



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Council on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Council on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Annual Report
2022-2023



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Council on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Introduction

The Council on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (CEDI) is housed within the Office of Equity and Diversity and is composed by WSU Vancouver faculty, staff, administrators and student representatives. The Council aims to promote equity awareness, support equity-related programming and work to enhance the campus climate for equity and diversity in the broadest sense—as a range of ever-changing differences, thinking and personal self-identification practices, rather than any one difference or self-identification.

During the academic year 2022-2023, the Council worked towards accomplishing our goals of creating and supporting equity initiatives on campus. Part of our accomplishments were to increase the engagement of the student community, and to create partnerships with units like the Center of Intercultural Learning and Affirmation (CILA), Native Programs and the Collective for Social and Environmental Justice (CSEJ). We also supported great initiatives through our Diversity Mini-grants. We advised on the Public Safety Advisory Council Proposal and became a consulting source to the Equity Impact Assessment Tool. Moreover, we continued supporting and advising ASWSUV through their Director of Legislative Affairs in their efforts to address concerns with public transportation to campus.

Despite any possible challenge, the Council had a successful year with multiple activities to highlight. Please continue reading to learn about our year.

Warmly,

Luz Rocío Sotomayor, Ph.D.

Professor, Career Track

Chair of the Council on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion



Members of the Council on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion 2022-2023

Chair: Luz Rocío Sotomayor

L. Rocío Sotomayor teaches math and probability classes in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and has been involved in Latino educational and health services since 2012. At WSU Vancouver, Sotomayor has served in different organizing committees at the Student Diversity Center and has collaborated with the Latinx Student Association. Sotomayor holds a Ph.D. in Mathematical Finance from the University of Alberta in Canada, a master's degree in mathematics from IMPA in Brazil, and a bachelor's degree in mathematics from PUCP in Perú.



Advisor: Obie Ford III

Obie Ford III delivers proactive leadership to WSU Vancouver. He serves to advance and realize the university's strategic goal to promote an ethical and socially just society through an intentional commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. Obie is a member of the Chancellor's cabinet, and the inaugural campus director of equity and diversity at WSU Vancouver.



Sawyer Barragan

Sawyer Barragan is the campus director of the Center for Intercultural Learning and Affirmation. He supports historically underrepresented and underserved students, including BIPOC, LGBTQ+, first-generation, international, undocumented, women's/gender support and former foster care/unhoused youth. Barragan is dedicated to centering community relationships and student success throughout his work with diversity, equity, access and inclusion. Barragan holds a master's degree in student affairs





from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a bachelor's degree in Spanish and psychology from Emporia State University, and a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Certificate from the University of South Florida.

Felix Braffith

Renny Christopher

Renny Christopher has served as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at WSU Vancouver since 2013. Her research focuses on issues of race, class and gender in U.S. literature and culture. Her memoir, *A Carpenter's Daughter: A Working-Class Woman in Higher Education* (Sense Publishers, 2009), addresses her experience as the first in her family to attend college. She has taught at several universities in California and was a Fulbright scholar in Spain in 2000. Before earning her doctorate, Christopher worked as a printing press operator, typesetter, carpenter and horse wrangler.



Fabiana Ferracina

Fabiana Ferracina is a graduate student in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at WSU Vancouver. She has a wide set of research interests and is focused primarily on statistics. She also enjoys teaching and is a teaching assistant for introductory mathematics courses taken by students across disciplines. She is committed to the promotion of equity, inclusion and diversity throughout campus, as well as to the advocacy of minorities and women in mathematics and statistics.



Julia Getchell



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Council on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Julia Getchell is the human resources director and advances equity and inclusion practices in human resource services. She is a member of the Chancellor's Cabinet, Campus Council, Finance and Operations Management Team, Bias Response Team, Accessibility Council and BaCE Core Group. Getchell is a first-generation college graduate and first-generation professional. She earned her education doctoral degree in 2001 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Desiree Hellegers

Desiree Hellegers has been teaching at WSU Vancouver since 1993 and was a founding co-director of the Collective for Social and Environmental Justice. Her books include *No Room of Her Own: Women's Stories of Homelessness, Life, Death and Resistance* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011) and *Handmaid to Divinity, Natural Philosophy, Poetry and Gender in Seventeenth Century England* (University of Oklahoma 2000). Her research interests include environmental justice literature and cultural politics, social movements and civil liberties. She is board member of Portland Peace and Justice Works, and a member of the Old Mole Variety Hour collective on Portland's KBOO radio.



Connie Kim Yen Nguyen-Truong

Connie Kim Yen Nguyen-Truong is an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing. Her program of research focuses on academic and community-engaged research justice with communities of color including immigrants across the lifespan. This includes the Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, and Micronesian Islander communities. Her scholarly lines of inquiry include cancer control and prevention, the intersection of learning and healthcare systems, and diversity and inclusion in health-assistive artificial intelligence (smart home). She is the Faculty Advisor of the Vietnamese Students' Association. Nguyen-Truong practices as an Intermediate Care RN (IMCU) at Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center and community and population health nursing through her research partnerships with culturally diverse social services and health center. She is an elected member on the Immigrant &





WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Council on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) Board of Directors, an elected Board Chair of IRCO Asian Family Center Advisory Board, and an appointed Senior Advisor on the Steering Committee of API-CLI. Connie is engaged in mentoring of faculty, students, and community members to build team capacity to conduct culturally safe research.

