Engaging in Dialogue About Diversity in 2004

What does diversity mean to MACUHO and the individuals involved in MACUHO? This is a question the MACUHO Diversity Committee (DC) spent the past year thinking about in the process of creating new initiatives, while exploring our past and present goals.

It seems that the word diversity is a broad term, which individuals interpret in many different ways. It may leave some wondering, where do I fit within the MACUHO DC, while leaving others deciphering how do I fit into that organization? These are some questions that arose this year from members and prospective members. Diversity to the MACUHO DC means EVERYONE!

One of the DC’s new initiatives for this year’s conference is a program called The Common Read in the Common Ground. We all know that books are a major part of our profession, whether we are reading them for professional growth or personnel pleasure. With that said, the DC decided to get into the groove by creating a book talk relevant to the students we work with everyday. For our first annual Common Read in the Common Ground we selected the book, A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League, by Ron Suskind. This book is a thought provoking weekend read, which you should be able to easily order off of Amazon.com or obtain from your campus library. The Common Read will take place in the Betty Zane Room (a private dining room off of the main dining room) at 8:00 AM on Friday, October 22. You can grab breakfast and join the MACUHO DC and others to discuss your thoughts concerning Cedric’s journey in A Hope in the Unseen.

Another new initiative for this year are caucus groups. The caucus groups, like the common read, will occur over a meal (likely breakfast). These will be an informal way for individuals to get together and share information and thoughts concerning multiple groups within the realm multiculturalism. Look for more information concerning this at the conference!

Finally, one last activity we will continue is the annual Diversity Quiz. Pick up the diversity quiz, fill it out, and have the opportunity to win great prizes! Come take a break and check out the MACUHO DC in the Common Ground Room, where you can obtain the diversity quiz. In this room, which we share with the Personal & Professional Development (PPD) Committee, you can enjoy refreshments, discover what the DC is doing at the conference, as well as peruse through a plethora of resources the DC has to share with you all!

As always, we are anxious to see everyone at MACUHO 2004! In the coming year, the MACUHO DC looks forward to meeting individuals, whether new professionals, seasoned professionals, or others in between, who are want to get involved in sharing diverse views!

Shannon Smigo
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