I am, You are, We are Lakers

Inclusion Plan of the
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

2009

Produced by the Grassroots Inclusion Taskforce (GrIT)
Members of the 2009 CLAS Grassroots Inclusion Taskforce

Petra Alsoofy, Student
Jeanine Anderson, Student
Peter Anderson, Classics
Samantha Andrus-Henry, School of Communications
Frederick J. Antczak, CLAS
Rebecca Bolen, Student
Kathleen Blumreich, English
Amanda Cuevas, formerly of the CLAS Academic Advising Center
Lindsay Ellis, English
Monica Johnstone, CLAS
Ben Knight, Student
Nancy K. Mack, Mathematics
Karen Meyers, Regional Math & Science Center
Louis Moore, History
Keith Oliver, Physics
Paul Stephenson, Statistics
Donna St. Louis, Student
Mark Williams, Music

Consultation on the draft of this document was undertaken with the CLAS Student Advisory Committee, the CLAS Alumni Board, the CLAS Staff Advisory Committee and the CLAS Faculty Council.

Special thanks also to the Diversity Recruitment and Retention Committee Task Force of 2005-2006 on whose shoulders we stand:

Julianne M. Vanden Wyngaard, Chair Emeritus
Nancy K. Mack, Chair Pro-tem
Regina McClinton, former Co-Chair Pro-tem
Majd Al-Mallah
Leigh Eicke
Jorge Lopez
Sango Otieno
Senez Rodriguez-Charbonier
Karel Swanson
Yosay Wangdi

Preservation of one’s own culture does not require contempt or disrespect for other cultures.
Cesar Chavez

I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.
Maya Angelou

Be the change that you want to see in the world.
Mohandas Gandhi

Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance.
Kofi Annan

I learned to make my mind large, as the universe is large, so that there is room for paradoxes.
Maxine Hong Kingston

All young people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to achieve their full potential.
Harvey Milk

If we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity.
John F. Kennedy

The only way to make sure people you agree with can speak is to support the rights of people you don't agree with.
Eleanor Holmes Norton
What diversity and inclusion are

Diversity may be defined by those characteristics that distinguish individuals within a given community. We recognize that GVSU values, respects, nurtures and pursues diversity in its community. These may include, but are not limited to, the following characteristics listed in alphabetical order: age, area of scholarly interest, employment status (faculty, staff), ethnicity, gender, mental and physical capability, nationality, parental status, politics, race, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, and veteran status. The value we place on diversity is evident in our respect for these differences and the recognition of the similarities that all people share regarding their humanity.

Inclusion means more than just acknowledging and/or tolerating differences. Inclusion is the set of conscious practices that involve:

- Practicing mutual respect for qualities, experiences, perspectives, and practices that are different from our own.
- Utilizing the talents, experiences, perspectives, and practices of all people (or faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni, administrators, and community members) as a means of improving the university environment.
- Building alliances across differences so that we can work together to build vibrant academic communities.

Gardswarz and Rowe’s diagram above suggests the complexity of the characteristics, some of which overlap, that make up our shared humanity. The Taskforce noted the difficulty in describing them all: race is not completely subsumed under nationality and ethnicity, all economic factors are not described in terms of income or social class, and so on.
CLAS contributes to an inclusive GVSU community

The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Faculty and staff touch the lives of virtually every student at GVSU. CLAS is and must be a model of inclusiveness and the source of creative solutions to challenges we face as a diverse learning community. Not only does CLAS support the GVSU Inclusion Plan, it also has many ongoing initiatives of its own.

With more than 500 faculty and staff providing 63% of instruction at the University, the ways in which inclusiveness are supported within CLAS are themselves many and diverse.

The Grassroots Inclusion Taskforce identified ways in which the College can and will continue to
  • strengthen our recruitment and retention of diverse and excellent faculty, staff, and students
  • increase access to the benefits of education
  • share the pedagogies of inclusion
  • improve the climate within our campus community and in the wider community, and
  • enrich our cultural competency at every level.

