



# Diversity Digest

## Letter from the Director

Greetings!

Fall is here and you can feel it as you hear the leaves crunching underfoot walking around campus and see the beautiful foliage all around. During this time, midterms have –hopefully – passed for most of you and registration for spring semester is in full swing. It may seem like the semester is quickly coming to a close; however, the last few weeks still have much to offer in terms of programming and activity around campus. So, be sure to check out all the calendars that are highlighted in the newsletter and also the clubs and organizations that relate to your major.

Most importantly, remember to keep your eye on those grades as you make it through the last weeks of the semester toward the earned rest of winter break. Also, be sure to schedule your appointment with your advisor if you have not done so already to discuss your spring schedule and to schedule your classes during your allotted time.

A huge thank you to the devoted team of Student Diversity Initiatives interns who worked to make this semester a successful one: Jasmine Altherr, Alejandra Duran Trinidad, Evienne Epifano and Kat Valle.

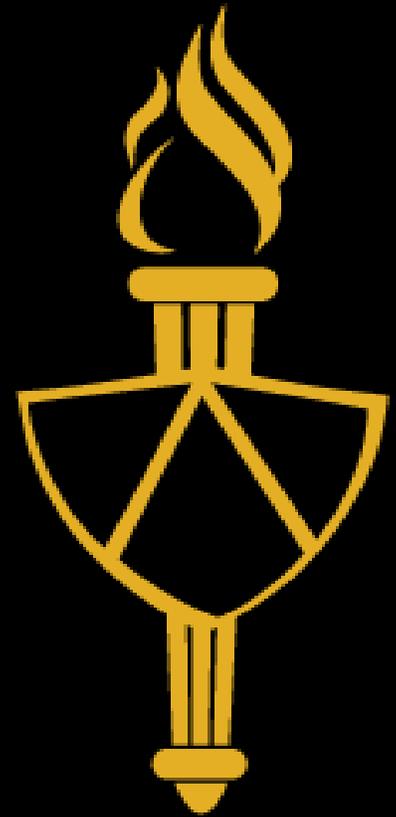
On behalf of the Student Diversity Initiatives department, enjoy the rest of fall semester and Boiler UP!

Lupita.

We look forward to students making contributions and suggestions to our newsletter.

You can find us on our website at: <http://www.cla.purdue.edu/resources/diversity/>.

We are also on Facebook: [Student Diversity Initiatives with Purdue College of Liberal Arts](#).



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### Follow Us On:



# DRIVEN Semester Update



Let DRIVEN  
Cure Your  
Monday Blues!!!!  
#DRIVENMONDAYS

Mondays  
Beering 1254  
6pm-7pm

Diversity Retention Initiatives thru Volunteering Education  
& Networking

DRIVEN stands for Diversity and Retention initiatives through Volunteering Education, and Networking. It is a student organization that began in August 2004 in the College of Liberal Arts. The organization's mission is to provide multicultural students with networking, mentoring, educational opportunities, and leadership skills that will improve the range of contact

faculty, and multicultural Liberal Arts students. 3). Stimulate public awareness of the Liberal Arts departments and the opportunities for students in the field of Liberal Arts.

DRIVEN is also a great organization to help build a community of support and friendships. Through the many volunteering activities, such as volunteering at animal shelters and the Hanna Community center, and

*"Diversity and Retention Initiatives through Volunteering Education, and Networking."*

opportunities and success upon graduation as well as in academics through college.

This semester, DRIVEN will focus intensely on the following goals:

1). Strive to provide academic services to Liberal Arts students. Encourage scholarly and professional attitudes and performances among Liberal Arts students. 2). Strengthen the relationship between the community,

campus-affiliated events in which DRIVEN participates, like homecoming, students are able to build such a community.

Meetings for DRIVEN are on Mondays from 6pm-7pm in BRNG 1254. Stop by and see for yourself what this organization is all about!

