The Office of Global Diversity & Inclusive Excellence (OGDIE) is pleased to launch its fall bi-annual newsletter. Our goal is to serve as a catalyst for offering up programs, events, and training opportunities to and for individuals and groups from various cultures and backgrounds. In keeping with the OGDIE mission, we aim to (1) provide university-wide leadership, (2) embrace global diversity and (3) foster a welcoming and conducive campus community. These noteworthy efforts are also intended to lend a voice to issues surrounding social justice locally, nationally, and globally.

As the new Director of Diversity & Inclusive Excellence, I want to personally congratulate the Lamar University students on meeting your educational goals and aspirations. Continue to aim high, the rewards are great. To our faculty and staff, I look forward to strategically collaborating and partnering with you in order to make a positive impact on the campus climate. Together we can make a positive impact and advance a culture of inclusive excellence at Lamar University.

Please feel free to visit our office (located next door to the Cherry Engineering Building) to say hello and learn more about the wonderful services that the OGDIE provides.

Respectfully,
Dr. Wilma Jackson
Executive Director of Diversity & Inclusive Excellence

Mission Statement Office of Global Diversity & Inclusive Excellence
To provide university-wide leadership in developing, implementing and advancing initiatives that promote global diversity and inclusive excellence, by fostering a welcoming and conducive campus community. This community will recognize the immeasurable benefits of diversity and inclusion, while celebrating the rich diverse multicultural backgrounds of students, faculty and staff at Lamar University.
Lamar University recognizes and celebrates the contribution of our Hispanic students by honoring those who excel academically by hosting a reception to honor the accomplishments of our students at the Celebrating Hispanic Excellence Reception

Friday, October 4, 2019 · 6 PM - 10 PM
Live Oak Ballroom at the Setzer Student Center

Join Lamar University in celebrating the diversity and difference people with disabilities bring to campus! Participate in or spectate a 2-day event of 5-on-5 wheelchair basketball, with the champion crowned at the Disability Resource Center’s 1st Annual Recognition Banquet Dinner

October 9-10, 2019 · 2 PM - 6 PM
Recreational Center

The celebration honors the dead in a contemporary, unique, and vibrant environment. The Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead activities includes flower and graveyard crafting, a vibrant cemetery display and face-painting!

Thursday, October 31, 2019
Cemetery Display · 5:30-7:30 PM
Upcoming Events for Fall 2019

Veterans Day

An important dimension of diversity is military veterans. At Lamar University, we recognize the important contribution of our military veterans and active duty men and women. Therefore, all Lamar University military veterans and active duty men and women will be honored at the Lamar University Veterans Day Luncheon. Community members and family members of military veterans are invited to attend this luncheon.

**Monday, November 11 • 11:30 AM - 1 PM**
Live Oak Ballroom at the Setzer Student Center

Native American History Month

Native American Heritage Day will feature an interactive learning opportunity for the top scholars from Pietzch-MacArthur, Blanchette, and Charton Pollard elementary schools. The schools’ top scholars will attend an interactive, educational presentation about Native American culture from Chickasaw storyteller, Amy Bluemel.

**Friday, November 22**
Unidad Calendar

August
Aug 29: UNIDAD/Men of Excellence Kick-Off Meeting (4 PM- 5 PM)

September
Sept. 03: Mentoring (4 PM-5 PM)
Sept 17: Study Skills Session (4 PM-5 PM)

October
Oct 01: Financial Literacy & FAFSA (4 PM- 5 PM)
Oct 15: Academic Success (4 PM- 5 PM)
Oct 29: Unidad Curriculum Topic 1 (4 PM- 5 PM)

November
Nov 12: Career Success Strategies (4 PM- 5 PM)

December
Dec 03: UNIDAD/ MOX Semesters End Social (4PM-5 PM)

Men of Excellence Calendar

August
Aug 29: UNIDAD/Men of Excellence Kick-Off Meeting (4 PM- 5 PM)

September
Sept 05: Mentoring (4 PM- 5 PM)
Sept 19: Study Skills Session (4 PM- 5 PM)

October
Oct 03: Financial Literacy & FAFSA (4 PM- 5 PM)
Oct 17: Academic Success (4 PM- 5 PM)
Oct 31: Curriculum Topic 1 (4 PM- 5 PM)

November
Nov 12: Career Success Strategies (4 PM- 5 PM)

December
Dec 03: UNIDAD/ MOX Semesters End Social (4PM-5 PM)
HIGHLIGHTS OF SPRING 2019

