

# OIR ANNUAL REPORT

2012–2013 // 2013–2014



Office of Inclusion  
& Intercultural Relations  
Student Affairs at Illinois

oir



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# WELCOME LETTER

Dear friends,

Welcome to the Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Relations viewbook. In this book, you will have an opportunity to learn more about the seven different units within OIIR, and learn how the Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Relations strives to offer transformative opportunities for the students, staff and faculty at the University of Illinois. Over the last two years, I have had the opportunity to work with amazing staff and students. From the Latino Resilience Program to protecting health care access for transgender students, the Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Relations works to build a campus where we can all belong.

We could not do this work without you, our colleagues and friends. As you read this book, I invite you to see yourself as an important partner in our work to prepare students to work and live in an increasingly diverse world.

**Dr. Gigi Secuban**

*Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs  
Director, Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Relations*



## OIIR STAFF // 2012-2014

Dr. Gigi Secuban	<i>Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Director, Office of Inclusion &amp; Intercultural Relations</i>
Denise Poindexter	<i>Coordinator of Operations</i>
Elizabeth Tsukahara	<i>Assistant Marketing Coordinator</i>

### BRUCE D. NESBITT AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

Rory James	<i>Director</i>
Ashley Davis	<i>Assistant Director</i>
Alisha Elliott	<i>Assistant Director</i>
Jeanine Meyer	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>

### ASIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

Dr. David Chih	<i>Director</i>
Kenneth Importante	<i>Assistant Director</i>
Mai-Lin Poon	<i>Assistant Director</i>
Flordemia (Maria) Conrad	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>

### DIVERSITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

Ross Wantland	<i>Director</i>
Teryl Brewster	<i>Program Coordinator</i>
Dr. Joycelyn Landrum-Brown	<i>Program Coordinator</i>
Joe Minarik	<i>Program Coordinator</i>
Hattie Holtapp	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>

## LA CASA CULTURAL LATINA

Dr. Gioconda Guerra Pérez	<i>Director</i>
Veronica M. Kann	<i>Assistant Director</i>
Berenice Sánchez	<i>Assistant Director</i>
Nadja Robot	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>

## LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER RESOURCE CENTER

Leslie Morrow	<i>Director</i>
Buffy Vance	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>

## NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSE

Dr. Jamie Singson	<i>Director</i>
Beverly Smith	<i>Assistant Director</i>
Hattie Holtapp	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>

## WOMEN'S RESOURCES CENTER

Patricia Morey	<i>Director</i>
Molly McLay	<i>Assistant Director</i>
Rachel Storm	<i>Assistant Director</i>
Joan Wingo	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>

\*as of May 2014



## OIIR OVERVIEW

**Encouraging personal growth, recognizing shared experiences, and building welcoming communities are core goals that guide the Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Relations at the University of Illinois.** Through the work of our cultural, resource, and educational units, OIIR seeks to provide a network of support, pre-professional, cultural, and leadership opportunities to promote and enhance a campus of belonging and learning at Illinois.

This commitment to building a community that values diversity, social justice, and inclusion is at the heart of the work we do as OIIR. Programs such as **RISE** (Readying Illinois Students for Excellence), an early move-in program for first-generation college students, La Casa Cultural Latina's **META** (Mentoring, Encouraging, Teaching, Achieving), and the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center's peer-led cohort **100 Strong** are designed to introduce the academic and student resources needed for success. Other programs such as the week-long intensive training program Five Days for Change provide university staff with intercultural competence skills and strategies. Developed by OIIR and our partners across Student Affairs, Five Days for Change encourages participants to examine how their own power, privilege, and position can influence positive change in campus climate and strengthen their skills to support an increasingly global student community.



## **BRUCE D. NESBITT AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER**

*Supporting the social, cultural, and academic well-being of African American students*

**For over 40 years, the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center (BNAACC) has provided a strong foundation for the development of programs supporting the academic achievement, personal cultivation, and leadership development of African American students.** In 2013, BNAACC inaugurated Black Geek Week, which featured a conversation with Chrysler Group Design Senior VP and President SRT Brand Ralph Gilles on the business of fusing popular culture, engineering, and high performance technology in automobile research and design.

Spring 2014 saw the #BeingBlackatIllinois social media and activism campaign. Initiated by passionate and dedicated Illinois undergraduates, #BeingBlackatIllinois prompted much needed dialogue on race relations on the Urbana campus. As a result, key campus administrators worked with students and BNAACC staff to address issues of campus climate, student recruitment challenges, as well as facility needs and concerns. #BeingBlackatIllinois was one of several art and social media campaigns organized by students of color on campuses across the US, including at UCLA, the University of Michigan, and Harvard.



## ASIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

*Promoting cross-cultural understanding of Asian American & Asian international experiences*

**Working with more than 50 affiliated student organizations, the AACC is a vibrant community center for active learning about Asian cultures, and for supporting students.** The 2013 Lunar New Year celebrations involved over 100 Illinois students in programs at Champaign public schools and the Champaign Public Library.

In 2013, AACC also continued to develop collaborations with the units across the Urbana campus to increase international student support, and in Spring 2014 these collaborations led to the creation of the InterCultural Horizons Internship to help foster deep, meaningful relationships between international and domestic students at the University of Illinois. Through a series of classes, projects, and cultural immersion experiences, students explored the concept of interconnectedness of local and global issues in our lives, and how their own personal identities and cultures are connected to others. As a result of their study, the InterCultural Horizons interns embarked on a photography and journalism project, #WeAreIllinois, documenting and sharing the personal narratives of student experiences at Illinois.





## DIVERSITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

*Preparing students to work and live in a diverse global society*

**Diversity & Social Justice Education (DiversityEd) provides workshops and trainings for students, staff, and faculty.** From credited courses to leadership development, DiversityEd provides Illinois students with a range of opportunities to engage in dialogue on social justice.

In 2013, DiversityEd piloted a new mandatory first year workshop, I-Connect Diversity & Inclusion workshop. Over the past two years, first year students who attended their I-Connect workshops reported increased knowledge, awareness, and increased responsibility to create an inclusive campus. DiversityEd, in partnership with campus and student organizations, also hosted its 3rd annual Illinois Interfaith Conference to build campus collaboration across religious identity. By promoting conversations on fairness, compassion, and community, DiversityEd provides Illinois students with the skills and knowledge to live and work in a diverse world.



## LA CASA CULTURAL LATINA

*Exemplifying el éxito Latino at Illinois*

Since its founding in 1974, La Casa Cultural Latina at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to Latina/o students and the campus community, as well as to local and global communities. La Casa reflects the diversity of Latina/o cultures and exemplifies el éxito Latino that shapes the Americas in our contemporary world.

La Casa Cultural Latina continuously focuses on retention, cultural and social programs, and community outreach through programs such as our retention program Mentoring, Encouraging, Teaching, and Achieving (META), the Black and Latino Male Summit, in partnership with the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center, and the Latino Resilience Network. Recognized as the 2014 Outstanding Program by Student Affairs at Illinois, the Latino Resilience Network introduces students to mental health wellness and awareness as key but often overlooked components of academic success. Through coursework and trainings, peer networking and outreach, the Latino Resilience Network helps students gain an understanding of the needs and challenges they may face as Latino college students, and how together as a community they can promote and maintain their own individual and interpersonal resiliency.



## LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER RESOURCE CENTER

*Celebrating over 20 years of support, leadership, and advocacy*

The mission of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center (LGBTRC) is to foster an open, safe and inclusive environment for people of all sexualities and gender identities, and exists as resource both for the LGBT community as well as the entire university. The LGBT Resource Center along with a variety of campus partners conducts workshops on coming out support, sexual diversity issues within residence halls, and classroom management.

In 2013 the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center turned 20 years old! To celebrate this milestone, the LGBTRC hosted a reunion weekend to honor the trailblazers who came before us in our quest for LGBT visibility, awareness, education, equity, and advocacy. Filled with social events and panels, the weekend included opportunities to contribute to a growing oral history of LGBT experiences in Central Illinois, and to share memories, experiences, and successes of the past twenty years. The reunion culminated in an evening gala that featured a keynote by alum Michael Hughes '89, University of Illinois Vice Chancellor Renée Romano, and the inaugural recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus Award, former director Curt McKay (GSLIS '88; co-director 1999–2005, director 2005–2008).



## NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSE

*Building a Native-centered learning community*

**Native American House (NAH) strives to promote awareness of the ways education and values connect to history and place at the University of Illinois.** To support American Indian, Indigenous, and non-native students, Native American House hosts lectures, music series, dance performances, and workshops to build a Native-centered learning community, as well as consider the responsibilities our campus community has to the Native peoples and lands that now comprise the state of Illinois.

To further this work, Native American House has worked to increased collaborations in the Chicago area to strengthen relationships with the 8th largest urban Indian community in the US. Native American House also collaborates with university and community partners throughout the year, and through these partnerships, University Housing Dining Services has created a Fall Harvest dinner menu of traditional foods served in six dining halls to approximately 5,700 students, and the City of Champaign has officially recognize November as Native American Heritage Month. Recent speakers include author Sherman Alexie (Coeur d'Alene), writer and Native rights activist Winona LaDuke (Anishinaabe), Dr. Wesley Thomas (Dine), and Illinois alum Dr. Joseph P. Gone (Gros Ventre; Ph.D. Clinical & Community Psychology, '01).



