

# DIVERSITY NEWS

— FALL 2018 | VOLUME 1 —

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I am pleased to introduce the first issue of the Office of Global Diversity and Inclusive Excellence (OGDIE) newsletter. The goal for this bi-annual newsletter is to recognize and celebrate diversity efforts across campus that advance a culture and climate that is inclusive, welcoming, respectful and fosters engaging dialogue. The newsletter also serves as a catalyst for featuring noteworthy programs and events that give voice to the total Lamar University experience.



As the new executive director of the Office of Global Diversity and Inclusive Excellence, I want to take this opportunity to welcome all our new faculty, staff and students and give them a big high five for choosing Lamar University to pursue your education and/or as your employer of choice. I also want to welcome back our current Lamar University community. I look forward to working with all of you in advancing a culture of inclusive excellence at Lamar University.

Respectfully,

Imelda Wicks

*Executive Director of Diversity, Inclusive Excellence & Training*

## 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.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## FOR FALL 2018

### **HISPANIC** *Heritage Month*

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, September 14, 2018 • 7 PM**  
**Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship**

### **DIA DE LOS MUERTOS**

The celebration honors the dead in a contemporary, unique and vibrant way, valuing ancestry, heritage and local efforts. Some of the Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead activities include ofrendas and altar displays, arts and crafts, Latin food, music and free entertainment for all ages.

**November 1, 2018 • 11:30 AM - 1 PM**  
**Setzer Student Center**

### **NATIVE AMERICAN** **HERITAGE MONTH**

Gekinoo'amaadiwin Film Series:  
Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance  
(119 min, 1993)

The goal of the film series is to challenge its audience to examine and discuss the issues of culture, identity and stereotypes of American Indian people.

**November 13, 2018 • 5:30 PM**  
**Setzer Student Center, Room 120**

### **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's Veterans Day Luncheon. Community members and family members of military veterans are invited to attend this luncheon.

**November 15, 2018 • 11:30 AM**  
**Plummer Room**

# TRAINING

Professional development is offered through the Office of Global Diversity and Inclusive Excellence to students, faculty and staff on issues related to diversity and inclusion.

To request training please complete a request form at [lamar.edu/diversity](http://lamar.edu/diversity)

## MULTIGENERATIONAL PROFESSIONALS EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GROUP

The Office of Global Diversity and Inclusive Excellence, in partnership with the Department of Human Resources, will launch its first Employee Resource Group (ERG) for multigenerational professionals.

The Multigenerational Professionals is an employee resource group for all Lamar University's employees and it will focus on the professional development of its members, provide development opportunities to enhance employee engagement, productivity and retention.

This group will be an important part of LU's diversity and inclusion strategies and it will be a great forum for recognizing and supporting the unique interests and needs of Lamar University's workforce. For more information on the university's ERG program and how you or your staff can get involved, please contact Imelda Wicks at (409)880-8216 or [GlobalDiversity@lamar.edu](mailto:GlobalDiversity@lamar.edu).

## COMING SOON

### GLOBAL LEADERS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW PROGRAM

Lamar University's Global Leaders of Today and Tomorrow is a seven month (fall and spring semesters) professional training program for students. The purpose of this program is to provide students with global competencies needed to be globally competitive in higher education and as future professionals in diverse workforce settings. Lamar University students who complete the global leaders' training will leave this institution not only with an exceptional degree, but also with the skills to compete in a global marketplace.

The Lamar Diversity Global Leaders of Today and Tomorrow program will consist of cohorts. The first cohort will be launched in Spring 2019. Each cohort will be offered to approximately 50 students at a time, with a curriculum of nine modules of 90 minutes on a variety of global diversity and inclusion issues, including but not limited to cultural intelligence, generation gap, cross-culture, race and ethnicity, and on other topics relevant to the needs of the community.

*Chinese New Year  
Celebration*



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**February 9, 2019 • 4 - 8 PM**  
**Dragon dance, Chinese food,  
traditional dances, games and  
much more!**

# MEET THE STAFF



## **Imelda Wicks**

*Executive Director*

Hi everyone! I am from Brownsville, TX. I started working at Lamar University in February 2018. Some of my previous roles as diversity and inclusion professional include working at the University of Texas at Brownsville, University of Texas Medical Branch and the University of Houston-/Clear Lake. Two of my hobbies include playing the piano and cycling.



## **Vicky Arce**

*Administrative Assistant*

Hi, I am Vicky! I am very excited to be joining the Lamar University family. I was born in Peru and recently moved to Beaumont, TX. One of my favorite things to do is to cook Peruvian food.



## **Reality Boutte**

*Work Study Student*

Hi everyone! I am Reality. I am a junior who is currently majoring in psychology. I love cultures and enjoy experiencing diversity through food, music, people, movies, languages and in every form and shape. Feel free to stop by and say hi to us at the OGDIE.

If you are interested in participating or volunteering your time for any of these events, please visit the Office of Global Diversity and Inclusive Excellence in the Wimberly Building Room 115C, email us at [GlobalDiversity@lamar.edu](mailto:GlobalDiversity@lamar.edu), or call (409)880-1732.

## *Work Study Student Vacancy*

If interested in working in our office, please stop by and request information on how to apply for this position.



DIVISION OF GLOBAL DIVERSITY,  
INCLUSION & INTERCULTURAL AFFAIRS  
**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**  
Office of Global Diversity & Inclusive Excellence

Any individual who needs to request a disability accommodation for any program or event should contact the Lamar University Disability Resource Center at Communication Building Room 105, email [drc@lamar.edu](mailto:drc@lamar.edu), call (409)880-8347, or visit their website at [lamar.edu/drc](http://lamar.edu/drc) at least a week prior to the start of the program.