

PENNSTATE  
Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity

# Overview

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*Dr. W. Terrell Jones,  
Vice Provost for Educational Equity*

Many of the recent events at Penn State have been very disheartening and troubling. However, I want you to know that the University will do whatever it takes to try to make things right and to learn from the situation. Penn State remains a great University and a great place to work.

The mission of Educational Equity is as important as ever, and we must continue to make a positive difference for our students, staff, and faculty. Our students, staff, and external stakeholders may wish to talk with us about the events that have unfolded and their impact. Please be especially mindful of the victims of any sexual assault, who may be especially affected. And, please send the message that we all have something to learn from these events. Our support of President Rodney Erickson is important as Penn State begins the process of rebuilding public confidence in the integrity of the University. If anyone feels the need to talk about the recent events, please contact me at your convenience at 814-865-5906 or [wjt1@psu.edu](mailto:wjt1@psu.edu).

We also mourn the death of Edward Thompson, our director of development, who passed away on Sunday, October 23. We will miss Ed's friendly smile and unwavering optimism, and will be forever grateful for his success in developing scholarship funds for the students we serve and building strong relationships with our alumni, friends, and donors.

As always, I am deeply appreciative of the commitment and caring demonstrated by our staff, particularly in trying times. Please take care of yourselves, your family members, and members of your community.

## In Memory of Edward N. Thompson

The Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity mourns the death of Edward N. Thompson, director of development in the Office of Educational Equity. Ed died Sunday, October 23, while running in the Tussey Mountainback Relay. As Educational Equity's development officer, Ed worked with donors to provide scholarship support for underrepresented/underserved students, including those from low-income backgrounds, veterans, and students with disabilities. "He brought lots of new donors into the Penn State community to support those groups," said W. Terrell Jones, vice provost for Educational Equity, because he really believed in the mission of Educational Equity. "Everyone feels they've lost a very good friend. Ed was so positive about the University and what he was doing. He always had a smile on his face, and was probably the most optimistic man I've known."

Funeral services were held on Saturday, October 29, at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Steelton, Pennsylvania. A memorial service was held on Tuesday, November 8, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in State College. In lieu of flowers, Patricia Jackson-Thompson, Ed's wife, requested that contributions be made to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Scholarship Fund in memory of Ed Thompson, 1 Old Main, University Park, PA 16802. Ed will be sadly missed.



## Improving Courses and Curricula by Including Diversity

On Wednesday, October 5, featured speaker Dr. Thomas F. Nelson Laird presented "Improving Courses and Curricula by Including Diversity," two sessions focusing on including diversity into the curriculum, effective teaching practices, and faculty encouragement of multiple forms of student engagement. Dr. Laird is an associate professor in the Department of Education


Leadership and Policy Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, where he leads the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement.

Drawing on results from the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE), Laird presented a complex model of


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## EOC-SWPA Defunded

The Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) of Southwestern Pennsylvania will be ending its twenty-year run. U.S. Department of Education funding for TRIO programs is shrinking and the program was not awarded a renewal in the highly competitive grant application process. Funding will end on August 31, 2012. In the interim, the program will work to manage the transition for its program staff and the 2,000 participants served in the region. 

## Educational Opportunity Center Philadelphia Program Awarded \$1,315,235 Federal Grant

The Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) Philadelphia program was recently awarded a five-year grant through the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education Division of Student Services. EOC is a Federal TRIO program that provides information and counseling to adults who would like to go to college or other postsecondary education institutions. Participants must meet federal guidelines for eligibility. For more information about the EOC Philadelphia program, please contact Eduardo Juarez at eaj102@psu.edu. 




Students pose with Al Matyasvosky, director of Penn State's recycling program, in the Bar Pit area featured on the waste tour. Following the two-hour tour, student comments included: "We don't recycle at all in my town. I can't wait to tell my mom about this!" and "Now that I know Penn State saves so much money (more than \$600,000 in 2010), I'll make sure to recycle my trash now."

