

# Divisional Diversity Liaisons Progress Report

2015-2016 Academic Year

<b>Reporting Division/School:</b> School of Education, Health, and Human Performance	<b>Reporting Liaison:</b> Courtney Howard	<b>Reporting Period:</b> July 2015 – June 2016
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**Notable diversity achievements/accomplishments within your division/school during this reporting period** (even small achievements are worth reporting)

## **Administrative Actions**

The Administrative Council approved the 2015-2016 EHHP Diversity Plan. With goals that are aligned to the College's Diversity Strategic Plan, the EHHP Diversity Plan commits the School to actionable items that promote diversity.

As a continuation of a practice started in the previous academic year, the Administrative Council has reviewed student enrollment data at least once per semester to consider student diversity in each academic program.

The strategic planning team included a diversity-focused goal with three outcomes in its draft 2016-2021 EHHP Strategic Plan.

## **Faculty/Staff Accomplishments**

**Courtney Howard** (CPIE) was a member of the Fall 2015 Lowcountry Cohort of the South Carolina Diversity Leaders Initiative (DLI), a 5-month leadership program developed by The Richard W. Riley Institute® of Government, Politics and Public Leadership at Furman University.

As a result of his designation as a 2015 Emerging Diversity Scholar with the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Adjunct **Kendall Deas** (TEDU) was invited to participate in a national convening of the 400 members of the Diversity Scholars Network titled "The Future of Diversity Research," at the National Center For Institutional Diversity.

**Sophia Rodriguez** (TEDU) was invited to sit on a panel at Charleston County School District's Academic Magnet High School alongside parents, community members and professors on the topic of Diversity Issues in Education.

**Sophia Rodriguez** (TEDU) was selected among a national group of researchers on social integration of immigrants in local communities to be part of a spotlight panel and focus group on challenges of researching undocumented youth and families in American cities as part of the Welcoming Initiative conference.

**Terry Peterson** (Senior Fellow) received the *Champion of Children Award* at the Beyond School Hours Conference in Dallas, TX. He was one of two people recognized for their "outstanding commitment to helping our nation's most vulnerable children and families achieve brighter futures through quality education."

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Adjunct **Bea Lavelle** (HEHP) participated in the *Share Your Story Project*, an Office of Sustainability initiative that was developed in the wake of the tragic Mother Emanuel AME Church massacre in the summer of 2015. With “Value of Us” as its theme, the Office of Sustainability collected over 50 stories from College of Charleston faculty, staff, and students that in some way responded to the following questions: How can we work to develop solutions for our community when we don’t even understand many of the issues that need to be addressed? How can we have a sustainable community when many of its members are oppressed?

**Floyd Breeland** (Call Me MISTER) was the featured speaker at the No Violence-No Victims Candlelight Vigil in support of those lives lost at Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church.

Through a partnership forged by **Courtney Howard**, the Center for Partnerships to Improve Education (CPIE) was awarded an AmeriCorps VISTA through the Charleston Area Service Collaborative in the Mayor’s Office for Children, Youth, and Families. AmeriCorps VISTA members make year-long, full time commitments to serve on a specific project at a nonprofit organization or public agency. They focus their efforts to build the organizational, administrative, and financial capacity of organizations that fight illiteracy, improve health services, foster economic development, and otherwise assist low-income communities. The VISTA will work August 2016–August 2017 in partnership with the Jefferson Awards Foundation to promote public service to afterschool programs in Title I elementary and middle schools, as well as to students involved in service clubs at Title I high schools.

**Keonya Booker** (TEDU) facilitated a Black History Month program through the Office of Institutional Diversity.

**Laura Brock** (TEDU) and the Wentworth Extended Learning Lab (WELL) received funding from American Honda Foundation to train and support elementary teachers and pre-service teachers who want to bring hands-on environmental engineering problems into their classrooms and communities. The funding all supports summer camps downtown and in North Charleston, bringing together a diverse group of children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to solve problems together.

The **Representative Floyd Breeland** Scholarship Fund was endowed in the spring 2016 semester and a reception was held with over 75 donors and friends to celebrate this milestone. The endowment campaign was historic in that it involved the highest number of donors in College history. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a minority male student in the teacher education program, in an effort to address the critical need for more qualified teachers from diverse backgrounds in South Carolina. The first recipient was introduced at the reception.

