I am taking this opportunity to thank those who helped plan, those who presented, and certainly all who attended the inaugural Spring Symposium on the Scholarship of Diversity in March. There were 135 registered participants, and both the response and all indications are hopeful to continue and advance this as an annual event for the KU campus community. The two national keynote speakers were videotaped; you will soon be able to view their talks on the Diversity & Equity website.

The spring 2012 Langston Hughes Visiting Professor has been selected: Professor Tammy Kernodle of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. A musicologist, Professor Kernodle will be the LHVP in KU’s American Studies department.

Filling the position of senior recruitment coordinator & outreach (located in Garden City, KS) is progressing. The search committee members are reviewing the applicant pool and plan to identify the successful candidate by early May.

The interactive theatre troupe continues to perform across campus, and I am pleased to announce that we were recently provided some additional support from a Ford Foundation grant in collaboration with the University of Missouri, Columbia, to help continue and expand this effort.

Planning advances with University Relations on developing a recruitment video for KU faculty and staff. It is our intention that all departments, schools and programs may use this video for recruitment efforts in the near future.

The task force on diversity planning meets one more time this spring to review a recruitment, retention and professional development plan that has been discussed as a collaborative strategy for KU and, specifically, the Office of Diversity & Equity.

We are approaching that time of the spring semester where the recognition of faculty, staff, and students occurs in various programs, banquets and ceremonies. It is also a time to begin to reflect upon the academic year and celebrate those accomplishments and progress that have been made. Too often, we don’t take the time to celebrate what we have done—so congratulations to everyone for a good year!

**VISITING FACULTY MEMBER**

Teresa Trumbly Lamsam is a visiting associate professor in the KU School of Journalism & Mass Communications through the 2011-12 academic year. Dr. Lamsam is on leave from the Native American Studies Program and the School of Communications at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. While at KU she is doing outreach to Native American communities and continuing her research on developing a news model of historical trauma. She also is exploring grant opportunities with Native American health communities.

Dr. Lamsam has been editor of *The Osage Nation News* and has over a decade’s experience in print journalism and communications in the U.S., Europe and southeast Asia. A native Osage, she was one of nine 2008 fellows for the Journalism Leadership in Diversity program sponsored by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications.

Verify inclusiveness of KU diversity initiatives

A KU work group identified five areas for diversity initiatives last year: Office/Centers; Program; Events; Outreach; and Organizations/Councils. Please click here to check that your entity is included and that all information is correct. If not, please contact Fred Rodriguez.
CHECK OUT THIS ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE

The National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE) has an online career center that is now available. Job seekers may post a resume or vitae at no cost, and employers or search firms can both post positions and view resumes.

INVITE TO GENERAL MEETING OF KU LAMBDA COUNCIL

All gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and allied faculty and staff are invited to bring their lunch and attend this meeting to meet the Executive Committee, discuss campus progress on LGBT issues, and set the agenda for the coming year: Tues., April 26, 11:30-1:00, Jayhawk Room of the Kansas Union.

SCHOLARSHIP OF DIVERSITY SYNOPSIS

The source of the research in this excerpt may surprise you: Research shows that diverse viewpoints generate lively debate that can create new ideas. College campuses provide an ideal environment for everyone to gain invaluable exposure to new ideas. Based upon output from a series of roundtable/research forums, we’ve outlined and identified the following leading practices to drive change in building an inclusive university, from classroom to culture: 1) Institutional commitment and accountability; 2) Curriculum development; 3) Student recruitment and retention; and 4) Faculty recruitment and retention. . . . Driving change to better prepare students to compete in the globalized landscape requires three essential building blocks: Make diversity and inclusiveness a priority by establishing targets and goals; implementing diversity councils; collecting and analyzing recruitment and retention efforts; and leveraging stakeholders to help drive change. Be creative in your recruitment and development efforts to reach under-represented populations, and continue to attract diverse faculty and staff to serve as role models. And finally, Create a more inclusive campus environment. Building diversity and inclusiveness takes long-term commitment. Simply adding numbers isn’t enough. Companies, colleges, and countries with a strong diverse and inclusive culture will have a competitive advantage. Together, they help foster long-term economic and job growth for all.

Source: Ernst & Young, 2011 “Is Your Campus Environment Inclusive? Preparing students for the global, diverse workplace.” Click for PDF