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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Relations annual report viewbook for 2015-2016.

Grace Lee Boggs, Chinese American activist and philosopher, has said that You cannot change any society unless you take responsibility for it, unless you see yourself as belonging to it and responsible for changing it. Our mission in the Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Relations is to build a sense of belonging and responsibility for all students at the University of Illinois. Learning how to listen to and respect perspectives of the world that we may not have personally experienced is a lifelong process, but it is my hope that we always strive as a community to share and express opinions in honest, positive ways, and with compassion for each other.

The Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Relations strives to provide students and our campus with the services and skills that they need to navigate an increasingly diverse world. We could not do this work without you, our colleagues and friends. As you read this report, I invite you to see yourself as an important part of our commitment to prepare socially aware, engaged, and compassionate students and alumni of the University of Illinois.

Dr. Gigi Secuban
Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Director, Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Relations
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the University of Illinois and throughout the United States, we have recently seen a rise in racial tensions, and debates about what it means to live together in a community of diverse life experiences and perspectives. And as we debate the core values that we hold as a campus, we are also trying to better define what we need to do together to create the community that we want to live in together.

With six cultural and resource centers (Asian American Cultural Center, Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center, La Casa Cultural Latina, LGBT Resource Center, Women’s Resources Center, Native American House) and two units focused on campus-wide education (Diversity & Social Justice Education and International Education), OIIR efforts shape campus and students in three ways.

• First, OIIR develops the whole student, with programs aimed at career, leadership, academic, civic engagement, and identity development, providing students with the core skills necessary to live and work in a diverse world.

• Second, OIIR works to enhance campus by advocating for the needs of underrepresented students, improving campus policies and practices, and creating programs designed to meet student needs.

• Finally, OIIR has a key role in changing the world by equipping students with practical experience and skills designed to meet the grand challenges of society, such as hunger, homelessness, and discrimination.
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 ARE OIIR

1. Merging the Academic and the Co-Curricular
2. Supporting Students
3. Campus Climate
4. Social Justice Education & Intercultural Competency

5. Celebrating Culture
6. Engaging with the Community
7. Retention & Recruitment
8. Global Awareness

DEVELOPING STUDENTS
ENHANCING CAMPUS
ENHANCING CAMPUS
DEVELOPING STUDENTS

CHANGING THE WORLD
ENHANCING CAMPUS
CHANGING THE WORLD
BUILDING EXCELLENCE:  
Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center Construction Project

The objectives:
- Design a space that supports African American student success at Illinois.
- Celebrate community, artistic expression, accessibility, and dialogue.
- Grow and change with student needs.
- To uphold the legacy of Bruce D. Nesbitt and the students of Project 500.

After almost 50 years in temporary spaces, the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center will soon have its first permanent home on the Urbana campus, with plans for its new facility well underway.

Prompted by student-led protests in the tradition of Project 500, the construction of the new BNAACC facility will complete the full vision of the call in 1969 for the creation of a black cultural center at the University of Illinois.

To date, the project has received approval to construct the new facility at the corner of Mathews and Nevada, re-establishing the corridor of cultural centers that include the Asian American Cultural Center, La Casa Cultural Latina, and Native American House. Campus leaders have promised $4.9 million to fund construction.

Since 2014, BNAACC has been temporarily located at 51 East Gregory Drive, Champaign. The new BNAACC is expected to open on Mathews in 2018, and will reflect Illinois’s commitment to the retention and success of African American students, and the vitality of campus life.
ENHANCING OUR CAMPUS

The Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations works to continually expand and enhance the campus community. Whether working to decrease the “opportunity gap” experienced by many of our underrepresented students or improving campus policies and practice, OIIR works to ensure an equitable and responsive campus climate.

The OIIR Lunch on Us series invites campus, community, and national experts on critical issues to our cultural, resource, and educational programs. Guests range from national leaders to graduate student researchers and focus on topics relevant to each cultural and resource center. All lunches introduce students to the cultures, histories, and societal issues that the diverse communities of the University of Illinois face.

Following the appearance of chalked messages of “Build a Wall” and “Deportation Force,” students from La Casa Cultural Latina and other organizations gathered together to create a “chalkback” to create counter-messages of support. This was just one of many ways that the OIIR units created spaces for students to find support and their voices.

The Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations played a key role in several major changes on campus during this past year. When the Chancellor’s Committee on Race and Ethnicity (CORE) forwarded a proposal to change the General Education requirement for undergraduate students to require a US Minority course, OIIR staff and students attended meetings and spoke with administration in support of this change. In Fall 2018, incoming first year students will all be required to take a 3 credit hour course focused on the experiences of US Minorities, thereby increasing student exposure to diverse ideas.
ANSWERING SOCIETY’S CHALLENGES:
Civic Engagement in an Interconnected World

How we prepare students to respond to society’s challenges will define higher education in the 21st century. OIIR believes that developing critical thinkers who value the perspectives of others is key to shaping successful Illinois graduates who will create positive change through action.

This past spring, student staff of Native American House and members of the Native American and Indigenous Students Association participated in Alternative Spring Break to the Peoria Nation of Indians of Oklahoma. Students worked at the Peoria fish hatchery and housing renovation, and learned about the challenges by environmental toxins at Tar Creek, an EPA Superfund site.

Participants of the Illinois Interfaith Conference worked across religious diversity to help Sola Gratia Farms in their efforts to support a local Champaign-Urbana food bank. Part of a campus-wide initiative in response to President Obama’s Interfaith & Community Service Campus Challenge, this annual conference provides an opportunity to talk about the deeply held values and beliefs that bring people together to serve.

In collaboration with the College of Business’s Global Business Brigade Service Learning Program Abroad, twenty-two undergraduate students along with staff of La Casa Cultural Latina traveled to Panama during winter break to support community service efforts with indigenous and rural communities.

To support the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center, in collaboration with several campus partners and Enterprise Rent-A-Car, distributed over 20,000 bottles of water to community organizations, including Northridge Academy, the Eastern Michigan Food Bank, and members of neighborhood communities.
DEVELOPING THE WHOLE STUDENT

The Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations develops the whole Illinois student through education and support services designed to enhance their intercultural competency and awareness. During the student transition from high school to college, OIIR works to support the retention and success of underrepresented students through summer orientation and early move-in programs. Once students arrive on campus, OIIR provides a range of programs that build skills, enhance cultural understanding, and support students in crisis. As students matriculate, OIIR provides identity exploration and leadership experiences to enhance career and graduate school opportunities.

**Preparing First Year Students**

OIIR units help first year students build a strong and early connection to Illinois and its resources. From RISE: Readying Illinois Students for Excellence, a summer orientation program, to Early Move-In programs for Latino/a, African American, and Native American students, OIIR works to increase retention in vulnerable populations.

OIIR reaches all first year students with mandatory workshops, like the First Year Campus Acquaintance Rape Education workshop and the I-Connect Diversity & Inclusion workshop which are led by the Women’s Resources Center and Diversity & Social Justice Education, respectively. These programs give first year and transfer students information and skills for navigating difficult situations on campus.

**Student Support**

OIIR also provides critical and timely resources to students on campus. This includes advocacy for students who have experienced sexual or domestic violence, through our Women’s Resources Center, and attention to the mental health of Latino/a students through La Casa Cultural Latina’s Latino Resilience Network.

During the 2015-2016 year, the Women’s Resources Center was designated a confidential space for individuals who have experienced sexual or domestic violence. In addition, WRC staff worked with campus and university-wide committees to develop the WeCare.illinois.edu website, which provides resources for individuals who have experienced interpersonal violence.

**Intercultural Skill Development**

OIIR attends to the leadership development of students through efforts such internship and employment with the cultural centers, the LENS Diversity Certificate, a year-long cohort program that helps Illinois students build important skills and practice for engaging diversity on campus and beyond, and the Q-Connect LGBTQ student leadership program.

Diversity & Social Justice Education worked with a number of campus partners to spearhead an effort to design and implement a new Racial Justice Ally & Advocate training program. This training intends to increase the capacity of students, staff, and faculty to build culturally responsive and healthy campus communities. Nearly 80 students, staff, and faculty attended 3 Racial Justice training sessions during the Spring/Summer 2016.
CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH NATIONAL EXPERTS

During the 2015–2016 year, OIIR units invited and collaborated with numerous national and international experts. Below is a partial list of those guests.

