



Intergroup Relations Center

Office of the Executive Vice-President and Provost

E-News 1.1 – Fall 2004

| www.asu.edu/irc | 480.965.1574 | asurirc@asu.edu



photo by Tim Trumble

From the Director...

I am delighted to welcome you to our inaugural IRC e-newsletter, a vehicle we will use for communicating to you the excitement of our programming for this year and the new directions we will be pursuing.

I am new to the Center, having begun my position as the Director of the IRC this summer. However, I have been an ally of the IRC since its inception. I am very happy to report that over the past two months, the IRC staff has been busy charting our course for the future. Our goal is to meet fully the mission of our Center--to provide training and education, create a clearinghouse for diversity resources, and conduct and support research on intergroup relations. As a university-wide unit, we serve all constituencies (students, faculty, staff, administration, and the broader community) in an effort to promote a campus and community climate characterized by inclusion and social justice.

We are bolstering and maintaining a commitment to some of our classic in-house programs (e.g., Voices of Discovery, Diversity Summit Series, Women's Collective), as well as continuing our work on collaborative campus ventures focused on diversity (e.g., Tunnel of Oppression, student success courses). Additionally, we are excited about our efforts in increasing our research portfolio (read about our Ford grant in this issue) and strengthening our connection to the academic side of our institution.

In future installments of the newsletter, we will describe models of excellence that we have adopted to guide our work, new programs and collaborations, and opportunities for involvement available to you. Welcome to our communication network. I invite you to stay linked to the IRC by reading our newsletter, visiting our website, and calling us or visiting our office with questions, ideas, and recommendations. Remember, our connection to individuals and organizations allows our work to be grounded in the needs of our community. Stay connected!

—Dr. Delia S. Saenz

Tunnel of Oppression marks 10th Anniversary at ASU

On November 8th & 9th, the Tempe campus Memorial Union will host an expected 2500 participants through the 10th annual Tunnel. Sponsored by the Tunnel of Oppression Student Organization, the IRC and the Community Service Program, the Tunnel welcomes students, faculty, staff and community members to an experiential reminder that acts of prejudice, discrimination and oppression still exist, and that positive changes are still needed within and among our communities.

The guided tour takes approximately 30 minutes, during which participants observe role-plays, multimedia and other exhibits that promote awareness of violence and prejudice toward different groups, and challenge individuals to re-think their own stereotypes.

At the end of the tour, participants participate in a brief, facilitated dialogue on the experience before having the opportunity to express their reflections through word or art in a "Reaction Gallery." Participants can also gather information on campus and community resources and involvement opportunities around issues of diversity and social justice.

The Tunnel of Oppression will run 10am to 9pm both days. Individuals are welcome at any time. Reservations are suggested for classes or groups of five or more. For details, visit www.asu.edu/irc/progserv/tunnel.html.

The E-News is a semi-annual publication of the Intergroup Relations Center. For an on-line version and additional information on IRC programs, people and other resources, visit www.asu.edu/irc. To subscribe to E-News, send an email message with your name and email address to: asurirc@asu.edu.

IRC Education & Training

In addition to its flagship **Voices of Discovery intergroup dialogue program**, the IRC is also piloting two dialogue courses in cooperation with the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication. The COM 394: Special Topics courses are implementing new curricula on gender and race/ ethnicity dialogues that will eventually be used in a 12-institution, national study of intergroup dialogues. Similar courses will be offered in coming semesters as well. Watch for details!

IRC Research

Delia Saenz and Kathleen Wong(Lau) of the IRC, along with Caroline Turner (College of Education) have been awarded a **\$300,000 grant from the Ford Foundation** to examine the role of the diversity and the professoriate in 20 public research extensive universities across the nation. The research project, "Diversification and the Academy" will track changes in diversification practices related to recent critical Supreme Court cases, and will also examine the experiences of women of color faculty. This project is one of several that have been undertaken by the Women of Color Research Collective (described below), which is based at ASU.

DIVERSITY QUICK FACTS

ASU's tenured and tenure-track faculty compares to the larger state population demographics as follows:

Group	State of AZ	ASU Faculty
African American	159,050 (3.1%)	42 (2.7%)
American Indian	256,532 (5.0%)	17 (1.1%)
Asian American	92,351 (1.8%)	127 (8.3%)
Hispanic	1,298,050 (25.3%)	112 (7.3%)
White	3,273,343 (63.8%)	1,241(80.6%)
Multiracial	14.5%	xxx*
Total	5,130,632	1,539

Percentage totals do not equal to 100% due to rounding and, for Census data, due to multiple identification option.

* ASU does not collect/report a multiracial employee category.

Sources: ASU 2003 Minority Review report (www.asu.edu/uoi/pubs/minority/TOTAL.pdf) and US Census 2000 data (<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd>).

IRC National Collaborations

The **Women of Color Research Collective (WoCRC)** is a national consortium of researchers and higher education administrators whose main activities involve research on the participation, contributions, and experiences of women of color in higher education, as well as identification and development of best practices in the area of diversification and the academy. One of the first projects of WoCRC is the above-mentioned Ford Foundation funded research project. WoCRC is supported programmatically by the IRC, and institutionally by the Office of the Provost. Kathleen Wong(Lau) serves as the executive director.

This past June, the IRC and the American Jewish Committee co-sponsored the 2nd annual **Conference on Anti-Bias Education Programs ("ABEC")**. The event brought together scholars and practitioners in the broad field of anti-bias education to network, share best practices and better inform one another's work. Coming out of this physical gathering, the Anti-Bias Education Network is being created, intending to provide ongoing, e-connections among those with an interest in the study and practice of anti-bias education. For more information, resources and/or to join the network, visit www.asu.edu/irc/abec



IRC Resources

The IRC's newest initiative premiered this fall: the **Ally Leadership Series (ALS)**. This university-wide listing of programs and activities that support diversity, intergroup relations, and social justice, provides a convenient compilation of activities for students, faculty and staff. To view the current calendar, and/or to submit your event for posting, visit www.asu.edu/irc/als.html.

IRC Community Links

The IRC again co-sponsored the **ASU Gold Team**, which for the fourth time in five years was the largest team participant in the annual Komen Phoenix Race for the Cure®! Thanks to all who have registered, and to team captains Maureen Duane and Sherrie Loomis for their leadership!

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