Upcoming Events

• Suicide Prevention Month: September

• Hispanic Heritage Month: September 15-October 15
  • September 15, Hispanics in the Military Film Showing and Discussion, 4-6 p.m., Walb 222-226
  • September 15, Latinx Movie Night, 6 p.m., Walb 215
  • September 16, Multicultural Mixer: Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff, 5-7 p.m., Walb Dining Atrium
  • September 26, Diversity 101, 12-1 p.m., Walb 118
  • September 28, Paleta Party, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Walb 114
  • October 4, Latinos Unidos Elote, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Walb G08
  • October 5, Multicultural Tea Party – Teas from Latin America, 12:2 p.m., Walb 118
  • October 5, Latinos and Mental Health, 5-7 p.m., Walb 114
  • October 10, Second Generation Panel, 12-2 p.m., Walb G08
  • October 13, Missing in Brooks County Screening and Q&A with Director Jeff Bemiss, 5:30-9:30 p.m., NF 101

• Pride Week: September 30-October 7
  • September 30, Pride Week Kickoff Drag Show, 7-9 p.m., Walb Classic Ballroom
  • October 3, Pride Fair, 11 a.m.– 2 p.m., Alumni Plaza
  • October 5, Pride Week: Rainbow Run, 6 p.m., Alumni Plaza
  • October 6, Drag Bingo, 7-9 p.m., Walb Classic Ballroom
  • October 7, Queer Self Care Day, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Walb 215

Chief Notes

WOWZERS! It is such an exciting time around campus! Welcome to the new Dons that have joined the Mastodon herd (family) and welcome back to the students, faculty and staff that return to campus. The division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion has been busy preparing for this 2022-23 academic year. This quarterly newsletter is designed to help keep you informed of some of the events, programs and highlights happening around campus as we ALL work to move PFW DEI FORWARD!

The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI) invites each of you to learn, celebrate, and recognize September 15-October 15, 2022 as Hispanic Heritage Month. The celebration events are listed in this newsletter and on the ODEI website. It is important that we highlight our Hispanic students, faculty, and staff. Thank you for your contributions to PFW, Fort Wayne, Indiana, United States and the World.

ODEI participated in the QPR Suicide Prevention Training. September is Suicide Prevention Month and we recognize the seriousness and importance of learning more about suicide prevention. There are resources on our campus and Fort Wayne Community. Please take the time to reach out and learn your role in suicide prevention.

This year’s ODEI theme is “YOU BELONG HERE,” as we want to ensure that each and every member of our campus understands that they BELONG at PFW. It takes ALL of us to learn, grow, and ACT Together here at PFW to create a more inclusive campus for ALL. Wear your “YOU BELONG HERE” gear proud as you meet new people, engage in crucial and difficult conversations, learn of new cultures all while holding firm to civility, inclusivity and equity.

Enjoy this newsletter and have a great Fall semester.
The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion had a very busy summer hosting two PFW Summer College Experiences. One took place on June 14-15, 2022 when we hosted 12 boys and girls from the REACH (Re-Imagining Enrichment, Academics, and Community Health) program. All of these students were from Fort Wayne area high schools. These students took part in a one night, 2 day experience which included an orientation, rec night, a campus fair, a sample business class with our Doermer School of Business professors and staff, as well as a campus fair and finished up with a campus tour. Many of the students were excited about their stay in Housing and the shortened version of our college experience.

At the end of July, we partnered with the Bloom Project, Inc. and Foellinger Foundation to bring 33 boys of color from around the state as far away as Indianapolis and Elkhart. This 2 night, 3 day event started with orientation and a social gathering including karaoke and games. The next day was a full college experience day that included a campus tour, participating in either a STEM or business track before and after lunch. A campus fair and social activities also took place. On the last day, the students gave a brief presentation about their experience and were also awarded a certificate as well as gifts. Students were excited about their stay in Housing and experiencing a sampling of the college life.

On August 9, all Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion leaders as well as TRIO staff took part in QPR Suicide Prevention Training led by Alice Jordan-Miles, director of the Behavioral Health and Family Studies Institute. ODEI highlights Suicide Prevention month in September and the disparities of suicide committed in marginalized communities.
Tandem Jump

On July 13, 2022, Dr. MarTeze Hammonds did a tandem jump with the Golden Knights at Addington Field Elizabethtown Regional Airport in Kentucky in partnership with the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). The 7th Brigade Cadet Command hosted around 30 participants for the Center of Influence or VIPs from various colleges in Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Michigan. According to a news release, “the Golden Knights are one of only three Department of Defense-sanctioned aerial demonstration teams, along with the U.S. Navy Blue Angels and the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.”

