

Association of Black Culture Centers National Conference 2018 Presenter Educational Sessions

Friday, November 2, 2018

Concurrent Session I - 10:30 am - 11:45 am

Connecting Centers with Academic Departments *BSC, Room 116 ABC*

Cultural Centers Maintaining Relevance *BSC, Room 116 ABC*

Diversifying the Pipeline to Careers in Education

Charles Basden, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Abstract: What are the best ways to engage diverse audiences to share encourage and direct people of color to careers in education? The Graduate School of Education's (GSE) motto is "Advancing Excellence and Equity in Education," as such we are undertaking a plethora or tried and true, and some unique ways of engagement to meet our goals around recruiting the best and brightest into teaching, administrative and leadership careers in education. In this presentation and exchange, Charles Basden, Senior Academic Program Coordinator for Recruitment will outline (and take feedback on) GSE's strategy of engagement to strengthen our teacher education pipeline, promote post baccalaureate programs, and highlight progression in the career field through certifications, masters and doctorate level degree offerings.

Bridging the Gap: Validating the Black Experience in Academic Settings

Madinah Elamin, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Ryan Bissonnette, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Abstract: Historically, blackness has been seen as a connotation, a hazard, and a deviance from the norm. This perception creates a chasm between black students and their education. Can bridges be built between cultural centers and academics to narrow this gap? This

presentation seeks to bring cultural centers and academic settings together to validate the black community on campus.

Leveraging Campus Climate Data to Tell Our Stories

Zaneta Rago-Craft, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Dr. Dayna Weintraub, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Abstract: As cultural centers continue to respond to shifting institutional priorities, it is critical to use data and assessment to inform our strategies, programming, and constituents. Leveraging campus climate data to share the impact of cultural centers is one way to tell our stories. This session will feature results collected from a recent administration of the Diverse Learning Environments Survey conducted at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. Data revealed critical outcomes for students who self-reported having attended or participated in Cultural Center activities. This case study will give participants tools for centering cultural centers in future analyses, advocacy, and data-informed decision making.

Centers Role in Student Retention *BSC, Room 120 ABC*

Mental Health Crisis on a College Campus: Why Do I Cry?

Franklin Soares, Louisiana State University

Abstract: Historically, men of color, have been viewed by society as threatening and antisocial. In the male culture, it is a form of weakness for males to share their problems or issues. In this presentation, the program will show how colleges can support males in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Cultural Centers' Role in Recruitment and Retention of First-Year Graduate Students of Color

Ashley Palmer, Northern Illinois University

Abstract: My research ultimately aims to explore the implications of cultural centers shifting focus to their universities' graduate student populations to create the relational, academic, and attitudinal dynamics

conducive for both graduate academic and post-baccalaureate success without overexerting center resources (financial or human).

Strategies for Effective Student Retention at The University of Virginia
Dr. Michael Mason, University of Virginia

Abstract:

Concurrent Session II - 2:15pm - 3:30pm

Cultural Centers Maintaining Relevance *BSC Room 116 ABC*

Importance of Symbolism *BSC Room 116 ABC*

Leveraging Student Affairs and Academic Resources for Latinx/a/o Student Success at Rutgers University

Dr. Carlos Fernandez, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Abstract: This presentation explores the critical role that cultural centers play in helping institutions leverage student affairs and academic resources to positively affect the learning experiences of Latinx/a/o students and their potential to persist and complete their academic goals and advance the career objectives.

At the Intersections: Queer and Trans Students of Color and Cross-Center Partnerships

Zaneta Rago-Craft, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Abstract: At the Intersections: Queer and Trans Students of Color and Cross-Center Partnerships As student affairs practitioners, we know students tend to seek support from those who mirror and reflect parts of their most salient identities. We also know that the organizational structures within student affairs tend to create single identity support structures in name. How do we work across identity-based centers to ensure our spaces are collectively anti-racist and queer and trans affirming. This session will provide examples, strategies, and reflections

on intentional collaboration, providing resources, and programming for affirming LGBTQA students of color as they navigate our centers.

Beyond the Hashtag: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness?

Franklin Soares, Louisiana State University

Abstract: Beyond the Hashtag: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness? In the last few years, college students have been more active than ever. Moreover, students have revolted police brutality, gun reform, immigration, LGBTQ rights, DACA, and President's Trump Election. This program will demonstrate how Student Affairs professionals can support students activism, Beyond the Hashtag.