There is a shared belief that this is best achieved from a wide base with the participation of all stakeholders so that all voices are heard and the richness of the process ensures an inclusive result.

Examples in the tradition of CLAS inclusion

  • Act on Racism is a student-oriented group at Grand Valley State University. Brought together in 2005 by Professor Jennifer Stewart, the group members strive to increase awareness of contemporary racism. To achieve this, the members reenact racist incidents that have occurred on Grand Valley’s campus and in its communities. Following each performance, the audience is given the opportunity to ask questions about controversial issues regarding race and ethnicity. The members of Act On Racism hope that their performances will bring about a better understanding of implicit institutional and everyday racism.

  • Under the banner of GVSU Veterans History Project, the History Department and the University Library proudly became established as a collecting and archive partner of the Library of Congress in this national project. Under the direction of Dr. James Smither, students and faculty—together with area schools, partner organizations, and volunteers from the community—are preserving and storing veterans’ stories and experiences.

  • Run by the Regional Math & Science Center, Science Technology & Engineering Preview Summer Day Camp for Girls (STEPS) is a four day, day-camp introduction to the exciting world of technology and engineering! Campers will participate in a variety of workshops that will give them hands-on experience with high-tech equipment and processes. Program activities during the week for STEPS include designing, manufacturing, and flying a radio-controlled airplane.

  • For the past four years, Art Education students have had special need groups from Holland and Hudsonville visits and work on site. The students also painted and donated two large murals to the Allendale Elderly and Rehabilitation Home.

  • Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and Grand Valley State University entered into an agreement that provides a link between pre-medical students at Grand Valley and MSU’s medical school. Students interested in caring for underserved populations will complete a program of enriching clinical and service experiences as well as academic advising directed toward admission to MSU College of Human Medicine. Guidance is provided to these students by the CLAS Academic Advising Center staff.

  • Working Classics is a philosophy seminar which combines traditional classroom discourse with elements of community organizing, urban study, and student teaching. Each semester, courses of study in the Liberal Arts are offered to residents in the Grand Rapids community and a correctional facility. GVSU students, working with one another and with faculty input, develop a course they will teach to the community or prison participants over 7-8 weeks.
The CLAS Inclusion Plan is designed to support all relevant elements of the GVSU Inclusion Plan. These elements are denoted in **highlight**.