PFW has a ROTC Mastodon Company (https://www.pfw.edu/rotc) on campus that has 24 students enrolled with 18 at PFW, 4 at Indiana Tech and 2 at University of Saint Francis.

Many scholarship dollars have been provided by ROTC to PFW college students over the past few years. Spring 2022, ROTC awarded nine scholarships to PFW Cadets totaling $45,000. If you are interested in joining the PFW ROTC please consider doing so by reaching out to Major David Clark, clark932@pfw.edu. The ROTC program first started at PFW in 2007 and the first graduating class was 2010.

Staff Spotlight: Maria Norman

A little about you:
I was born and raised in Fort Wayne, Indiana. My dad is 100% Mexican and my mom has blonde hair and blue eyes. I am the first person in my family to go to college and the only person in my family with a Masters degree. I hold a Bachelors of Arts degree from DePauw University and a Masters in Public Management from Indiana University Purdue University, Fort Wayne. I am currently the Vice President of the School Board of Trustees for Fort Wayne Community Schools and I have worked at Purdue Fort Wayne for 15 years and counting. When I’m not in a meeting, I am busy being a wife to my husband, Amos, and a mom to our son, Elijah.

What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean to you?
Celebrating who we are as a people, our culture, our traditions, and of course the food! Growing up Mexican, I didn’t know I was different until I shared with a friend that we don’t eat turkey and stuffing at Thanksgiving. Our typical meal was tamales, mole, rice, and beans. Questions ensued and I realized that everyone’s family is different but it made me really proud of my family and our culture. As a Mexican American woman in leadership, I celebrate the glass ceilings that I continue to bust through. I feel compelled to set a good example for the next generation of women, to be available to answer questions, and to really support women who are trying to make positive change. Every chance I get I am sharing my story and letting young women know that they can do what I’m doing.

Thoughts about DEI at PFW?
PFW has always been a safe place to be who you want to be, a place to learn, and a place to grow. I appreciate all the University does to celebrate our differences and bring us together.
Faculty Spotlight: Adolfo Coronado

A little about you:
I am originally from Ciudad Juarez in Mexico, so my first language is Spanish. My undergraduate degree is in finance and computer information systems. My graduate work includes a Master of Science in Information Technology and a Ph.D. in Information Systems and International Business. I am the Department of Computer Science chair. I am also an associate professor and program coordinator of the Computer Science department’s information systems program. I enjoy photography, learning new things, and meeting new people.

What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean to you?
I grew up in the Ciudad Juarez (Mexico) and El Paso (TX) regions, where Hispanics are the predominant population. When I moved to Fort Wayne about ten years ago, I quickly noticed that Hispanics are a much smaller percentage of the people in the Greater Fort Wayne area. Therefore, Hispanic Heritage month is an excellent opportunity for everyone to learn more about Hispanic culture. It is also an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the achievements and contributions of Hispanic Americans. I encourage you to learn more about Hispanic Heritage this month and attend some of the events at our university and in the region.

Thoughts about DEI at PFW?
Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are extremely important at any institution, and PFW is no exception. Any time, resources, and energy invested in promoting DEI is a step closer to ensuring that every stakeholder at our institution understands that they belong at PFW. With the leadership of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office at PFW, we have made significant progress in this area. However, this is work on the shoulders of every student, faculty, and staff member at PFW; the change begins with us!

Student Spotlight: Nallely Cardenas

A little about you:
I'm Nallely, a student at PFW born and raised here in Fort Wayne, IN. I am a student worker in the Multicultural Center at PFW, in my last semester. I am majoring in Business Marketing.

What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean to you?
To me Hispanic Heritage month is a time when we get to celebrate everyone. This is a time where we get to learn and experience many cultures and participate in celebrating and support others.

Thoughts about DEI at PFW?
Working in the multicultural center I see how diversity, equity, and inclusion makes a positive impact on students at PFW.
DEI FORWARD

“It is our conviction that diversity stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life.”

Fostering collaborative strategy
Openness to varied ideas
Realistic strategy building
Willingness learn, grow, and ACT together
Align mission/vision to all DEI work
Role modeling change
Determined to remove systemic barriers

MEET OUR STAFF

MarTeze Hammonds, Ed.D.
Chief Diversity Officer
He/him

Shubitha Kever, M.P.A.
Associate Diversity Officer
Director of TRIO Programs
She/her

Jayla M. Heller
Executive Assistant
She/her

Sha’Ketah Ledford
Graphic Designer
She/her

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Units:
Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs | The Q Center | The Women’s Center
TRIO Student Support Services | TRIO Upward Bound

@pfwodei  pfwodei
260-481-0290 | odei@pfw.edu | pfw.edu/dei