Adenike Otoikhian

Adenike Otoikhian teaches general and organic chemistry. She serves as a faculty mentor for the Critical Literacy Achievement and Success Program. In that role, Otoikhian supports retention of low-income, first-generation and underrepresented students through one-on-one mentoring. Otoikhian earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Portland State University and completed her postdoctoral fellowship at Oregon Health and Science University. She is a published author of several scientific articles that have been well cited by scientists around the world.



Shameem Rakha

Shameem Rakha serves as the campus director of faculty equity and belonging, and associate professor in the College of Education, department of teaching and learning. Rakha teaches about racial inequities, anti-racist pedagogy, multiculturalism and diversity in schools. She is a core team member of the Building a Community of Equity program. Rakha has a passionate commitment to racial and social justice on campus and within the community. Before earning her doctorate, Rakha was an elementary and middle school teacher.



U. N. Umesh



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

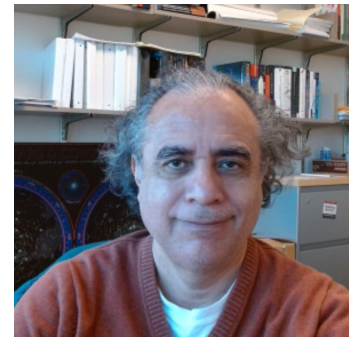
Council on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

U. N. Umesh is Professor of Marketing at Washington State University Vancouver. His research and teaching cover a broad spectrum of business areas including innovation, patents, marketing models, entrepreneurship, data analytics and operations management. He obtained his Ph.D. in Business Administration from the University of Washington, MBA in Marketing Management and an M.S. in Operations Research from the University of Rochester. His undergraduate degree is in Mechanical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India. He has also taught at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Texas at Austin, University of Washington, and Washington State University Pullman.



Jose Vazquez

Jose Vazquez was born in rural Oaxaca Mexico and educated in Mexico City where he completed a B.Sc. in Condensed Matter at Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (Azcapotzalco) and M.Sc in High Energy Physics at CINVESTAV, then granted a scholarship to pursue a Ph.D. in London UK in Research Techniques in Physics (1992). Vazquez spent time as a postdoc in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), and after residing in San Juan (Puerto Rico) teaching in public and private universities, Vazquez came to the Northwest where he has been teaching physics. Vazquez is currently working on observational astronomy and is an instructor of Physics and Astronomy at WSU Vancouver.



Student Representative: Nayeli Lopez-Martinez

Nayeli Lopez-Martinez is a sophomore majoring in human development and is involved with various student organizations and groups on campus. She is a CILA student leader and a student representative in CEDI.

Student Representative: Yesenia Martinez

Yesenia Martinez is the Associated Students of WSU Vancouver's director of diversity and inclusion and the student representative in CEDI.



Awarded Diversity Mini-Grants

As part of its goal to “fund and coordinate educational initiatives concerning equity, diversity and inclusion”, the Council on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion awarded mini-grant funding to seven proposals. Many of the grants awarded supported programming by Native Programs. One of the mini-grants supported diversity research on campus and two supported changes that will benefit first-year students, especially those of under-represented groups.

The following are the proposals funded by the Diversity Mini-Grants during the academic year 2022-2023:

Indigenous Guest Speaker Series & Workshop in Native American literature

Julian Ankney

English/Native Programs

Native American Literature Canoe class

Julian Ankney

Native Programs

Native Speakers for SJCON & Indigenous-led Walking Tours of Campus

Desiree Hellegers, in collaboration with CSEJ

CSEJ/Native Programs

Feast for Native American Heritage Month

Desiree Hellegers, in collaboration with CSEJ

CSEJ/Native Programs

Orientation & Beyond: Full First Year Support in ROOTS HIST 105

JoAnn LoSavio

History

Centering Native American Voices to Understand and Strengthen Campus Belonging

Sara Mills & Sara Waters

Human Development

Math and Science Students Study Skills Booklet (Part 2)

Adenike Otoikhian, in collaboration with Thabiti Lewis

Sciences/Academic Affairs



Events and Initiatives

During the academic year 2022-2023, the Council created partnerships and collaborations with other offices and units on campus to organize and fund different equity-oriented events for the whole campus community.

CILA/CEDI Lunches

Following its goal to “achieve a campus climate that values diversity, equity, and social justice”, the Council partnered with the Center of Intercultural Learning and Affirmation (CILA) to create the “CILA/CEDI Lunch” events. The CILA/CEDI lunches created a space for students to connect with CEDI members and to learn and reflect about equity on campus. They also supported students that could be facing food insecurity providing them with catered food from minority-owned local businesses. The Council also promoted the lunches among other councils as an example of an effective partnership that they could also create with CILA to support our students.