### Action Area 1: Access and Equity – Recruitment and Retention (faculty, staff, students)

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</table>
| Increase presence of faculty from underrepresented groups | Utilize university Affirmative Action Plan to identify underutilization for minorities and women | • Well chosen placement of advertising of positions  
• Promote to all UHs use of Inclusion Advocates in hiring  
• Support initiatives such as International faculty group  
• Provide new faculty information which is relevant and useful  
• Strive for best practice mentoring of faculty | Fall 2009  
CLAS Office 2  
Inclusion Advocates by Fall 2009  
CLAS Standards for Tenure & Promotion doc. consultation Fall 2009 | Deans (P)  
Office of the Provost  
Division of Inclusion and Equity -Office of Affirmative Action  
CLAS Faculty Council |
| Promote a more holistic approach to undergraduate admissions to increase access/diversity Increase the presence of students from historically underrepresented groups (Latino, native American, African American) Increase the presence of international students | Obtain and incorporate latest research on predictors of success beyond GPAs and test scores into admissions process  
Focus additional recruitment efforts in diverse local areas such as Holland, Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Benton Harbor, Flint, Wyoming, etc.  
Provide information and consultation in support of individual college recruitment efforts as requested.  
Develop a community college initiative that follows students through their 2 years and supports | • Encourage participation of faculty with varied cultural competencies in the orientation process  
• Facilitate the translation of materials written for parents (see Action Area 2)  
• Partner with Alumni Relations and CLAS Alumni on recruitment in relevant localities  
• Support departmental outreach efforts in K-12 schools  
• Devise a FTIAC recruiting strategy emphasizing diversity in majors | Winter 2010  
Winter 2010  
Diversify CLAS Website images of the majors Winter 2011 | Associate Dean  
Office of Admissions (P)  
All Interested College Faculty and Regional Sites  
Division of Student Services  
Office of Multicultural Affairs  
Division of Inclusion and Equity  
Enrollment, Development, Planning and Assessment Committee (EDPAC)  
Regional Math & Science Center  
Annis Water Resources Institute |
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<td>successful transition to GVSU. Identify/address barriers to access for transfer students.</td>
<td>Review/evaluate effectiveness of Freshman Academy Program – summer vs. academic year format. Explore university participation in the POSSE program and/or other models that support minority student recruitment/retention. Formalize support to guidance counselors who can provide support to students aspiring to GVSU. Develop pipeline programs for middle school students to cultivate interest/enhance preparation for specific disciplines.</td>
<td>• Support outreach efforts by the CLAS Academic Advising Center • Individual departments have programs (AWRI, Classics, etc.) • Mailing of CLAS Quadrennial Report to guidance counselors in 3 county area • Support outreach efforts of the Regional Math &amp; Science Center</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>Deans or their designees (P)</td>
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<td>Develop plan for recruitment/admission process for graduate students</td>
<td>minority representation required for federal grants across the institution</td>
<td>Ensure all relevant CLAS departments are aware of the development of this plan</td>
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<td>Division of Graduate Studies (P) Grad Council Individual Departments AD Jann Joseph</td>
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<td>Reconfigure Intercultural Advisory Council (IAC) to better support the work of the Division of Inclusion and Equity</td>
<td>Establish a university committee to advise Division of Inclusion and Equity (University Inclusive Excellence Team – possible new name) Solicit participation of a representative from each college, administrative division, undergrad and grad student representatives Multi-year appointments with rotating terms except in the case of students which may need to change annually • May also include UAS, AP, COT, and affinity group representatives (Padnos International Center, LGBT, etc.) • Review composition of University’s Strategic Planning 2010 Committee as a possible model Group will provide advice regarding DAC recommendations, Inclusion Implementation Plan process, and other critical issues</td>
<td>• Coordinate efforts between ICE and IAC</td>
<td>Division of Inclusion and Equity (P) Deans-- AD Jann Joseph Senior Management Team UAS/ECS</td>
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<td>Improve quality of research from a diversity/inclusion perspective</td>
<td>Develop a plan to diversify human research subjects</td>
<td>Associate Dean for Professional Development and Administration to coordinate with relevant CLAS departments</td>
<td>Winter 2011 Graduate Studies and Grants Administration (P) IRB Resource and Development FTLC Other Interested Centers and Institutes with Research Funding AD Jann Joseph</td>
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<td>Action Area 2: Campus Climate</td>
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<td>Conduct climate study of faculty, staff, and students utilizing internal and external consultation</td>
<td>Promote broad campus consultation in process due to mixed/negative perceptions from campus community regarding validity and methods utilized for 2005 climate study. Include a focus on issues of collegiality. Review University of Wisconsin-Madison climate work as a potential model.</td>
<td>Encourage participation of the faculty and staff of CLAS in this survey. Ask faculty to promote the survey in their courses to encourage students to participate.</td>
<td>Division of Inclusion and Equity (P) Provost’s Office People of Color Network Other interested faculty and staff LGBT Faculty/Staff Association Padnos International Center UAS GVSU Statistics Consulting Center</td>
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<td>Design and implement schedule of “Opportunities to Dialogue about Race” and other inclusion-related topics such as disability, class, religion, sexual orientation, etc.</td>
<td>Monthly breakfast dialogues on inclusion topics. Consider small faculty and/or staff discussion groups.</td>
<td>Promote these events through CLAS Happenings, CLAS Acts and UH mailings.</td>
<td>Fall 2009 Division of Inclusion and Equity (P) Office of Multicultural Affairs All Colleges and Interested Faculty Deans FTLC LGBT Center Women’s Center</td>
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<td>Support the work of campus groups dedicated to inclusion, diversity, and access (such as TRIO, McNair Scholars, FTLC, cultural clubs, PIC, LGBT Center, Women’s Center, OMA, international students and faculty)</td>
<td>Promote events and programs of these groups through CLAS Acts, UH Mailing and the CLAS website (and alumni Facebook page, if appropriate). Co-sponsorship of appropriate events</td>
<td>Winter 2010 CLAS Office</td>
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<td>Support the work of CLAS Faculty serving in extra-college roles, such as Honors College,</td>
<td>Promote events and programs of these groups through CLAS Acts, UH Mailing and the CLAS website (and alumni Facebook page, if appropriate). Co-sponsorship of appropriate events</td>
<td>Fall 2009 CLAS Office</td>
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<td>CSCE, FTLC, Area Studies</td>
<td>website (and alumni Facebook page, if appropriate)</td>
<td>Advocate for faculty, staff and student voices on all inclusion related committees</td>
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| Increase visibility of existing inclusion and diversity opportunities | - Relevant film series  
- Veterans History Project  
- “Up From the Bottoms” documentary  
- talks by students and faculty who have returned from overseas programs  
- Language and Culture events (such as Italy & the Sea, French Festival)  
- Language journals  
- Act on Racism  
- Special Lectures  
- The Freshman Academy | - Promote events and programs of these groups through CLAS Acts, UH Mailing and the CLAS website. Alumni Newsletter and alumni Facebook page  
- Ensure that the Lanthorn and News & Information Services are informed of such opportunities  
- Provide photos to the web team  
- Enter CLAS events on University Planning Calendar  
- Invite CLAS Alumni Board to a cultural event | Fall 2009 | Director of CLAS Communications & Advancement |
| Increase the availability of relevant information in languages in addition to English | - Provide translations of relevant materials for parents of students  
- Invite Teach Liberal Education web page statements in languages in addition to English | Facilitate translation of relevant materials by volunteers  
Launch in conjunction with Parent and Family Program Manager (University Development) and GVSU Web team | Provide online parent information in at least 2 more major languages by 2011 | Director of CLAS Communications & Advancement  
Interested faculty and students |
| Support inclusive atmosphere at College events through food choices and presentation | - Provide menu in advance on college Web site  
- Provide vegetarian choices  
- Include labeling that | Allow faculty, staff, alumni and students to break bread together at College events with the confidence that dietary restrictions can | Beginning with Fall 2009 events, provide this information whenever possible. | CLAS COT staff  
CLAS Web master |
| makes clear whether known allergens, meat, seafood, dairy are included | be accommodated to the degree practical, and provide information in advance on website. |  |  |
## Action Area 3: Diversity in Curriculum/Co-curriculum