## WOMEN'S RESOURCES CENTER

*Dedicated to enhancing the lives of all students at Illinois*

**The Women's Resources Center (WRC) is a welcoming and vibrant meeting place on campus where students—women, men, and trans\*—can learn a new skill, hear an inspiring speaker, or discuss current news topics and debates.** The WRC also provides students with support and advocacy services when they are faced with a difficult or emotionally traumatic incident such as sexual assault or abuse within a relationship.

Committed to creating community among students, student groups, and the University of Illinois, the Women's Resources Center seeks to improve the campus climate so that all students at Illinois can excel and thrive. The WRC's programs during Sexual Assault Awareness month each April focus attention on how all members of the Illinois community can stand with survivors, help stop violence, and end rape culture. The Women's Resources Center also has fully implemented a fitness series, Women on the Move, that provides an environment for women who, because of religious practices or trauma issues, need a dedicated space where they feel comfortable and safe to exercise. In light of the 2014 White House recommendations on Title IX, this work at centers such as the WRC at universities across the nation becomes increasingly important, helping to create campus communities that value compassion, mutual respect, health, and consent.

Small Town  
Shelton  
American  
Italian

RR

RACISM...  
Practice makes perfect,  
not perfection.

J.N.F. Midland, MI

Claiming diversity  
is NEVER  
enough.

## BY THE NUMBERS // 2012-2014

**2,168**

Programs hosted by OIIR in 2012-2014

**104,811**

Participants at OIIR events and workshops in 2012-2014

**\$57,536**

Amount of scholarship money given to students from OIIR units

**6,801**

Student attending I-Connect Diversity workshop, Spring 2014

**40**

For-credit academic course sections taught by OIIR units during 2013-2014

**4,250**

Hours spent providing programs to campus during 2013-2014

**150**

University of Illinois staff who have attended 5 Days for Change

# OIIR MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

## ***OIIR Mission***

The Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations (OIIR) seeks to improve campus climate by providing transformative learning experiences to the Illinois community that result in an appreciation for diversity and cross-cultural engagement. We offer a variety of programs, interactive classes, and workshops that provide tools that will allow students to develop the life skills needed to thrive in a diverse society.

## ***Vision & Goals***

The Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Relations strives to be at the forefront of the cultural & resource centers in the nation. To meet this goal, we are committed to:

- Expanding recruitment & retention of diverse student populations
- Supporting personal growth and understanding of social identities, and cross-cultural communication
- Promoting social justice and advocacy, and
- Encouraging socio-cultural, environmental, and fiscal responsibility



# GIVING TO OIIR

Individuals and organizations help the Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Relations fulfill its mission through their kind generosity, sharing their time and skills, or contributing monetarily. Alumni and other interested individuals have lent their insights and experience as speakers, educators, mentors, and volunteers to many of the programs mentioned here. If you would like to share your talents with the students and organizations that OIIR serves, please contact OIIR or any individual OIIR unit directly.

In order to deliver our programs to increase retention and provide cutting-edge intercultural competency training, we also rely upon financial donations from gracious donors. Your donation could help send a student to a cross-cultural leadership retreat, provide a resilience and retention workshop, or help fund scholarships for college students in need.

To make a gift online, visit [oiir.illinois.edu/giving](http://oiir.illinois.edu/giving). Here, you can select the unit or area of OIIR you would like to support, and follow the links listed.

\*Your donation will go directly to the University of Illinois Foundation, which then distributes the funds into the account that you specify. The Student Affairs Advancement Office notifies the designates areas of all financial contributions. The University of Illinois Foundation is a registered 501(c)3 organization, and as such, all gifts are tax deductible.

If you have any questions regarding your gift, or would like to receive further information about ways that you can give to OIIR, please contact the Student Affairs Advancement Staff at [studentaffairsadvancement@illinois.edu](mailto:studentaffairsadvancement@illinois.edu).



# CONTACT INFORMATION FOR OIR UNITS

## **Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center**

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## **Native American House**

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## **Women's Resources Center**

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# CONTACT INFORMATION FOR OIIR

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### **Dr. Gigi Secuban**

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## Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

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### **Dr. Renée Romano**

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs







**Office of Inclusion  
& Intercultural Relations**  
Student Affairs at Illinois

**Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center**

**Asian American Cultural Center**

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