## Upward Bound Summer Academy


For many high school students, summer means sleeping past noon, afternoons at the pool, part-time employment, and relaxation. But for the forty-five ninth- through twelfth-grade students in Penn State's Upward Bound Summer Academy, summer means dorm life, 7:00 a.m. breakfast in the dining commons, and rigorous academic course work, college, career, and cultural conversations, all in preparation for enrollment and success in college and beyond.

Federally funded, Upward Bound serves low-income and first-generation students from six Pennsylvania high schools. During the six-week Summer

Academy, Upward Bound students show significant gains in Stanford Achievement scores as well as in pre- and post-testing administered during academic classes offered by Upward Bound. Rising seniors explore the college process, develop personal statements, complete applications, tour campuses, and attend a college fair in an effort to help them explore and refine their options following high school graduation. In addition to taking classes in critical reading and writing, math to the calculus level, and sciences plus lab work, Upward Bound students learn the many facets of University Park's campus as they explore Penn State. 

## Educational Equity Receives \$812,793 in College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACGP) Funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Education

Through a competitive grant process, Penn State's Office of Educational Equity was selected to partner with the Pennsylvania Department of Education to provide services to schools under the Pennsylvania College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACGP), which received more than \$3.9 million in federal CACGP funds for 2011-12. The CACGP is designed to assist students from low-income schools in

Pennsylvania to pursue postsecondary education. The Office of Educational Equity will work with nineteen schools across the Commonwealth as part of this partnership. A college adviser will be located in each school to assist students with the college selection and application process and also with financial aid and scholarship applications. 

## Talent Search Programs Receive \$3.24 Million in Grants

The Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity received two five-year TRIO Talent Search renewal awards from the U.S. Department of Education totaling \$3,237,744. Both grants run from September 1, 2011, to August 31, 2016. The University Park-based program, in operation since 1992, received \$2.12 million to continue its work with the Aliquippa, Clairton, Farrell, New Castle, New Kensington-Arnold, and Sharon school



## Improving Courses and Curricula by Including Diversity


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curricular inclusivity in a morning session, "Including Diversity: A Strategy for Improving Teaching and Learning in All Courses and

Curricula" and explored how to apply the model in various course settings through an afternoon workshop, "Turning A Model of Diversity Inclusivity Into Course and Curricular Change."


The program is part of the Best Practices in Diversity Strategic Planning series, which assists colleges, campuses, and academic units in identifying and sharing effective initiatives and best practices that address the seven Challenges of *A Framework to Foster Diversity at Penn State*, Penn State's strategic plan for diversity. The workshop was co-sponsored by the University Faculty Senate Committee on Educational Equity and Campus Environment, and the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Laird's model presents diversity as a spectrum throughout courses and emphasizes an integrative approach to increasing diversity at many levels of content, process, goals, and participants. According to FSSE results, 89 percent of faculty are trying to create an atmosphere that is inclusive of all students; this is an entry point for conversations about diversity inclusivity. Through examples of specific courses, the afternoon workshop explored possible strategies for making courses more diversity inclusive. 

More information and workshop materials are available at [www.equity.psu.edu/workshop](http://www.equity.psu.edu/workshop)

## Senior Faculty Mentor Implements First Phase of the Collaborative Research Initiative

The first of a series of collaborative research seminars was held on September 28, 2011, at The Nittany Lion Inn on the University Park campus after several months of planning and collection of data regarding minority faculty research at Penn State. The seminar is part of a collaborative research project initiated by Dr. Grace Hampton, senior faculty mentor, and Dr. Sylvester Osagie, faculty engagement coordinator, University Office of Global Programs. The project is designed to increase networking among tenured and nontenured faculty with similar research interests, with the aim of fostering exchange of ideas, generation of new ways of looking at issues, and the possibility of collaboration on research and publications. Seven Penn State faculty members presented an overview of their most recent research: Dr. Christine Buzinde, College of Health and Human Development, University

Park; Dr. Nicola Y. Edwards, Chemistry, Worthington Scranton; Ms. Alexia Hudson, University Libraries, Abington; Dr. Willie K. Ofosu, Telecommunications/Engineering, Wilkes-Barre; Dr. Iyunolu Osagie, English, University Park; Dr. Samuel Oyewole, College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, University Park; and Dr. Paul Taylor, Philosophy, University Park. The seminar concluded with observations and summary comments by Dr. Collins Airhienbuwa. For more information, please contact Dr. Grace Hampton at [gxh2@psu.edu](mailto:gxh2@psu.edu). 