**OIIR-Led Programs**

- **1491s**, Native American Comedy Troupe
- **Sharon Cooper**, sister of Sandra Bland, *My Sister Sandy*
- **Billy Dec**, (BA Economics, 1994) TV personality, attorney., CEO/Founder of Rockit Ranch Productions, appointed to the White House Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
- **Sarah Deer** (Muscogee), Professor of Law, Mitchell Hamline School of Law
- **Eriel Deranger**, speaker for Ecofeminism Summit, Dene Indigenous activist and member of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) of Northern Alberta, Canada
- **Tatyana Fazlalizadeh**, founder of Stop Telling Women to Smile
- **Maria Gaspar**, interdisciplinary artist born in Chicago
- **Beverly Gooden**, Creator of the hashtag #WhyIStayed
- **Valarie Kaur**, Civil Rights Lawyer & Sikh Interfaith activist
- **Rhonda Khan**, playwright and actor, FOOD (BS Speech and Hearing Science; MA Speech Language Pathology)
- **Imam Khalid Latif**, Executive Director and Chaplain for the Islamic Center at New York University
- **Celiany Rivera Velázquez**, Research Consultant for Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, Dominican Republic
- **Kimberly Shine**, Reporter for FOX Champaign News at Nine
- **Teatro Milagro**, Theater Group, “Searching for Atzlan”
- **Charlene Teters** (Spokane), Native American artist and educator
- **Sandra Yamate**, (AB, Political Science and History) CEO of the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession, and founder of Polychrome Publishing Corporation dedicated to producing children’s books by and about Asian American
- **Mark Ziri**, Director of Public Policy for Equality Illinois

**Co-sponsored Programs**

- **Ping Chong**, playwright, choreographer, and director
- **Pete Haviland-Eduah**, Million Hoodies Movement for Justice (University YMCA Friday Forum series)
- **Juan Felipe Herrera**, Poet Laureate of the United States
- **Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette**, Civil Rights Activist and Organizer, iUnite Keynote speaker
- **Madison Maxey**, Creative Technologist, Forbes 30 Under 30 Honoree
- **Wes Moore**, author of The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates (One Book. One Campus event)
- **Opal Tometi**, co-founder of the National #BlackLivesMatter Organization (co-sponsored with the University YMCA)
Clockwise from top left: Valerie Kaur, Illinois Interfaith Conference; Sarah Deer (Muscogee), Breakfast with the Author; Rhonda Khan, Keynote, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week; Billy Dec, Food for Thought Evening at the Asian American Cultural Center
DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

As state and national population changes, the University of Illinois must be at the forefront of preparing students to live and work in our increasingly diverse society. At Illinois, we know that our African American, Native American, and Latino populations are below the state and national percentage, which is why Illinois is particularly committed to the recruitment and retention of these groups. But much more than race and ethnicity, we also work to address gender, sexuality, ability, first generation, citizenship, and religious diversity.

* Based on University and US Census data. This section uses the Federal IPEDS guidelines for reporting racial/ethnic data. For more information on these guidelines, see http://www.vpaa.uiuillinois.edu/RaceEthnicity/index.cfm
DID YOU KNOW?

1 in 5 incoming students are first generation college students.

Illinois is #1 in international student population out of US colleges and universities.

Almost 80 students at the University of Illinois are undocumented students granted DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and employment authorization.

Fifteen religious institutions are located within campus boundaries, including the first Hillel Jewish Center, the largest Newman Catholic Center in the US, and the only mosque in Central Illinois.

1 in 4 students at Illinois are Asian American or an international student from an Asian country.

1 in 2 students at the University of Illinois are students of color.
COLLABORATORS

OIRR could not create the amazing resources and programs without the partnerships with collaborators on and off campus. Below is a partial list of our partners for 2015–2016.