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<td>Reward and value course content that integrates culturally diverse perspectives (race, class, disability, sexual orientation, religion, etc.) where appropriate</td>
<td>Develop local community connections with diverse cultural groups</td>
<td>• Provide faculty forums for sharing pedagogical approaches</td>
<td>Start Fall 2010</td>
<td>UCC/College Curriculum Committee (P) Individual college faculty, particularly those involved in teaching general education requirements, ethnic and/or religious studies majors/minors Faculty Teaching and Learning Center</td>
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<td>Create course-based and co-curricular opportunities to encouraging discussion of issues of inclusion, diversity, and equity.</td>
<td>• Provide time at Unit Head meetings for sharing of best practices in relevant areas and post notes to website</td>
<td>Implement starting Fall 2009</td>
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<td>• Work with Cultural Competency Certificate program to highlight diversity courses to assist in advising</td>
<td>Fall 2011</td>
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<td>Develop/implement diversity/inclusion campus-wide training/education workshops/programs</td>
<td>New Director of Intercultural Training to collaborate with partners</td>
<td>Promote training &amp; workshops to CLAS departments</td>
<td>Fall 2009</td>
<td>Division of Inclusion and Equity (P) FTLC – Advisory Committee FTLC</td>
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<td>Co-sponsor Inclusion and Equity related conferences/programs across campus</td>
<td>Raise awareness and understanding of inclusion issues</td>
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<td>All Other Interested Colleges and Faculty</td>
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<td>Division of Inclusion and Equity (P) Office of Multicultural Affairs</td>
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<td>All colleges and VP/SMT Divisions</td>
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### Action Area 4: Organizational Learning - Internal