Black History Month

Chinese New Year

LGBT Safe Zone

Inspirational Women's Award 2019
UNIDAD SCHOLARS
"La Bienvenida"
August 17th, 2019
MEN OF EXCELLENCE
Kick-Off
August 17th, 2019
Dr. Jackson is a native of Shreveport, Louisiana. Prior to coming to Lamar University, she served as Director of Multicultural Support Services at Doane University in Nebraska for over 18 years. Her legacy at Doane includes developing the first multicultural program and the first multicultural center. The Multicultural Support Services office was responsible for programming and education for the four Doane physical campuses which are in rural, metropolitan and urban areas. She served as advisor for student organizations leadership, Greek, faith-based, and community/service-learning affiliated. She served on numerous committees for retention, student engagement, and strategic planning in diversity. Dr. Jackson was instrumental in co-writing and securing grants for Doane University to assist underserved and underrepresented populations of students persist to graduation. These included a Title III grant for African American Male student retention and mentoring and the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) grant, an academic enhancement program that supports historically underrepresented students in the STEM fields. She is a long-time member of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA). NASPA is a network of 15,000 professionals, faculty, and students and 1,500 institutions coming together to support each other, overcome expanding challenges, and center student success in the evolution of higher education. She has an undergraduate degree in Social Work from Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe, Louisiana, a Master’s degree in Education Curriculum and Instruction from Doane University and a Doctorate degree in Education Leadership from Doane University. Dr. Jackson is looking forward to the warner weather in Texas. Perhaps what she looks forward to the most about serving in this role of Director of Diversity & Inclusive Excellence is having the opportunity to work closely with the amazing students, staff, and faculty at Lamar University and becoming a member of the Beaumont community.
Ashley Iwunwanne is the 
Coordinator of Multicultural Retention and Diversity

who coordinates the Men of Excellence and UNIDAD Scholars Program, and is passionate about utilizing and developing resources to improve student retention and foster the academic and professional success of students now and beyond. Ashley earned her Master's degree in Africana Studies from SUNY University at Albany, where she also attended as an undergraduate major in Africana Studies. She cultivated her niche in higher education at SUNY as a Graduate Assistant; teaching African and African-American history. She gave the commencement speech for her graduating class. Ashley is also a university professor who is dedicated to scholarship surrounding social justice, cultural sensitivity and social awareness of marginalized peoples. As a dedicated educator and higher ed administrator, Ashley has served on community panels to push dialogue concerning inequities faced by minorities of color and delivered a lecture at SUNY, titled 'Justice and Jails- Women of Color and the War on Drugs,' and continues to service historically disadvantaged communities through education and community.

Email: aokonkwo@lamar.edu
Learn ways you can better Lamar University thru diversity & inclusion by requesting a training for your student organization, department or group. At this training, you will learn about the power and influence of culture, the different dimensions of diversity, and acquire the necessary intercultural encounter to become a more culturally competent student, faculty or staff of Lamar University.

To request training please complete a request form at: http://www.lamar.edu/forms/diversity/speaker-request-form.html

THIS SEMESTER:

Scan Below to Volunteer with OGDIE!
The Office of Global Diversity and Inclusive Excellence is offering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Visionary Leader Scholarship to a Lamar University student(s) who continues to carry Dr. King’s virtues and dream forward for inclusiveness, global vision, and service to the institution and the greater community.

CRITERIA

The applicant should:

- Be a currently enrolled part-time or full-time Lamar University student (graduate or undergraduate)
- Be in good academic and judicial standing with Lamar University
- Be able to demonstrate a longstanding commitment to Dr. King’s ideas through service to/in your community (volunteer work, community service, service learning)
- Be willing to demonstrate how you have or plan to impact Lamar University by furthering the commitment to diversity and inclusion locally and globally
- Be a champion for diversity through civic engagement and social responsibility
- Be willing to write an essay (minimum of 400 words) based on the topic: If Dr. King was alive today, what would his message be, and how would you communicate it as a leader?

HOW TO APPLY:

Go to www.lamar.edu/myscholarships
Under "Opportunities" search for the Martin Luther King Jr. Visionary Leader Scholarship
Complete and submit the general application

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- November 30th- Last Day to apply for scholarship
- January 7th- The scholarship recipient will be notified via email
- January 28th- Recipient will be honored at a breakfast (Your Attendance is Mandatory)
  - Location: Reaud Administration Building, Room #102
  - Time: 9:00 AM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL: WJACKSON10@LAMAR.EDU
Winner(s) will receive a one-time award of $500 that will be added to your fall 2020 LU financial aid packet.
Meet The Staff

Dr. Wilma Jackson
Executive Director of Diversity, Inclusive Excellence & Training

Dr. Ted Stuberfield
Director of Multicultural Student Retention Programs and Services

Ashley Iwunwanne
Coordinator (Student Retention)

Reality Boutte
Administrative Assistant

Justin Norris
Student Worker

Aurora Maldonado
Student Worker