

Cultural/Diversity Centers

Black Cultural Center (BCC)

The Black Cultural Center provides purposeful, holistic, scholarly and co-curricular programming designed to enhance the understanding of the African American heritage. It enhances the academic, cultural and social development of the entire Purdue community. The center was established in 1969, as a place where the African American Experience in American could be explored, celebrated and shared. It stands today as a visible representation of the university's commitment to cultural diversity. The nationally recognized center houses a library, an art collection and the BCC ensembles. The performing ensembles include the Black Voices of Inspiration, the Haraka Writers, Jahari Dance Troupe, and the New Directional Players. The BCC sponsors a Cultural Arts Series featuring prominent scholars and performing artists. Educational tours of the facility are also available for students and community members.

Latino Cultural Center (LCC)

The Latino Cultural Center exists to provide the community awareness of the regional diversity of peoples, landscape, and cultures within the Latino Community. The LCC also strives to build a community for Latino/a Boilermakers and alumni to share their ideas and experiences to promote cultural awareness to the Purdue University campus and beyond. The center was established by students in 2003 as a place for them to learn, share and support Latino/Latina Culture. The LCC seeks to promote diversity and awareness through education and programming within its 15 Latino-based organization; through its volunteer program - Embajadores; and within its facility. The Latino based organizations serve as a support network for students while at Purdue and beyond. Embajadores, the LCC service-learning organization, incorporates leadership through its five committees: Recreation and Health; Community Outreach; Culture and Arts; Social Justice; and El Pulso, the student-led newsletter.

Native American Educational and Cultural Center (NAECC)

The Native American Educational and Cultural Center at Purdue University represents the culmination of student, faculty, and administrative staff commitment to fostering a culturally diverse and intellectually inclusive campus environment. As the physical realization of the Tecumseh Project's specific Native American student recruitment and retention objectives, NAECC seeks to provide Native American students personal and professional enrichment opportunities in a culturally-appropriate fashion and to serve as a "second home" for current and prospective Native American students. Moreover, the NAECC's intended inclusion of Native American tribal communities and non-Native Purdue students, faculty, and staff into campus educational, cultural, and research programs fosters an environment of mutual accountability and respect that is vital to crafting cross-cultural relationships and enhancing campus diversity.

Midwest Crossroads Alliance for Graduate Education & Professoriate (AGEP)

The Midwest Crossroads AGEP collaboration partners three Midwest Ph.D. granting institutions with six Midwest partner Universities, LSAMP Indiana, and several national institutions serving URM STEM populations. The goal of the project is to triple the number of minority Ph.D. graduates in the Science, Mathematics, Engineering,

Source: Office of the Provost

and Technology disciplines by 2009. The alliance has developed and has started implementation of a strategic plan to increase enrollment, improve retention, and prepare and encourage students to enter the academy. The key programs of the alliance address:

- **Recruiting:** Linkages and partnerships with the Indiana LSAMP (based at Purdue), regional undergraduate institutions, and predominantly minority serving institutions nationwide are being developed and enhanced; off-campus visits by AGEP faculty, staff, and students are being organized to disseminate information on graduate school opportunities at Purdue, IU, and Northwestern; and undergraduate summer research programs for graduate school recruitment are being coordinated and expanded.
- **Retention:** Minority student organizations are being utilized to ensure that incoming graduate students have an instant peer network; a network of AGEP professors who are committed to graduating minority Ph.D. students have been developed; selective jump-start summer transition experiences to acclimate new students academically to graduate school are being implemented; and organized group study models have been developed and expanded.
- **Enrichment:** Several student enrichment sessions were organized at the Crossroads Conference, a joint venture between AGEP and the Indiana LSAMP programs; college pedagogy courses and seminars and Preparing Future Faculty programs will be reorganized, marketed, and promoted on each campus; the Midwest Crossroads AGEP will keep current and leverage the faculty preparation activities of GEM and the National Preparing Future Faculty organization to maintain awareness of best practices and innovation in faculty preparation; and postdoctoral partnerships with will be developed with U.S. National Laboratories to provide exposure and prepare graduates for faculty positions.

The Diversity Resource Office (DRO)

The Diversity Resource Office (DRO) encourages, develops, administers, and assesses programs and activities that foster a climate celebrating the rich diversity of our university community. DRO, home of the DiversiKey Certificate Program and the L.E.A.D. Peer Mentor Program, offers training for diversity competencies in both the workplace and learning environments. Other diversity initiatives include Diversity in the Global Experience, the Intersections Student Diversity Conference, the annual Diversity Summit, and publication of the Religious, Ethnic, and Civic Observances Calendar.