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| Training and organizational development  | Provide training on a variety of inclusion-related topics including effective interviewing | Promote training & workshops to CLAS departments  
 College Office personnel to undergo training | TBA                   | Division of Inclusion and Equity (P)  
 NSF Advance Grant Faculty |
| Provide consultation and intervention to departments/units to ameliorate workplace conflict | unconscious bias, cultural competence*, ADA, Proposition 2, etc.  
 Utilize professional theatre groups and “train the trainer” concept  
 Review/revise Diversity Workshops called “On Demand”  
 Enhance training for multicultural assistants and academic advisors | • Support training of CLAS Academic Advising Center staff  
 • Invite program director to speak to UHs | Ongoing | All Interested Faculty  
 Student Services |
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<tr>
<td>Facilitate and sustain an effective university-wide mechanism for establishing partnerships and collaborations with Grand Rapids Public Schools - do the same for other districts with diverse populations (i.e. Muskegon, Holland, etc.)</td>
<td>Superintendent of GRPS’ s: areas of interest Centers of innovation Mentoring/tutoring programs for high school students High school reform/ opportunities for students to accelerate completion of high school/dual enrollment programs in senior year Cultural competence training for GRPS teachers Helping teachers encourage appropriate parental involvement. Study teachers’ perceptions of students and the impact of their perceptions on their expectations of students. Teach pedagogy of creating a culture of optimism Create/prepare pool of teachers who want to work in urban schools</td>
<td>Coordinate with faculty and staff already doing or interested in doing K-12 outreach/teacher training</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>COE (P) All Interested Colleges and Faculty Division of Inclusion and Equity Deans Charter School Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop and nurture key partnerships and relationships with community entities doing (or interested in doing) similar inclusion work</td>
<td>Maintain active membership in Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce Cultural Competency Council Institute for Healing Racism Partners for a Racism Free Community, etc.</td>
<td>Coordinate with existing contacts related to projects such as Prof. Joseph’s Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs/College Day Program (GEAR UP/CD)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Division of Inclusion and Equity (P) Interested Colleges and Faculty</td>
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</table>
| Create a list of organizations outside of campus that we as an institution can/should support | to area school children
- Art & Design's mural project for the African Center
- Prof. Roberts' film on 10th Anniversary Video for Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ |  |
|---|---|---|
| Enhance faculty, staff, student involvement in TRIO and Upward Bound Programs | Identify and publicize volunteer opportunities | Promote and update on TRIO etc. in CLAS Acts or UH mailings | Winter 2010 | TRIO/Upward Bound (P)
Interested Colleges and Faculty
Interested Student Groups
Division of Inclusion and Equity |
Our cultural diversity has most certainly shaped our national character.

**Julie Bishop**

Diversity: the art of thinking independently together.

**Malcolm Forbes**

Diversity for the sake of diversity is not an accomplishment or a step forward. It's what you bring to the table.

**Charlie Gonzalez**

Diversity in the world is a basic characteristic of human society, and also the key condition for a lively and dynamic world as we see today.

**Jinato Hu**

Diversity has been written into the DNA of American life; any institution that lacks a rainbow array has come to seem diminished, if not diseased.

**Joe Klein**

We need diversity of thought in the world to face the new challenges.

**Tim Berners Lee**

Society is unity in diversity.

**George H. Mead**

It were not best that we should all think alike; it is difference of opinion that makes horse races.

**Mark Twain**

We have become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams.

**Jimmy Carter**

Life lies in diversity, not in monotony.

**M.K. Soni**

Diversity is not about how we differ. Diversity is about embracing one another's uniqueness.

**Ola Joseph**

At bottom every man knows well enough that he is a unique being, only once on this earth; and by no extraordinary chance will such a marvelously picturesque piece of diversity in unity as he is, ever be put together a second time.

**Friedrich Nietzsche**

If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognize the whole gamut of human potentialities, and so weave a less arbitrary social fabric, one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place.

**Margaret Mead**