

PENNSTATE
Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity

Overview

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Program Highlights

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

Welcome to the first edition of Educational Equity Overview, our new division-wide newsletter.

This newsletter highlights some of the people and events that encompass and impact the Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity. We hope that by sharing our news, we can deepen our relationship with the faculty, staff, students, alumni, organizations, and friends who have an interest in our success.

Fall 2005 marked an important milestone for Penn State and its diversity efforts. Minority enrollment across all campuses hit a record high and for the first time, exceeded 10,000 students (10,071) out of a total enrollment of 80,124. This achievement demonstrates our progress in implementing the University's diversity strategic plan, *A Framework to Foster Diversity at Penn State: 2004-09*, and underscores the importance of cultivating a welcoming and inclusive environment in which our students can thrive and succeed.

As the University becomes more diverse, and as our graduates enter an increasingly multicultural workplace, the importance of the academic support functions provided through Educational Equity is amplified. By enhancing interactions between faculty, staff, and students, our programs help our students to achieve their goals and enrich the Penn State community.

The staff in the various units within the Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity serves underrepresented and underserved student groups at the University through an array of programs. To learn more about the services that Educational Equity provides, please visit our Web site at www.equity.psu.edu.

W. Terrell Jones
Vice Provost for Educational Equity

Commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr.

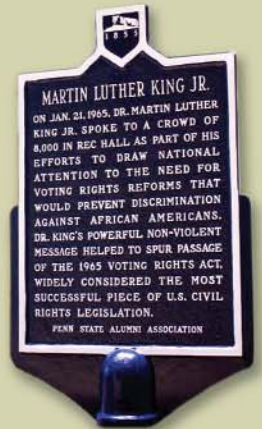
Penn State Dedicates Historical Marker to Commemorate King's Speech

Two months after his acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize and two months before his historic march to Montgomery, Alabama, Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered a powerful speech on January 21, 1965, in Rec Hall on Penn State's University Park campus. The speech, given to 8,000 members of the Penn State campus and surrounding community, was commemorated by a Penn State Historical Marker.

Dedication of the marker, proposed by the Commission on Racial/Ethnic Diversity and funded by the Penn State Alumni Association under the Penn State Historical Marker Program of the Office of University Relations, was held on Wednesday,

January 18, 2006, at the Hintz Family Alumni Center, University Park.

The dedication, co-sponsored by the Commission on Racial/Ethnic Diversity and the Penn State Alumni Association, featured opening remarks by Blannie Bowen, vice provost for Academic Affairs. Additional speakers included W. Terrell Jones, vice provost for Educational Equity; Roger Williams, executive director of the Penn State Alumni Association; Katherine Wheatle, co-chair of CORED's student issues team; and Paul Jovanis, chair of the Commission on Racial/Ethnic Diversity.



Jesse Jackson Visits Penn State's University Park Campus

“You cannot choose your color or your culture, but you can choose your character.”

~ Rev. Jesse Jackson

On Wednesday, January 18, 2006, Reverend Jesse Jackson spoke at Eisenhower Auditorium on Penn State's University Park campus on the importance and ability of all people to choose right and aid others. Jackson,

a prominent civil rights activist and founder of the Rainbow/PUSH coalition who worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. until King's death in 1968, delivered the keynote address at the Martin Luther King Day of Service Celebration, part of Penn State's 2006 MLK commemoration.



Educational Equity Programs Secure Funds and Move Students Towards Success

The Office of Educational Equity has been notably successful this past year in obtaining funds to help students from low-income families, whose parents did not graduate from college, or who are from underrepresented groups or disabled. The offices in Educational Equity can all point to notable achievements in serving these students.

Funding

Educational Equity has aggressively sought out funds from state and federal sources to serve students underrepresented in higher education. The **College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)**, secured a federal grant for \$400,000 per year until 2008-09, to assist thirty-five Penn State first-year students annually from migrant or seasonal farm-work backgrounds. CAMP helps these students adjust to university life and build an academic foundation for graduation.

In summer 2005, the **Student Support Services Program (SSSP)**, one of the Federal "TRIO" programs, secured a

federal grant of \$1,391,500. The SSSP helps 180 low-income, first-generation college students and students with disabilities persist in their studies until graduation. Because Penn State's proposal scored so high, it received an additional fifth year of funding reserved for the top-scoring 10 percent of proposals.

The **Comprehensive Studies Program (CSP)** secured \$205,000 through Pennsylvania's Act 101 Program to assist Pennsylvania students whose cultural, economic, and educational disadvantages impair their initial ability to successfully pursue a degree. The program provides counseling, academic support, and developmental course work to a total of 320 students, with a special focus on first-year and sophomore students.

Student Successes

Educational Equity assists increasing numbers of students in overcoming economic, educational, and class barriers to their success in higher education.



CAMP Field Trip to Ellis Island, NY

The **Multicultural Resource Center (MRC)** contacts Penn State students from various racial/ethnic student populations to offer counseling and assistance. This year, through return calls, e-mails, or visits for services, MRC served 26 percent of the American Indian/Alaskan Native, 39 percent of the African/Black American, 33 percent of the Asian American/Pacific Islander, and 32 percent of the Latino(a)/Hispanic American student populations.

The **Office for Disability Services** this past year provided academic adjustments and auxiliary aids and services to 750 students with disabilities at Penn State University Park.

The **Office of Veterans Programs** contacts every Pennsylvanian who comes out of military service and offers them assistance to further their education. In the past year, the program contacted 10,640 recently discharged veterans, a number that is up by several thousand since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Penn State also operates several precollege programs, including the **Upward Bound Program**, the **Upward Bound Math and Science Center**, two **Talent Search** programs, one serving five school districts in Western Pennsylvania and one in York City, two Penn State **Educational Opportunity Centers**, in Philadelphia and in Southwestern Pennsylvania, and the **Women in the Sciences and Engineering (WISE) Institute** at Penn State, which operates in seven high schools in central Pennsylvania. Together, these programs have served thousands of individuals and have been highly successful in helping low-income youth and adults advance towards college, either at Penn State or another quality school.

Black Alumni Reunion April 21-23, 2006

The Black Alumni Reunion "BAR" will be held on April 21-23, 2006, during the Blue-White Game weekend festivities. This event will provide alumni with the opportunity to reconnect and to make important new connections. We hope that many alumni, faculty, and staff will take the time to meet with students currently enrolled in programs offered through Educational Equity such as the Comprehensive Studies Program (CSP), Student Support Services Program (SSSP), College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), Women in the Sciences and Engineering (WISE) Institute, and the Multicultural Resource Center (MRC), and reflect on how the alumni may have taken advantage of Educational Equity's services during their student years.

The BAR will provide a career networking opportunity on Saturday, April 22 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Heritage Hall in the HUB-Robeson Center where alumni can meet with current students. Additionally, the BAR committee has selected the Lawrence Young Scholarship, named after the retired director of the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, as their fundraising project for this year's reunion. This scholarship will support the diversity efforts of the student body at Penn State. For information on the Lawrence Young Scholarship, contact Edward Thompson at edthompson@psu.edu or 814-865-7698.

For information and to register for the BAR, send an e-mail to: PSU_BWBAR@hotmail.com.