Follow DRIVEN on Facebook and Twitter:

<https://www.facebook.com/PurdueDriven>

<https://twitter.com/PurdueDRIVEN>

## Upcoming D.R.I.V.E.N. Events

- ◆ Skip-a-meal at Orange Leaf
- ◆ CCO Resume Building Presentation
- ◆ Grad School Application Presentation
- ◆ Hanna Community Center Thanksgiving Dinner (Volunteering) Nov. 22 & 23.





## Studying Abroad for CLA Students

Studying abroad is an incredibly rewarding and gratifying experience where one has the opportunity to expand their cultural awareness and insights. That being said, it can be somewhat difficult getting started in the studying abroad process and knowing where to begin. Fortunately, Purdue University offers a multitude of resources available to students that are considering studying abroad. One of these resources includes the Study Abroad website ([www.studyabroad.purdue.edu](http://www.studyabroad.purdue.edu)) which contains all of the knowledge that one would need to learn more information about studying abroad. This would be the best place to begin looking for study abroad programs.

After signing into the website, it is possible for one to complete their own unique program search, which helps to narrow down potential programs according to location, college, and duration of program.

In addition to the website, there is also the Study Abroad Office, which is located in Young Hall, Room 105. This resource is incredibly helpful in the study abroad process. At the Study Abroad Office, there are advisors who can help to answer any questions that one would have and explain the different types of programs avail-

able. Also, they offer walk in appointments from 10 am-4 pm Monday through Thursday.

For those interested in studying abroad, there are many different grants and scholarships available to students. Students can receive a grant of \$1,000 for four weeks abroad, \$2,000 for 6 weeks abroad, and \$3,000 for a semester abroad. These grants are a great opportunity to receive financial assistance. One would apply for these grants after signing up for their specific program, and most students who apply for the grants receive them! There may also be additional scholarships or grants for your corresponding program.

Students can also make an appointment with Elizabeth Diaz or Margaret Stanny, who work in Study Abroad and International Programs for CLA. They are a great resource and can offer a multitude of important information and suggestions regarding specific study abroad programs. They are located in Beering Hall, Room 1114.

Currently, there are many opportunities for students within the College of Liberal Arts to study abroad. Take advantage of all of the resources offered here at Purdue!

## Helpful Resources for Study Abroad

- ◆ The Study Abroad website features a search engine tool where you can search by country and/or duration.
- ◆ The Study Abroad Office is located on the first floor of Young Hall, room 105.
- ◆ Walk-ins at the Study Abroad Office are welcome: **Mon-Thurs 10 am-4 pm**



# Cultural Centers on Campus

Purdue University is home to a very rich and diverse student body and boasts one of the largest populations of international students. In this varied environment it is important to become educated about the people around you and immerse yourself in their cultures. From here you can have a better understanding of your peers and increase social interaction with those outside your own race, gender, ethnicity, or culture. There are many ways to do this, but you can start by visiting one of the four main cultural centers located on campus.

## The Black Cultural Center (BCC)

Located on Third Street, the BCC is the beating heart of the African American community on campus. According to Dr. Gass, the program manager, “The BCC serves as a home away from home for students of African descent that provides a nurturing environment where they can grow academically, socially, and culturally as they prepare to transition to successful careers in a competitive global workplace.”

The center hosts several cultural programs, seminars, and events that are welcoming to all. They offer an ITaP lab, a library, and plenty of space for students to study or meet with friends. Currently, the center is working on several projects which revolve around the theme “Unmasking Blackness through Rhythm, Culture & Celebration.” This has included events such as the Masquerade Ball and will conclude with the Cultural Arts Festival at the end of the semester. Lastly the center itself “is architecturally designed to pay tribute to the history, creativity, and ingenuity of people of African descent,” said Gass.



Top to bottom: LCC & BCC



## The Latino Cultural Center

The Latino Cultural Center (LCC) on Russell St. is a resource for Latino students to learn more about their culture and celebrate it with the larger Purdue and West Lafayette/Lafayette communities. The LCC provides support and opportunity to Latino students to prepare them with the leadership and cultural skills that will help them in their future endeavors. Currently, the LCC has an ambassador program, a series of speakers, and several community service activities in place to involve students. In addition, there is a computer lab with free printing, a meeting room, a kitchen, and a spacious living room adequate to study or meet with friends.