**Campus Collaborators**
- African American Studies
- American Indian Studies
- Asian American Studies
- Asian Educational Media Service
- Campus Community and Student Services
- Campus Recreation
- The Career Center
- Center for East Asian & Pacific Studies
- College of Business
- College of Education
- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Counseling Center
- Department of Dance
- Disability Resources & Educational Services
- East Asian Languages and Cultures
- Fraternity & Sorority Affairs
- Gender & Women’s Studies
- Global Studies
- Graduate School of Library and Information Science
- Department of History
- Illini Union
- Illinois Abroad and Global Exchange
- Illinois Leadership Center
- Illinois Public Media
- Inner Voices Social Issues Theatre
- Intensive English Institute
- International Programs and Studies
- International Students and Scholar Services
- Japan House
- Krannert Art Museum
- Krannert Center for Performing Arts
- Latina/Latino Studies
- McKinley Health Center
- New Student Programs
- Office of Admissions
- Office of Dean of Students
- Office of Diversity, Equity, and Access
- Office of Minority Student Affairs
- Office of Volunteer Programs
- Parent Programs
- Department of Persian Studies
- Public Engagement Grant
- Public Safety
- School of Social Work
- Student Abroad Office
- Student Affairs Advancement
- Student Conflict Resolution
- Student Money Management Center
- The Career Center
- UI Alumni Association
- Unit One Allen Hall
- University Housing
- University Library
- University of Illinois Police Department

**Community Partners**
- Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center
- Champaign Urbana Chinese Folk Dance Club
- Chinese American Association of Central Illinois
- Cohen Center for Jewish Life
- Courage Connection
- East Central Illinois Refugee & Mutual Assistance Center
- Hindu Temple and Cultural Society of Central Illinois
- Mahomet-Seymour Community Schools #3
- Private Certified Housing
- Rape Advocacy, Counseling, & Education Services (RACES)
- Religious Workers Association
- Urbana School District #116
- Unit 4 Champaign Schools
- University YMCA
- YWCA at the University of Illinois
Campus Collaborators
African Student Organization
Allies for Racial Justice
alpha Kappa Delta Phi
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Asian American Association
Asian American Student Housing Organization
Asian Pacific American Council
Asian Pacific American Coalition
Art of Living
Asha for Education
Bangladeshi Students Association
Black Greek Council
Business International Exchange Network
Campus NOW
Central Black Student Union
China Studies Forum
Chinese Engineering Students Association
Chinese Students & Scholars Association
Chi Sigma Tau
Counseling Center Paraprofessionals
Delta Kappa Delta
Delta Phi Omega
Deeper Roots in Christ
Fulbright Student Association
Gah Rahk Mah Dang Korean Drum Team
Illini Union Board
Illinois Coalition for Asian Adopted Students Program
Illinois Student Senate
Indian Christian Fellowship
Infusions
Intercultural Friendship Foundation
Interfaith in Action
Interfraternity Council
Indian Graduate Student Association
International Hospitality Committee
Indian Student Association
Iranian Cultural Association
Japanese Intercultural Network
Kappa Phi Lambda
Korean Business Student Association
Korean Buddhist Student Club
Korean Student Association
Lambda Phi Epsilon
Malaysian Student Association
MEChA
Meditation Student Organization
Muslim Student Association
Out in Science Technology Engineering and Math (oSTEM)
Overseas China Education Foundation
Panhellenic Council
Panhellenic Council
Pride
Rainbow International
Saudi Club at UIUC
Sexual Health Peers
Sigma Beta Rho
Sikh Student Association
Singapore Student Association
Sigma Psi Zeta
Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers
Taiwanese American Students Club
Tzu Chi Collegiate Association
United Greek Council
University Housing Multicultural Advocates
Vagina Monologues
Vietnamese Student Association
Women of Color
Women of Pride
Zinda Dance Team
OFFICE OF INCLUSION & INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS
UNIT OVERVIEWS

BRUCE D. NESBITT AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER
Supporting the social, cultural, and academic well-being of African American students
The mission of Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center is to provide a network of programs and support services promoting the individual, social, cultural and academic well-being of Illinois’ African American students. Opened in fall 1969 in response to calls from students, the African American Cultural Center at Illinois was rededicated in 2004 to former Director Bruce D. Nesbitt, a trailblazer for opportunity and equality who inspired more than two decades of university students.

ASIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER
Promoting cross-cultural understanding of Asian American & Asian international experiences
The University of Illinois has one of the largest and most vibrant Asian American university communities in the Midwest, where 1 in 4 students is Asian American or Asian international. Opened in fall 2005, the Asian American Cultural Center provides the University of Illinois community with space to gather and share the diverse and rich cultures that are a part of the Asian American experience.