## Green Team Promotes Social Justice and Registers for TerraCycle Brigades

The Office of Educational Equity's Green Team has forged a solid partnership with the Penn State Campus Sustainability Office to achieve Penn State's sustainability goals and objectives while promoting our mission of social justice. Educational Equity is working toward the Green Paw certification, with many of our offices

completing the first steps. The Penn State Campus Sustainability Office Green Paws Program is a simple, effective way for faculty and staff to "green" their workspace and earn a Green Paws Office Certification for their efforts. The program is organized into four levels of certification that signify an office's progression


toward higher levels of efficiency, health, and environmental sustainability.

Additionally, the green team has registered for several TerraCycle brigades, with proceeds to benefit Educational Equity scholarships.



TerraCycle works toward eliminating waste by creating national

recycling systems for hard-to-recycle items. For more information, visit [www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net)

Shelly Aina, Educational Equity's IT manager and Green Team co-chair, was recently identified as a Green Leader and featured in the Penn State *GreenWire* newsletter. 

For more information, visit

[http://green.psu.edu/youCanDo/green\\_paws/green\\_paws\\_about\\_final.asp](http://green.psu.edu/youCanDo/green_paws/green_paws_about_final.asp)




## News of Note:

- The Office of Development welcomes Jamie Weaver as its new staff assistant. Jamie supports the directors of development for Educational Equity, Undergraduate Education, and Global Programs, and works closely with the development assistant.
- The Office of Veterans Programs welcomes Katie Deitrich as its new administrative support assistant. Previously, Katie served as administrative support assistant for Educational Equity's Information Technology.
- The Commission on Racial/Ethnic Diversity held its seventh annual Promotion and Tenure Symposium "What's Diversity Got to Do With It?" on Monday, October 24, co-sponsored with the Commission for Women and the Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Equity.
- Terry Johnson, counselor in the Office of Veterans Programs, will celebrate her retirement with a reception on Monday, December 12. Terry retires with just over twenty-eight years of full-time service to Penn State, more than twenty-four of which are in the Office of Veterans Programs.

## Talent Search Programs Receive \$3.24 Million in Grants

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districts in western Pennsylvania. The York-based program, in operation since 2002, received \$1.12 million to continue to work with the York City School District and New Hope Academy Charter School. Together, the two Talent Search programs serve more than 1,550 sixth- through twelfth-grade students across these districts each year. 



# Diversability

October 2011 | Disability Awareness Month

To recognize the strengths and abilities of individuals with disabilities, Penn State's Disability Advisory Group has established "Diversability," a monthlong disability awareness initiative. This year's Diversability activities were chosen to challenge and inspire the University community to see disabilities through a different lens. The Distinguished Speaker Series presented Temple Grandin, world-renowned writer and speaker and professor of animal science at Colorado State University, whose work regarding livestock behavior and facility design has become the basis for developing more humane procedures in the livestock industry. Temple also has autism.

Additional Diversability activities included a screening of the Emmy Award-winning movie *Temple Grandin*; workshops discussing "Disability Etiquette," "Stories of Sight Loss," "Breaking the Silence: Straight Talk about Stuttering," "Exploring Hearing Loss," and other topics; a Hattie Larlham art exhibit; and wheelchair basketball. 

More information is available at [www.equity.psu.edu/ods/diversability](http://www.equity.psu.edu/ods/diversability)

## Washington, D.C., Alumni



Good-looking Nittany Lions! Ed Thompson, former Educational Equity director of development, and Harold Cheatham, Educational Equity advisory board chair, joined alumni from the Washington, D.C., area for a luncheon on October 6 at Mrs. K's Toll House Restaurant in Silver Spring, Maryland. Thompson, Cheatham, and Tom Parrish shared information about Educational Equity at Penn State and the needs of our students. Thompson expressed his appreciation to the alumni for all that they do for Penn State students.