This year, the LCC has a new director, Aurelio Curbelo. He is enthusiastic to spread Latino culture to all students on campus and warmly invites all to “stop by and visit us. We will be delighted to welcome you as part of our great Familia at Purdue University.”



Aurelio Curbelo Ph.D.  
Director, Latino Cultural Center

## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Queer Center (LGBTQ)

The LGBTQ center lies closer to students on the Engineering side of campus in Schleman Hall. The center promotes a discrimination-free environment with numerous events, engaging lecture series, and several training opportunities. The center advocates for a community free of judgment and prejudice as it promotes learning and understanding within the Purdue campus. It offers students a safe zone where they can always feel welcome and free to be themselves. Within the center, students can find an extensive print and media library as well as historical artifacts and artwork that portray a less well-known history.

## Native American Educational & Cultural Center (NAECC)

In comparison, the NAECC offers a more laid back atmosphere for students with Native American ancestry or any student that just wants to hang out. The NAECC is very busy preparing for the Native American Heritage Month of November. This will include many events such as discussions with visiting artists, a dinner and a movie, a cultural trip, and much more. The month will conclude with a closing ceremony featuring David R. Boxley. Visitors may find the engaging center and all of its programs on Harrison St.

## Fall Interns

Alejandra Durán Trinidad, Jasmine Altherr, Katalina Valle, and Evie Epifano are the Fall 2014 Interns for the College of Liberal Arts Student Diversity Initiatives. They have been working all semester improving social media presence, developing a marketing plan, and other related tasks for Student Diversity Initiatives as well as DRIVEN, a student-run diversity organization.



**The CLA Student Diversity Initiatives Team: Kat Valle, Evienne Epifano, Lupita Acosta-Roberts, Amanda Goodwin, Alejandra Durán Trinidad, and Jasmine Altherr.**

**Alejandra Durán Trinidad** is a sophomore at Purdue double majoring in Communication and Spanish, and minoring in Portuguese. Currently, she is the PR director for MAES (Latinos in Science and Engineering), a member of the Honors College and Honors College Steering Committee, a member of the Purdue Latin and Ballroom dance team, and has her own private music studio. She is originally from Mexico, but currently resides in Lafayette with her family. She is passionate about the communication field and hopes to specialize in public relations. In the future, she hopes to work for an international company or PR firm where she can utilize her language skills in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

*Fun Fact:* Alejandra loves learning foreign languages, especially the romance languages.

**Jasmine Altherr** is a senior majoring in Public Relations. She is from the small town of Tipton, Indiana. Previously, she was a mentor for Purdue Promise for two years where she helped first-year students in the scholarship program to become acclimated to college. She is currently a supervisor at Hillenbrand Dining Court, the vice president of the Association for Women in Communication (AWC), a member of PRSSA, and an account associate with Boiler Communications, a student run PR firm. She has also done extensive PR work while volunteering with the Tippecanoe Child Abuse Prevention Council. *Fun Fact:* Jasmine might be the only person in the universe that does not like chocolate.

**Kat Valle** is from Fishers, Indiana. She is currently majoring in Communication with a focus on Public Relations, and she plans on minoring in Management and Spanish. She is an Emerging Leaders Scholar. Currently a sophomore at Purdue, Kat loves getting involved on campus. She is a member of the Honors College, PASE (Purdue Alumni Student Experience), and a Student Mentor for the Honors Program. Kat is also actively involved in her sorority and volunteers in the local community. *Fun Fact:* Kat recently studied abroad in Siena, Italy. She traveled all around Tuscany and loved the authentic cuisine!

**Evie Epifano** is a senior with honors studying Political Science and Economics, with a concentration in Math, with minors in Philosophy and Communication. She has been involved in various leadership positions in campus organizations including Boiler Gold Rush and Purdue University Dance Marathon. In addition to her internship, Evie also currently works in the main office of the McCutcheon Residence Hall. After graduating this coming May, Evie hopes to gain full-time employment working in sales or marketing.

*Fun Fact:* Evie has read all of the Harry Potter books at least twice.