**Keonya Booker** (TEDU) was the lead author on a recent publication:

Booker, K. C., Merriweather, L., & Campbell-Whatley, G. (2016). The effects of diversity training on faculty and students’ classroom experiences. *International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*, 10(1), 1-9.

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Research conducted by **Genevieve Hay** (TEDU) and **Martha Nabors** (TEDU) was the lead article in *Physical Disabilities: Education and Related Services*, a peer-reviewed academic journal. Their article examined the successful integration of students with cancer within regular classrooms.

**Kristen Ashworth** (TEDU) traveled to San Diego for the 25th Annual Pacific Coast Research Conference (PCRC) to present her research project titled, *“Interstate Variability of Disability Category Prevalence Rates: Learning Disabilities Remains the Least Variable.”* Dr. Ashworth and her co-authors/co-presenters, Paige Pullen and Daniel Hallahan, have a manuscript under review. PCRC is a small conference for researchers in the field of mild to moderate disabilities.

**Keonya Booker** (TEDU) presented her research *“Peer Factor: How Classroom Interactions Influence a Sense of Belonging for African American Undergraduate Women ”* at the Eastern Educational Research at Hilton Head.

**Angela Cozart** (TEDU) and **Courtney Howard** (CPIE) each authored a chapter about teaching English Language Learners (ELLs) in a new book titled *Teaching ELLs Across Content Areas: Issues and Strategies*. Howard’s chapter focuses on teaching science to ELLs while Cozart’s chapter provides strategies for increasing ELLs’ academic vocabulary.

## Student Engagement

Thirty-one (31) clinical practice interns participated in CPIE’s **Classroom Library Project**, an initiative that increases access to diverse children’s books. The initiative is a semester-long project in which each intern selects and receives three books and then incorporates at least one into classroom instruction. The classroom teacher receives a duplicate set of books for the classroom’s library. The fall interns selected children’s books that addressed disabilities, chronic illnesses, mental health, and death/dying. The spring interns chose children’s books that were written by or about African Americans.

Forty-eight (48) First Year Experience students participated in **FitCatz**, an aquatic and motor therapy community service program designed to help children with disabilities become efficient movers. Open to 2–15 year olds with a range of physical, intellectual, behavioral and emotional disabilities, the program is tailored to each child’s individual needs and may include anything from body awareness and spatial orientation to sport and water safety skills. The program serves approximately 22 local children each semester. The program is led by Susan Flynn (TEDU) and a small cadre of professional and student staff.

Michael Hemphill (HEHP) along with student **Sierra Small** presented their research on *“The Impact of Demographic Variables on the Acquisition of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Diseases”* at the Undergraduate Research Banquet sponsored by the Louis Stokes-South Carolina Alliance for Minority Participation (LS-SCAMP)

In an effort to expand and diversify the computer science talent pool, three education majors--Tyler Lyles, Casey Bossart, and Angela Hilton—each received a \$5,000 Google funded **Computer Science in Education Fellowship** from the College of Charleston’s Lowcountry Hall of Science and Math and the Department of Computer Science. As part of the fellowship, they each had to take three courses in computer science, as

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well as assist in an educator professional development held in Fall 2015 for four Berkeley County School Districts schools, make classroom observations of the integration of computer science content into existing interdisciplinary classroom experiences, and help the Women in Computing program at the College of Charleston implement an after school program.

Four (4) **Call Me MISTER** students graduated. Call Me MISTER (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models) is an innovative and effective leadership development program for African American males to prepare and place them as teachers and role models in elementary schools. Administered by Clemson University, the College of Charleston has maintained its MISTER program since 2007.

The CofC **Teaching Fellows** have been involved in numerous service activities with and in support of a range of organizations and causes, of which some have a diversity focus:

- ✓ Thirteen Fellows gave presentations and staffed an information table showcasing the Teacher Education Department at the College of Charleston at a conference for a diverse group of over 300 Teacher Cadets in Greenville, S.C.
- ✓ Many Fellows worked with students at local schools Kaleidoscope Fairs all over the Lowcountry.
- ✓ Over twenty Fellows volunteered to help the Blue Bicycle Book Store as guides and event workers during Y'allFest (Young Adult Literature Festival) this year. This is the largest festival of its kind in the world, and our Fellows helped to lend Charleston's special brand of charm to this year's event.
- ✓ Some of the freshmen Fellows made visits to Cario Middle School to assist art classes with various projects. On that particular day, Fellows helped paint set pieces for the upcoming theatrical performance.
- ✓ The junior cohort raised money to adopt a classroom through Charleston Hope by selling donuts in Cougar Mall.
- ✓ More than half of our Fellows helped make College Day a huge success for eight local high schools this year. Students and faculty helped make this event a huge success for local teens.
- ✓ Fellows also worked with SSCEA to prepare for Education Awareness Week.
- ✓ One Fellow led a professional development session in Computer Science Education for Berkeley County Teachers. The program was sponsored by Google and was based on their Computer Science (CS) First Program.
- ✓ Some Fellows mentor for the REACH Program, while other Fellows tutor at Reading Partners and work at Memminger Elementary.
- ✓ Three Fellows are working with the League of Women Voters to advocate for Abbeville County schools.

## **International Partnerships and Study Abroad**

**Andrea DeMaria** (HEHP) and **Chelsea Demarest** (HEHP) traveled to Florence, Italy over Spring Break to plan their faculty-led summer study abroad program.

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The following EHHP faculty led summer study abroad experiences during this academic year:

**Sophia Rodriguez** (TEDU) – Italy

**Michael Flynn**, (HEHP), **Michael Hemphill** (HEHP), and **Susan Flynn** (TEDU) – New Zealand  
**mutindi ndunda** (TEDU) and Renee Mueller (Business) - Tanzania

## N.E. Miles Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC)

ECDC staff included four males, a significant accomplishment in early childhood education.

The *Working with Diverse Populations* staff training was approved for state credit through the Department of Social Services.

Two families planned and shared activities with our children to celebrate Chinese New Year's. They helped the ECDC children make delicious dumplings, and did a fun and informative presentation.

## Events, Honors, Awards, and More

In collaboration with the Honors College, American Bar Association, MUSC, Emanuel A.M.E. Church, EHHP organized a **forum on gun violence** at the historic Emanuel A.M.E. Church in December. The event featured panel sessions and caucus groups involving national and local public health, medical, and legal experts, along with faith leaders. Over 500 people participated throughout the day.

In collaboration with a diverse group of community and campus organizations—League of Women Voters Charleston Area, the American Association of University Women Charleston, the Charleston Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the CofC Teaching Fellows, Teacher Leaders and Call Me Mister Program—EHHP **hosted SC Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman** as she spoke on the state of education in SC in September.

**Emily Hoisington**, an Early Childhood senior and Teaching Fellow, received the prestigious Jefferson Award for her work with Charleston Hope, a local nonprofit serving Lowcountry children at under-resourced schools. She was also featured in an article by ABC News 4.

Adjunct **Kendall Deas** (TEDU) was recently named "Outstanding Faculty of the Year" for both the School of Education, Health, and Human Performance and the Honors College at the College of Charleston's 2015-2016 ExCEL Awards Program. It was the first time in the eleven year history of the college's awards program that an individual won multiple ExCEL awards in the same year.

Other **ExCEL Award** recipients include:

Sierra Small (HEHP) - Eugene C. Hunt Rising Senior Minority Student Award

Ellie Smith (HEHP) – EHHP Outstanding Student of the Year

Jenesha Nance (HEHP) - Honors College Outstanding Student of the Year

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**Please describe how the diversity goals established within your division/school changed since the last meeting?**

During the academic year, the EHHP Diversity Plan was revisited and revised with input from the Diversity Liaison and members of the Administrative Council. The final, approved version is aligned with the College's Strategic Diversity Plan, and is posted on the School's website. A new outcome for Goal 3 was established-- Administer a climate survey to EHHP faculty, staff, and students to collect baseline data. In light of the recent campus-wide climate survey that revealed unsettling perceptions from faculty and staff, EHHP leadership thought it would be useful to conduct a similar assessment within the School. The results of that survey can be used to develop programming that is responsive to the concerns of EHHP. Due to strains on human and financial resources this academic year, progress toward this outcome was not made. It will be included in the 2016-2017 EHHP Diversity Plan.

**Please list any upcoming diversity-related events planned (or in development) for your division/school.**

To be determined

**Please list any notable challenges to diversity and inclusion efforts being experienced within your division/school.**

Search committees in Health and Human Performance continue to experience challenges in recruiting and hiring diversity faculty, but are actively exploring strategies to overcome these challenges.

**Please list any agenda items to be discussed at the next meeting.**

Not applicable