Mission Statement

The Diversity Leadership Conference is a student leadership event that provides a platform from which to address issues that impact various student communities. The conference exists to promote academic excellence, timely degree completion, coalition building, diversity education, leadership development, and personal empowerment.

Goals

1. Identify qualities and behaviors that lead towards academic and professional success
2. Construct meaning from ideas and concepts related to diversity and inclusion
3. Provide tools for an action plan to implement strategies or initiatives reflective of the conference theme
4. Offer an opportunity for students to reflect thoughtfully on both their personal values and their academic goals as a means of further self-discovery

Program Theme

The 2014 Diversity Leadership Conference theme, “Transform U: Empower Your Vision, Your Voice, Your Future” will allow participants not only to develop a more inclusive understanding of themselves and how they are experiencing higher education but also to provide opportunities for taking meaningful action to effect positive change both at their institution and in their world. In his influential text The University: An Owner’s Manual, Henry Rosovsky contends that various stakeholders, including faculty, administrators and students, can and should claim ownership of their institutions, and this conference will offer sessions to help participants develop that sense of owning their college education more fully. Students attend a college or university for a wide variety of reasons, ranging from gaining a professional credential to developing a broader understanding of themselves and of their environment through a liberal arts education. These reasons are not mutually exclusive; often, students have many motivations for acquiring a college degree, and at its core, higher education is about acquiring the analytical and communication skills needed to learn how to learn over a lifetime. To address this broad spectrum, this conference will include presentations on a wide range of topics, examining our shared and distinct histories, the moral and ethical questions that a
university education can raise (and help to answer), and the various programs and initiatives that colleges and universities create to help both individual and groups of students achieve their academic and professional goals. Through these varied sessions, students and other participants will have the chance to expand their understanding of their own collegiate experience as a way of taking ownership of it.

**Proposal Format**

The Diversity Leadership Conference is inviting presenters to submit a proposal for a concurrent session of 75 minutes (with the possibility of sessions lasting up to 90 minutes). These sessions are chosen in large part because of their relevance to the conference theme and incorporation of the core areas. They are designed to be interactive conversations between presenters and participants.

The core areas for the conference are as follows:

- Succeeding Academically
- Leading with Purpose
- Walking with Integrity
- Focusing on Career
- Moving from Vision to Action
- Finding Your Place
- Defining Diversity
- Creating an Inclusive Climate
- Recognizing Environmental Inequalities
- Preparing for Graduate or Professional School

Session topics can address one or more of the core areas, and possible topics could focus on specific programs or activities that improve academic outcomes (including retention and timely completion), discussions of initiatives or creative programs that increase diversity and inclusion, or practices that are high-impact educationally, socially or professionally. In this case, diversity can be defined broadly to include issues of race, gender, social class and/or orientation, and creativity is welcome.

To allow for such a broad range of topics, the sessions can be presented in a variety of formats, which include the following:

**Research/Scholarly Papers** – These papers either present the results of a quantitative, qualitative or mixed method study or an argument based on philosophical, theoretical or practical problems within higher education. They would follow the appropriate format, including a study objective/purpose, a theoretical or conceptual framework, a discussion of study methods, data sources or evidence from the literature, preliminary results or conclusions and study significance.
**Symposia** – These sessions would encourage interaction between a panel of presenters and the audience and would be focused on a particular theme or topic relevant to the conference. In addition to a discussion of the topic and its significance, the proposal should also include the names/backgrounds of the presenters as well as an overview of how the session will be structured.

**Creative Presentations (music, drama, poetry and/or art)** – These sessions would include both a presentation of a creative work as well as an opportunity for audience discussion/participation (actor talk-back, open mic, question/answer period with the artist or artists) to examine how the creative piece ties into the conference theme.

**Workshops** – These sessions are highly active and interactive, incorporating information sharing and facilitated small group activities with the goal of challenging participants’ thought processes.


Required Information

Coordinating Presenter Information (Required)

Presenter(s) ____________________________________________

Institution(s) ____________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________

City _____________________________ State ___________ Zip _____________

Phone Number ____________________ Fax _________________ Email Address

_________________________

Additional Presenter Information

Presenter(s) ____________________________________________

Institution(s) ____________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________

City _____________________________ State ___________ Zip _____________

Phone Number ____________________ Fax _________________ Email Address

_________________________

Additional Presenter Information

Presenter(s) ____________________________________________

Institution(s) ____________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________

City _____________________________ State ___________ Zip _____________

Phone Number ____________________ Fax _________________ Email Address

_________________________

Is there any time you would be unable to present on Saturday, November 1st?

_________________________

Are you willing to present twice?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

* All rooms are equipped with A/V Equipment, including computers, projectors, and DVD players *
Conference Core Areas (select up to two):
Please explain in your Program Description how your program will address at least one of the core areas.

☐ Succeeding Academically    ☐ Leading with Purpose    ☐ Walking with Integrity

☐ Focusing on Career    ☐ Moving from Vision to Action

☐ Creating an Inclusive Climate    ☐ Finding Your Place    ☐ Defining Diversity

☐ Recognizing Environmental Inequalities

☐ Preparing for Graduate or Professional School

Program Title: (10-word limit)

Abstract: (85-word limit). This abstract will appear in the conference program booklet.

Program Description: (250-word limit). The program description should include the purpose and rationale and an explanation of how this program connects to the conference theme and at least one of the core areas.
Program Participation: Explain how your concurrent session will engage participants and the practical take-aways that the participants can verbalize after attending your presentation.

Call for Proposals Deadline:  
Friday, September 5, 2014  
Notification of program submission decisions will be made in mid-September.

For more information, please contact Leslie Robinson at ljrobin@indiana.edu or phone: 812-855-7016