Resisting the Politics of Survival & Thriving *BSC, Room 120ABC*

Cultural Centers Maintaining Relevance *BSC, Room 120ABC*

Surviving in the Ivory Tower: Student Activism in Higher Education

Roberto Orozco, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Tennille Haynes, Princeton University

Abstract: Historically, student activists of color resisted notions of white supremacy, heteronormativity, and patriarchy to create space for themselves in higher education. How are cultural centers positioned to support student activism in a way that allows for transformational change while supporting student activists to move from a place of surviving to thriving?

Reimagining Destiny: Reflections of a New Generation

Dr. Carolyn Princes, Indiana County NAACP

Dr. Lori Woods, St. Francis University

Abstract: Accept it or not, America is facing huge and complex challenges. Coming from two diverse backgrounds, this session will discuss how reflective poems of the diverse students and other scholars may be used as a catalyst for focus discussions on reimagining a new destiny that may lead to attitudes of surviving infinitely to assist students of color.

Cultural Centers As Vibranium: The Plethora of Uses Your Cultural Centers (Should) Offer

Tiffany Campbell, University of North Carolina-Wilmington

Manuel Lloyd, University of North Carolina-Wilmington

Abstract: Is your cultural center under-utilized? Do you understand the goal of your cultural center? Does it understand the needs of you and your peers? This session seeks to consider how Cultural Centers can deliver more goods and services to Black Students. So, let's talk about what you might not know about Cultural Centers (where they are seated in your university) and how they work. And, then let's talk about what can be done to make your cultural center meet the needs of current students who may be feeling like Cultural Centers have outlived their usefulness. Let's understand. Let's talk. Let's strategize!

Saturday, November 3, 2018

Concurrent Session III - 10:15am-11:30am

Centers Providing their Role in Student Retention *BSC, Room 116ABC*

Barbershop Series: New Way for Males to Cut it Up!

Franklin Soares, Louisiana State University

Abstract: Barbershop Series: New Way for Males to Cut It Up!

Historically, men of color, have been viewed by society as threatening and antisocial. In the male culture, it is a form of weakness for males to share their problems or issues. In this presentation, the program will show how colleges can support males in a welcoming and supportive environment.

**When You Need A Green Book to Get Through School:
Mentoring Black Students Beyond Academic Success into
Careers of Consequence**

Tiffany Campbell, University of North Carolina-Wilmington

Abstract: Too often, university settings throw the word "mentorship" around without talking about the tangible reasons why mentoring helps retention efforts. Is it meeting based or experience based or academic strategies or career development based? The real question for Black Cultural Center mentorship programs might be, "how does your program create students who can thrive in a world beyond the classroom?" Can those 3.5 GPAs turn into tangible opportunities for graduate school, professional school or boardrooms. Come consider how your mentorship philosophy effects the development of your students...and then learn ways to provide experiences that are both rooted in academic excellence and professional development.

Using The Office of Multicultural Affairs/Cultural Centers as a Convenient Tool for Diversity

Nelson Pham, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Abstract: These offices/centers doing cultural work just for namesake does more harm than good. OMA and CCs have the potential to create positive change for the students they serve. This can be accomplished through innovative and intentional programming that focuses on access and equitable academic (academic & career advising, research opportunities, mentorships) and career (networking, professional conferences, internships) opportunities, which foster positive change.

Cultural Centers Maintaining Relevance *BSC, Room 120ABC*

Cashing in Capital: Exploration of the Marketplace Dynamics

Michael Williams, Western Illinois University

Abstract: This presentation summarizes the experiences of African-American students through research that attend Black Cultural Centers (BCC's) across the nation. It examines the historical role of BCC as vehicles to differentiate between self-preservation and self-segregation. The presentation urges executive administration to preserve Black Cultural Centers despite governmental administration and budget cutbacks.

Capturing the Now: Using Digital Media As A Tool For Black Cultural Center Archiving

Manuel Lloyd, University of North Carolina-Wilmington

Abstract: Effective use of digital media is crucial for Cultural Centers to come into the 21st Century. The proper capturing and archiving of media, both videography and photography, can be used to help with recruiting and retention efforts, donor base building, annual reports, promotional materials and more. But the ability to archive effectively requires technical knowhow of not only the tools to do work, but a conceptual knowhow of how you plan to implement your digital media effectively. This session will lay out costs and best practices for archiving digital media, how social media platforms can function as archiving content and how to implement it into your cultural centers ethos.

