implement BCOE Boot Camp.** The BCOE Boot Camp is a 9-month program for students of color, majoring in Education, who have completed less than 45 semester hours. The program commences during the Fall semester with participants attending monthly group meetings.  **4. Minority Education Association -** MEA promotes the recruitment and retention of minorities in education through high school mentoring, guides teacher education program students and facilitates employment upon graduation.  **5.** **YSU Student Chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children**- YSU students develop and implement a variety of services and education related activities for schools, agencies, or programs providing education and habilitative services for children and youth with disabilities.  **6**.**YSU BCOE Advising and Recruitment Services at Eastern Gateway Community College - Valley Center –** BCOE advisors participate in designated class sessions offered by Eastern Gateway Community College to advise and recruit potential students for several BCOE’s academic programs. BCOE advisors also meet with EGCC students to address questions related to YSU programs.  **7. Global Perspectives: International Student Support Groups**. The Global Perspectives, represents a collaborative model of programming designed and implemented by the Counseling, Special Education, and School Psychology department in conjunction with the Office of Housing and Residence Life, the Reading & Study Skills (R&SS) Center, the Center for International Studies and Programs (CISP), and the English Language Institute (ELI), was developed at Youngstown State University. The program aims to:   1. Help Counseling Master’s students understand the needs of college students from various cultural backgrounds. 2. Provide an opportunity for Counseling Master’s students to develop multicultural knowledge, awareness, and skills. 3. Offer an experiential learning opportunity in which Counseling Master’s students apply Group Counseling skills and techniques. 4. Assist international students to make a smooth cultural social adjustment to the U.S. campus. 5. Support international students with useful resources in the community.   **8. Camp Sunshine** – Provides a unique opportunity for students enrolled in the school psychology and special education programs to support children and youth with autism in a summer program focused on improving the communication, behavior, and learning skills of children with autism in Portage County.  **9. YSU-Transition Options in Postsecondary Settings for Students with Autism/Intellectual Disabilities (YSU-TOPS)** – YSU-TOPS represents a university- community partnership designed to improve the transition from secondary schools to inclusive postsecondary educational, employment, and social experiences and outcomes for young adults with autism or intellectual disabilities. TOPS aims to engage YSU faculty, staff, and students to engage with young adults with autism to support participation in university and business settings.  **10. School Psychology Summer Institute** – The annual event held during the summer is designed by YSU school psychology faculty and partners in various fields to continue providing training and professional development to attendees in working with students with low incidence disabilities.  **11. Youngstown Early College** – The BCOE serves as host for Youngstown Early College (YEC), a program for first-generation college-bound high school students. BCOE assists YEC in planning curriculum, advising, and integrating junior- and senior-level high school students in the broader YSU community.  **12. Center for Autistic Studies -** The Center for Autistic Studies is a multi-disciplinary approach to coordinating research and the translation of knowledge related to identifying effective treatments and improving practices for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The Center engages the instructors, students, and families with the Rich Center for Autism as well as other medical, educational, and human service providers in identifying research opportunities. The Center consists of 23 researchers representing 8 colleges or universities.  **13. The Rich Center for the Study and Treatment of Autism –** The center aims toimprove the lives of individuals with autism and their families through the creation, use and enhancement of innovative educational programs specifically designed to assure the attainment of a life of dignity and to enhance the individuals' opportunities to achieve their full potentials. The Rich Center serves as a conduit between the segments of the community concerned with autism...the university, educators and health and human service professionals. Since the Center’s inception, academic learning experiences at the RCA for undergraduate and graduate students from three colleges across YSU have increased annually.  **14. Partnership with Middle-Level Education Program and Youngstown City Schools**. Dr. Regina Rees in consultation with Dr. Connie Hathorn (superintendent of Youngstown City Schools) piloted a year-long experience for pre-service educators in which a preclinical experience is followed by a student teaching assignment in Youngstown middle schools. YSU pre-service middle level education students are placed in a school with a teacher at the beginning of fall semester. For the first half of the semester they spend 2 full days in the school and 2-3 days in class at YSU. For the second half of the semester they participate full-time at the school. During this pre-clinical experience students tutor, work with small groups, participate in co-teaching and independent teaching experiences. They return to the school spring semester for student teaching. The goal of the program is to provide pre-service teachers with more sustained involvement with qualified teachers and their pupils during their pre-clinical and clinical experiences. Thus, YSU students would be better prepared to teach youth in urban classrooms by observing and demonstrating classroom management skills, cultural understanding, and the ability to engage parents in the teaching and learning process. Additionally, the middle level education program has established these collaborations within other schools determined to be highly diverse (e.g., Liberty, Austintown, and Campbell).  **15. Outreach to High schools in Communities of Color.**  The BCOE has established a partnership with the Warren G. Harding Future Teacher’s Association, and the organization has visited the campus of YSU and the BCOE, several times. Most recently, the Coordinator, Guidance Counselor, and several students participated during our Crash Day Program, November 22, 2013. Additionally, the students have participated in special programming, specifically for their Future Teacher’s Association, at the BCOE. Innovative programming utilizing speakers and incorporating experiential learning experiences, made the Thursday, February 28, 2013 visit exceptionally valuable for the students. Information regarding Financial Aid and Scholarships was shared, along with current education students sharing their experience and observations; classroom observations, as well as undergraduate admission’s requirements were reviewed.  Participating in college fairs, in urban communities, has been extremely valuable. Susan Moorer has participated in the following college fairs, this year: Warren G. Harding, September 24, 2013, and Choffin Career Center, November 14, 2013. The purpose is to actively engage the student body and encourage them to visit the campus of YSU and the BCOE, and become future education majors.  **16. Stand Up Speak Out Leadership Conference** – The program was developed by the Quaglia Institute for student aspirations, a Maine based nonprofit group that attempts to pinpoint the proper circumstances to foster learning in schools and to utilize that knowledge to create ubiquitous change. Middle school students at promise for first generation college attendance are targeted for participation by their home district. The students from across Mahoning County participate in a series of games and workshops that teach effective communication, resource management and other indispensable leadership skills.  **17. Youngstown State University Alumni Lecture Series**—BCOE faculty members develop and facilitate a panel discussion by local education leaders on the challenges and successes of urban education. YSU BCOE alumni, students, faculty, and staff participate in the annual event. | |
| **List what your college has done or plan to do in the area of diversity programming this year (2013-2014). Provide titles and dates and a synopsis of the diversity program.**  **1. Youngstown State University Alumni Lecture Series - (September 26, 2013)—**Panel members included Monica Jones, dean of Youngstown Early College; Karen Green, assistant superintendent of Youngstown City Schools; Michael Notar, superintendent of Warren City Schools; and Randy Dunn, president of Youngstown State University and former state superintendent of education for the state of Illinois. Panelists discussed strategies that are being used to meet the challenges facing urban schools and ensuring rich educational opportunities for all youth. The panel also explored the role that public universities have to play in assisting the ailing urban schools — more specifically, what role does Youngstown State University have to play?  **2.** **Collaborate with the YSEA to Develop and Implement the Annual Upward Bound Christmas Program** (December 14, 2013, see description above).  **3. Develop and Implement the National Education Association’s (NEA) Read Across America Celebration** (March 1, 2014, see description above).  **4. YSU-TOPS Open House** – (April TBD 2014)  **5**. **School Psychology Summer Institute –** (June TBD 2014) | |
| **When does diversity program planning begin?**  Within the BCOE, diversity program planning is ongoing and occurs during regularly scheduled meetings across numerous College, department, and program committees. For example, discussions and planning of diversity initiatives occurs at all-college meetings, department meetings, chairs' meetings, Dean's Advisory Council meetings, and Professional Education Committee meetings, as well as in various meetings with regional partners. During the CAEP committee meetings, faculty and staff strategize around initiatives and programming. Members of the diversity subcommittee also communicate and plan diversity initiatives through individual department or program area meetings. | |
| **What does your college plan to do in the area of diversity programming next year (2014 - 2015)?**  Continue with the vast majority of activities 1-17 described previously. Initiative 16, Stand Up Speak Out Leadership Conference is not an annual event but there are discussions around continuing this initiative. | |
| **What events could be included in the Community Diversity Program Series 2014-2015?**   * Youngstown State University Alumni Lecture Series [FEE] * Stand Up Speak Out Leadership Conference [FEE?] * School Psychology Summer Institute [FEE] | |