LA CASA CULTURAL LATINA
Exemplifying el éxito Latino at Illinois
Since its founding in 1974, La Casa Cultural Latina has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to Latina/o students and the campus community, as well as local and global communities. La Casa Cultural Latina promotes a welcoming and dynamic atmosphere through the development of educational, cultural, socio-political, and social programs that lead to greater recruitment, retention, advancement, and empowerment of Latina/o students.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER RESOURCE CENTER
Addressing issues that impact LGBT students and their allies
The LGBT Resource Center works to create an environment that is open, affirming, and equitable for people of all sexualities and gender identities. The LGBTRC assists in the efforts to address homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, and heterosexism. The center is also committed to engaging student leaders by working with broader social justice movements particularly anti-racism with an emphasis on intersectionality.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSE
Building a Native-centered learning community
After nearly 15 years of Native student protests and lobbying efforts, the Native American House opened in 2002 with the mission to build a Native-centered learning community. All students, faculty, staff, and community members are welcomed and encouraged to participate in the many educational, cultural, and social events and programs tailored about Native American culture, people, and current events.

WOMEN’S RESOURCES CENTER
Promoting gender equity and cultural diversity at the University of Illinois
The Women’s Resources Center supports and connects students through programs, workshops, mentorship, and fun activities that focus on the intersectionality of sex/gender, and other forms of social identity. The WRC offers confidential, supportive counseling for sexual assault/rape or abuse within a relationship, and other types of interpersonal abuse.
DIVERSITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION
Preparing students to work and live in a diverse global society
Diversity & Social Justice Education provides courses, programs, workshops, and professional trainings to prepare Illinois students to work and live in a diverse global society. Diversity & Social Justice Education offers students, faculty, and staff opportunities to build their own capacity to promote critical thinking, compassion, and equity.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
Creating a globally inclusive campus
International Education enhances opportunities for students to engage with cultures from around the world. International Education promotes deeper campus internationalization through supporting the success of international students, enhancing the global competencies of all students, and creating meaningful cultural exchange between international and domestic students.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS
Lunch on Us Noontime Discussion Series
100 STRONG Retention Program
Latina/o Resilience Network
Feminist Film Festival
Black & Latino Male and Black and Latina Womxn Summits
Native American Heritage Month
GLOBE Global Leaders: Orange and Blue Engagement
I-Connect Diversity & Inclusion Workshop
FYCARE First Year Campus Acquaintance Rape Education
5 Days for Change
LGBT Ally Network
Racial Justice Allies Training
I-CARE Bystander Intervention Program
Undocu/DACA Ally Training Program

ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS & ADVISING OPPORTUNITIES
Readying Illinois Students for Excellence (RISE) I OIIR
ESPY Courses I DiversityEd
InterCultural Horizons I AACC
Internships for Gender & Women’s Studies academic credit I WRC
Queer Studies minor I LGBTRC
META (Mentoring, Encouraging, Teaching, Achieving) I La Casa
ENGAGEMENT

The success of the Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Relations rests on the support and commitment of our alumni, students, staff/faculty, community partners. If you’d like to help give to OIIR, here are a few opportunities:

**VOLUNTEER**

Individuals and organizations help OIIR fulfill its mission by sharing their time, skills and experiences. Alumni and other interested individuals have lent their insights and experience as speakers, educators, mentors, and volunteers to numerous OIIR programs. If you would like to share your talents with the students and organizations that OIIR serves, contact OIIR to find out how you can be involved.

**GIVING**

In order to deliver cutting-edge support for our students and campus, we also rely upon financial donations from gracious donors. During 2015–2016, donors pledged a total of $22,824, a 70% increase from 2015, but our units still struggle each year to provide students with the resources they need. Your donation could allow a survivor of sexual violence to get the advocacy they need, support an intercultural leadership retreat, provide an academic resilience workshop, or help fund scholarships for college students in need.

To make a gift online, visit 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 designated 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.

Contact the Student Affairs Advancement Staff at studentaffairsadvancement@illinois.edu if you have any questions regarding your gift, or would like to receive further information about ways that you can give to OIIR.
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The Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Relations is a unit of Student Affairs at Illinois.