A Killmonger World: Building Black Solidarity on Campus Between Black Micro-Communities

Dr. Michael Mason, University of Virginia

Abstract: Black Student Athletes, African Students, Afro-Caribbean Students, Afro-Latinx Students, Black Greeks, Black LGBTQIA+ Students, and Black Student Activists are more than likely having varied student experiences on your campus that will probably put you at odds with one another. What, then, can be done to help each micro-community to understand what's at stake when the Black Student Community is at war within? How do we build solidarity with each other, cultivate a stronger community, and develop a comprehensive agenda that supports sitting at a variety of intersections? This session seeks to consider what it takes to build Black Solidarity between your campus' Black micro-communities. Come learn and engage identity theory, community development, and coalition building techniques that will aid you in empowering your student community.

Concurrent Session IV - 11:45am-1:00pm

“Me Too” : Raising Up the Black Woman *BSC, Room 116ABC*

Centers Ties to the Community *BSC, Room 116ABC*

The Black Woman and Her Place in the 20th Century

Nyuma Waggeh, Rutgers University

Abstract: This study examines how college educated African American women, specifically focusing on the time period of the 1920(s), advocated for themselves. I will be looking at how these women used women's club organizations to elevate themselves on a social and political platform. I am answering my research question through historical analysis, and the analysis of archival data, and I will employ the philosophical and political lens of Black Feminism. My study focuses on the following women: Mary Church Terrell, Anna Cooper, Jessie Fauset, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, and Mary McLeod Bethune. I will explore how these women employed Black Feminism before it was recognized by society.

Ebonies in the Ivory: Supporting Female Leadership in the World of Academia

Dr. LaKeitha Poole, Louisiana State University

Abstract: While navigating the world of academia can be both an exciting and growth-enhancing experience, it can also pose a myriad of unique challenges that negatively impact the journey toward professional success, particularly for women of color. Specifically, Black women have been identified as the most educated among the U.S. population yet their voices (and accomplishments) are often unacknowledged in professional and academic settings. These silenced voices often provide critical insight into addressing the needs of not only this group but all women of color in pursuit of academic and leadership opportunities. Ebonies in the Ivory (EITI) is an empowerment initiative that aims to support women of color (WOC) prior to, during, and beyond the advance degree attainment process. Its mission is to challenge and dispel the myth that the educational experiences and personal narratives of WOC are not valuable in the realm of higher education, which has

resulted in virtually non-existent scholarly literature addressing WOC and the uniqueness of their journeys within academia. Thus, EITI seeks to validate and champion WOC by providing a platform through which their experiences are acknowledged and their stories are told. Session attendees can expect open discussion and group participation as this session should particularly benefit current graduate students, recent graduates who are seeking faculty and professional roles, and current faculty members who are interested in hearing perspectives that facilitate an often silenced dialogue.

Navigating the Challenges of Developing an Inclusive Environment While Managing Implicit Bias

Deirdre Rouse, University of West Georgia

Abstract: "B.R.I.D.G.E. (Building Relationships in Downtown for Greater Engagement) an inaugural developing initiative was created to foster a collaborative relationship and an inclusive environment between the University of West Georgia and the local community. B.R.I.D.G.E, which began in mid-2017, is in its infancy and continues to progress. Attendees of this session will review the B.R.I.D.G.E. process, discussing challenges and intentional solutions to address sensitive issues related to implicit bias.

Cultural Centers Maintaining Relevance *BSC Room 120ABC* How Cultural Centers Center the Voices of Students of Color Wakanda School Do You Have? Roundtable Discussion on Campus Climate and Black Student Experiences

Sean H. Palmer, University of North Carolina-Wilmington

Abstract: Join Directors of Black Cultural Centers as we consider Dr. Shaun Harper's ground breaking research on Black Student Experiences and Equity. This session seeks to consider how campus climates are unique to each college and consider how students can re-engineer their experiences in light of what they are experiencing. Students can expect to learn common language that can help them advance their causes, agendas, and advocacy forward.

Check One Box: Taking Steps to Better Support Multiracial/ethnic Students in Education and a Monoracial World

Zaneta Rago-Craft, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Abstract: “Check One Box”: Taking Steps to Better Support Multiracial/ethnic Students in Higher Education and a Monoracial World Students of more than one racial/ethnic background/identity are often faced with invalidation, invisibility, and exclusion from racial/ethnic campus communities as they navigate their way through higher education. This session will discuss ways in which institutions of higher education, and student affairs practitioners within them, can improve upon current monoracial approaches toward multicultural education and authentically support students of bi/multiracial/ethnic backgrounds.