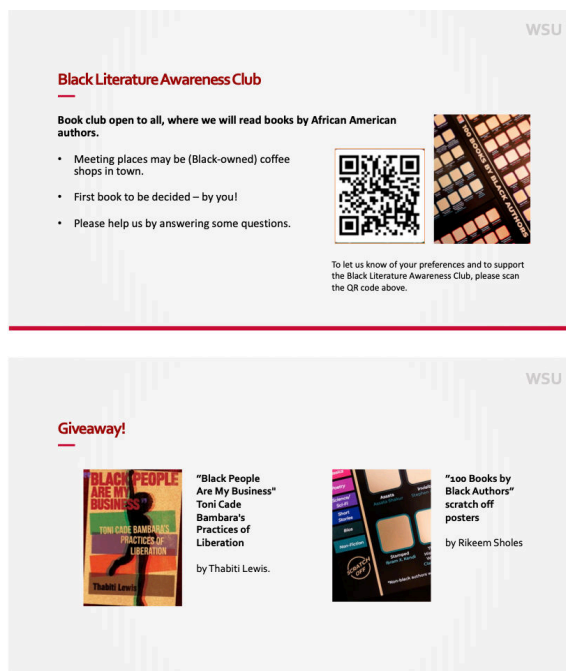
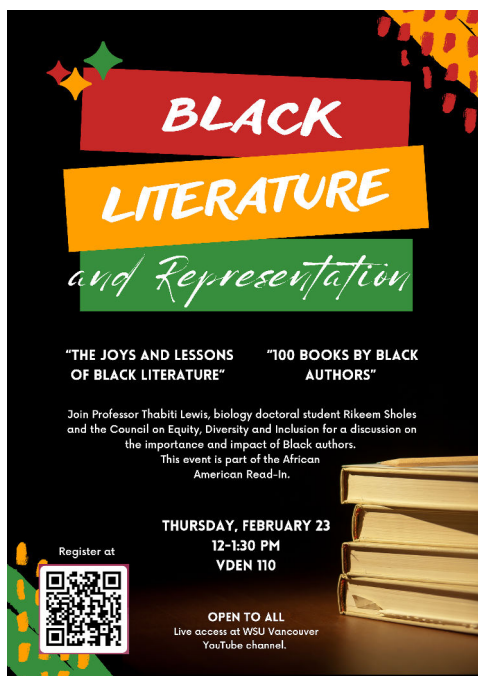




2023 Black History Month event: “Black Literature and Representation”

The event “Black Literature and Representation” was another educational initiative concerning equity and inclusion that the Council organized and funded in Spring 2023 during Black History Month. The Council invited Dr. Thabiti Lewis, author and Professor of English, and Mr. Rikeem Sholes, creator of the “100 Books by Black Authors” posters, to a discussion on the importance and impact created by books written by Black authors. The event also included giveaways (books, posters, bookmarks) for participants and gathered interest for the upcoming Black Literature Awareness Club, an open-to-all book club focusing on books written by Black authors and open to any member of the community.

“Black Literature and Representation” was a registered event in the National African American Read-In program established by Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English. Details of our participation can be found in the [Read-In report card](#).





Equity Engagement Fair

In an effort to answer the frequent question from the WSU Vancouver community, “what DEI efforts or initiatives are currently underway on campus and how can we get involved?”, the Council hosted the first Equity Engagement Fair in Spring 2023. The Equity Engagement Fair gathered 13 WSU Vancouver units, councils and offices to showcase their work promoting equity on campus to the whole campus community. Participating units included the Office of Equity and Diversity, Student Affairs and Enrollment, ASWSUV, the Access Center, the Student Wellness Center, CILA, the Cougar Food Pantry, CSEJ, the Accessibility Council, the Equity of Students Outcomes Council, and the BaCE program, among others. The Equity Engagement Fair was successfully attended and received positive feedback and support from the campus community.



**WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
VANCOUVER**

**COUNCIL ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION'S
EQUITY ENGAGEMENT FAIR**

**Wednesday,
March 29th
2PM - 3PM**
Firstenberg Student Commons

What DEI initiatives are underway on campus and how can we get involved?
If you ever asked this question, this is your opportunity to learn more about the diversity, equity and inclusion efforts and initiatives that are happening on campus. WSU Vancouver has multiple units and councils that work every day to promote equity awareness and improve campus belonging.

Join us to learn about our work
Office of Equity and Diversity
Council on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Center of Intercultural Learning and Affirmation
Collective for Social and Environmental Justice
Student Affairs and Enrollment
The Access Center
Cougar Food Pantry
Accessibility Council
Building a Community of Equity Program
... and more.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Council on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

If you have a disability that requires special materials, services, or assistance, contact the Access Center at 360-546-9238 or van.access.center@wsu.edu as soon as possible to discuss you're specific needs.

**The Council really appreciates your support and engagement
with our events and initiatives.**