As the fall semester wraps up, this issue of Diversity Outlook looks forward to the spring 2011 semester and several exciting events. Included in that, we are planning for the next Langston Hughes Visiting Professorship, who will be Dr. Clarence Lang from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. His campus-wide lecture is scheduled for February 24th. Final details will continue to emerge on the inaugural Spring Symposium on the Scholarship of Diversity, the framework from the diversity work group will be formulated, and the university steering committee on disabilities will become operational. In addition, we will be exploring the recruitment coordinator/ambassador position in southwest Kansas to better coordinate with various entities at KU. All of these initiatives depend upon the good work of so many dedicated and supportive colleagues—and for that I am most grateful.

In this issue, we acknowledge Steve Ramirez as KU’s ADA coordinator and point of contact. We also post the deadline for nominations of a future Langston Hughes Visiting Professorship—for spring 2012. We reaffirm the University’s commitment to being a fully inclusive campus community by highlighting the efforts to ensure that ADA compliance is being enhanced and strengthened and links to helpful reminders of the law.

On behalf of the KU community, enjoy the holiday season with family and friends.

Dr. Fred Rodriguez, Interim Associate Vice Provost for Diversity and Equity

KU STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

As a premier international research university, the University of Kansas is committed to an open, diverse and inclusive learning and working environment that nurtures the growth and development of all. KU holds steadfast in the belief that an array of values, interests, experiences, and intellectual and cultural viewpoints enrich learning and our workplace. The promotion of and support for a diverse and inclusive community of mutual respect require the engagement of the entire university.

REQUEST FOR RESEARCH POSTERS

The first Spring Symposium on the Scholarship of Diversity is set for March 14-15, 2011. Two prominent national leaders will give keynote presentations on the scholarship/research base in higher education. Invited KU faculty scholars will facilitate sessions around four themes: 1) structure/access; 2) climate; 3) curriculum; and 4) institutional transformation/reform.

In addition, the committee is soliciting presenters for the March 14th evening poster session; submission deadline is Feb. 1. Participants will display their research in exhibition format. Find more information and submission guidelines at: www.diversity.ku.edu.

STEVE RAMIREZ
KU’S ADA COORDINATOR

Steve serves as the primary contact for all matters pertaining to ADA on the Lawrence campus. Please contact him at 864-4946 or sjr@ku.edu

It is everyone’s role and responsibility to make this the most inclusive campus possible. Thank you for making KU a special place! Additional resources are at ku.edu/policies_procedures/eo_ao/ada and ADA.gov.
DIVERSITY OUTLOOK • THE NEWSLETTER OF CAMPUS DIVERSITY

THE SCHOLARSHIP OF DIVERSITY: A RESEARCH SYNOPSIS

A National Milestone

This fall marks the 35th anniversary of The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This landmark legislation opened school doors for millions of students with disabilities. IDEA has improved with age through field-based research, personnel preparation, advocacy, and legislative reauthorization. Today, students with disabilities achieve educational outcomes that were impossible to imagine three decades ago. This academic year, more than 6.6 million infants, toddlers, children, and youth will receive IDEA-based services to facilitate their learning. Next spring more young adults with disabilities will graduate from U.S. high schools, technical schools, and colleges across the country than ever before.

(KU Dept of Special Education)

A LOOK BACK IN TIME

“Clearly there can be no place in this university for bigotry, intolerance, racial or sexual discrimination, anti-Semitism, and the like. These are the products of closed minds. As a university, we must allow sometimes uncomfortable expression or controversial ideas and discoveries. But we have no obligation to provide a forum for the worn-out tokens of fear, ignorance, and prejudice.

Further, there is no room in this university for those who would use coercion, physical or psychological, against other members or guests of this community. No one is obligated here to agree with everything said or written. No one is obligated to attend forums in which personally unwelcome ideas are expressed. But by accepting membership in this community, each of us also assumes an obligation of seeing that those forums are available and that they are conducted without interference.

With the freedom we must have, we require also diversity—diversity of backgrounds, training, and point-of-view; diversity of disciplines; and diversity among our students. Without it, we would gradually stagnate. Without it, our hope for the future would be very grim indeed.”


NOMINATE A HUGHES PROFESSOR

Nominations are solicited for the Langston Hughes Visiting Professorship for Spring 2012. Faculty may nominate, but coordination at the chair/dean level is strongly recommended; a unit may nominate more than one candidate.

The Langston Hughes Professor teaches two courses and gives a public lecture in their discipline. The award includes a stipend, travel allowance, and furnished apartment near campus. Since 1977 the professorship has brought scholars in a range of disciplines to campus in honor of Langston Hughes, the African American writer who lived in Lawrence ages 1 to 12 (1903-1916).

Send nominations (letter from the candidate, resume, support letter from chair/dean of KU unit) to Fred Rodriguez, 250 Strong Hall, by Monday, January 24.

FEBRUARY

17 First-ever KU Staff Leadership Summit

see boxed item below

24 Langston Hughes Visiting Professor Lecture

Dr. Clarence Lang, University of Illinois. C-U

MARCH

14-15 Spring Symposium on Scholarship of Diversity

Kansas Memorial Union

“Staff Learning & Development” is a new online clearinghouse of university resources to help staff to identify and participate in individual and organizational development opportunities. Read the Provost’s message and explore options at sld.ku.edu.

Johnny Kim, assistant professor of social welfare, specializes in helping correct problem behavior by focusing on what the person does right, not only on the problem. In a KU YouTube video Kim discusses solution-focused brief therapy and how it can be used in schools in a program known as WOWW (working on what works) intervention. Check it out KUyoutube.com/Kim

A COLLEAGUE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

RESOURCE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spend a day networking, learning new skills, and energizing! Free and open to all KU staff—support staff to administrators (limited to 200 participants, lunch included), February 17, 2011, 8a–3p

Details and registration: sld.ku.edu/summit

Funded by Office of the Provost and Human Resources /Equal Opportunity. Coordinated by KU’s Staff Learning & Development Council; www.sld.ku.edu

UPDATES AND MORE AT WWW.DIVERSITY.KU.EDU