The Power of the Black Voice

Tiana M. Ford, Ed.M., Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Abstract: In a time when marginalized voices are often silenced, cultural centers have served as a safe haven for students to express themselves. The Paul Robeson Cultural Center (PRCC) at Rutgers University has created spaces for students of color, to explore the historical, cultural, political and social dynamics that has shaped the reality of individuals of the African diaspora. The PRCC has provided programs and resources that allowed students to think critically and voice their opinion on socio-cultural and social justice matters. Those programs/resources include: the MLK Oratorical Competition, Black Healing Space, Rites of Passage, Mentoring Thursdays and Let’s Talk Counseling Sessions. Through those efforts, students, faculty, staff, alumni and New Brunswick community members have engaged in authentic dialogues on topics that have impacted their experiences. Furthermore, those initiatives have been designed to help black students use their voice to process, navigate, heal and advance within society and the university community.

Concurrent Session V - 3:00pm-4:15pm

Cultural Centers Maintaining Relevance *BSC Room 116ABC*

Black Cultural Centers Matter: Understanding its' Relevance, Legacy and Purpose on College Campuses

Dr. David E. Jones, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Abstract: The casualties of innocent black lives, continuation of an unjust criminal justice system and institutionalized policies that don't afford equitable access for black and brown people in America urges student affairs to make certain black cultural centers remain relevant on college campuses. As a result of recent and longstanding attacks against communities of color, black cultural centers are critical to be a space of healing, community and positive engagement for students of color. This session will explore why black cultural centers matter and are relevant today more than ever before. Additionally, this session will discuss challenges black cultural centers encounter and share best practices for practitioners to employ on their campus to maintain the relevancy of black cultural centers.

Show Me the Money: Donors, Cultural Centers and Wondering Budgets

Sean Palmer, University of North Carolina-Wilmington

Abstract: Cultural centers can be hard to manage if you don't know where all of your money is coming from. In fact, it can be downright difficult to pinpoint where your center fits on your university's priorities for fundraising, development or donor engagement. As such, this workshop seeks to consider the many ways centers should be active developers in donor relationships, resource development, and budget priorities. Rather than being a presentation that provides "one size fits all" answers, the presenter seeks to create opportunities for discussion for those who are charged with keeping the doors of cultural centers

open! Prepare to engage your development plan, bring your annual report, and let's consider the budget of your center.

The Value of the Arts in Cultural Centers

Lawrence Williamson, The Ohio State University

Dr. Tanisha Jackson, The Ohio State University

Dr. Karen Alsbrooks, The Ohio State University

Dr. Francis Dorsey, Cleveland State University

Abstract:

Synergy Among Ethnic Specific Centers *BSC Room 120ABC*

Chief Diversity Officers Relationships w/Centers *BSC Room 120ABC*

Resisting the Politics of Survival and Thriving *BSC Room 120ABC*

A Critical Partnership: CDO and Cultural Center Directors

Dr. Ken Coopwood, Sr., CoopLew LLC.

Dr. William Lewis, Sr. CoopLew LLC.

Abstract: Internal and external pressures are sounding an alarm of urgency in creating safe, and inclusive spaces for Black and Brown student on US college campuses. The partnership between the Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) and the Black Cultural Center Director is paramount if student success is achieved on campus. This interactive session is designed for authentic conversation to occur around the relationship between the CDO and the BCCD

Appreciate not Appropriate

Wilma Crespo, University of Massachusetts - Amherst

Alayjah Lee, University of Massachusetts - Amherst

Abstract: Synergy Among Ethnic Specific Centers. Cultural appropriation is highly discussed in real time as in social media therefore providing fertile ground for synergy among ethnic culture centers. Featuring hands on workshops and discussions, the Cultural Centers in UMass Amherst advance expression, pride and respectful ways to appreciate culture.

Let's Talk About the N-word

Latesha Fussell, Wells College

Abstract: This presentation will recommend strategies for helping university students to develop a more conscious awareness of language

within diverse relationships, to support a more equitable social climate. The presenter will draw on recent pop culture, incidents on university campuses, and direct experience leading discussions of language among students.