



Weekly Updates from The UConn Office for Diversity & Inclusion

*Welcome Back,
Huskies!*

Have a great year!



The Office for Diversity and Inclusion is excited for the return to campus for students, staff, and faculty!

As we embark on the fall 2022 semester, ODI wants to remind you that you belong here and that UConn is stronger for having you. We look forward to working alongside each of you this year to continue moving the needle on UConn's campus climate.



UConn's University-Wide Diversity Website is Live!

Last spring, the Office for Diversity and Inclusion's Central Office launched UConn's university-wide website dedicated to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ). This website is a one-stop shop for diversity-related resource at UConn, including:

- Anti-Racism Resources
- Access to Trainings and Workshops
- Access to DEIJ Research across UConn
- Important information on Safety, Support, and Wellness
- Resources for faculty, staff, graduate students, undergraduate students, international students, prospective students, and alumni
- Reading recommendations
- The Higher Education Anti-Racist Teaching Podcast (HEART)
- and more!

We also house our diversity-related communications and events on this page. Make sure you check it out!

The Rainbow Center Launches the Lavender Resiliency Collective

UConn Student Health and Wellness (SHaw) and the Rainbow Center are proud to announce the Lavender Resiliency Collective! This educational support group meets on Tuesday evenings and is open to all undergraduate students who identify as LGBTQIA+.



Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation

Hispanic Heritage Month at the Hartford Campus

UConn Hartford, UConn School of Law, and UConn School of Social Work will be sponsoring a Hispanic and Latino/a/x Heritage Month event at the Hartford Public Library. Enjoy networking, live music, light refreshments, and hearing from our featured speaker.

Please RSVP by September 13.

[Info and RSVP Here](#)

Division of Student Affairs

UConn Interfaith Expression Challenge

The **UConn Faith and Expression Challenge** is an opportunity to learn from and collaborate with different student organizations with the goal of developing a plan to learn from each other.

This thought exchange amongst student organizations will move

quickly to allow ideas to be implemented this year. All semi-finalists will be invited to a dinner on October 19, 2022 where the winners will be announced.

[See More Info Here](#)

studentaffairs.uconn.edu/uconn-faith-and-expression-challenge/

A promotional poster for the UConn Faith & Expression Challenge. At the top, a group of diverse students is shown in a celebratory pose. Below them, the text 'EXPLORE New Beliefs & Traditions' is written in a stylized font. The main title 'UConn FAITH & EXPRESSION CHALLENGE' is prominently displayed. The poster outlines a three-step process: 'Connect' (with up to 4 student organizations), 'Develop' (ideas that celebrate differences), and 'Share' (presenting ideas to a steering committee). It includes a QR code and a note that all registered student organizations are welcome. Three circular inset images show students engaged in various activities related to the challenge.

EXPLORE
New Beliefs & Traditions

UConn FAITH & EXPRESSION CHALLENGE

Connect
with up to 4 student different organizations

Develop...
Ideas that strive to celebrate differences
amongst ALL student organizations
Innovation & Creativity Welcome!

Share...
Your groups idea with the Steering Committee
made up of faculty, staff and students. 3-4
proposals will be chosen this academic year to
be developed and implemented

All Registered Students Orgs Welcome

One-Credit Courses on DEIJ for Students

As part of its educational mission, UConn offers several one-credit courses each year that address DEIJ-related topics. This fall, two of these courses will be offered:

- **Confronting Anti-Asian Racism. UNIV-3088, SEC001, Class# 16594** (contact: antiasianracism@uconn.edu)
- **Climate Crisis: Take Action. UNIV-3088 - SEC002, Class# 16595** (contact: climateaction@uconn.edu)

These courses are online and do not have set meeting times. Registration is available on Student Admin through September 12th. See links below for more information!

[Confronting Anti-Asian Racism](#)

[Climate Crisis: Take Action](#)

One-Credit Courses on DEIJ for Faculty and Staff

Faculty and staff may now enroll in self-paced versions of two online courses originally offered to UConn students in the Spring 2022 semester. *Confronting Anti-Asian Racism* and *Why the Jews? Confronting Antisemitism* explore stereotypes, bias, hatred, and racism toward these groups; examine history, including recent events; and introduce ways to confront the negative attitudes and actions in today's world.

Developed by University faculty, the courses are free to all faculty and staff. They are self-paced so that participants can complete them as time allows and, upon successful completion, a printable certificate is available within each of the courses. Click the button below for more information.

AACC Director Dr. Price Retires

Please join the Office for Diversity and Inclusion in extending best wishes to Dr. Willena Kimpson Price, who retired from the University on June 30, 2022. As the Director of the H. Fred Simons African American Cultural Center (AACC) since 1993, Dr. Price has been a tireless advocate for the African American community at UConn. She has guided the AACC over the years as it has created cutting-edge programming and services in response to the changing needs of new generations of African American students who matriculate to UConn and has guided expanded efforts to serve the local communities UConn serves. Her work has been recognized by the NAACP, Hartford and Springfield, former Governor Dannel P. Malloy, and the University.

Dr. Price will be greatly missed by students and colleagues alike; we have all benefited from the important work she has done to improve UConn's campus climate. ODI will hold an event this fall to celebrate her 29-year career at UConn. We invite the entire UConn community to come express their appreciation for her and the important work she has done with and for the AACC. Thank you, Dr. Price! ODI wishes you all the best in your retirement.

ODI will begin the process of finding a successor to Dr. Price during the 2022–2023 academic year. During the Fall 2022 semester, the AACC's will undergo a routine external review to assess its current programming and initiatives and to help guide future efforts to effectively meet the ongoing needs of the Black and African American communities at UConn. In January 2023, ODI will conduct a nationwide search for Dr. Price's successor; ODI aims to install the new director by the end of spring of 2023. ODI and the AACC are excited to find new opportunities to serve the UConn community. We are also excited about the team who is stepping in during this transition period to guide the AACC's efforts for the 2022–2023 academic year. This team will report to Vice President / Chief Diversity Officer Frank Tuitt:

- [Dr. Evelyn Simien](#) will serve as the **ODI Faculty Fellow assigned to the AACC**. Dr. Simien is a Professor of Political Science and is also affiliated with the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and American Studies programs.
- [Carl Dean, Jr.](#) will serve as the **AACC's Interim Associate Director for Student Programs**. Carl brings eighteen years of experience in student development in academics, leadership, and personal and professional growth, including as the Assistant Director and Counselor for Student Support Services in Storrs.

- [Velda Alfred-Abney](#) will serve as the **AACC's Interim Assistant Director for Operations**. Velda brings twenty-three years of experience to the role after having worked as a Program Coordinator for the Engineering Diversity and Outreach Center and as the Executive Assistant for Vice President / Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Frank Tuitt.

Welcome, Dr. Simien, Carl, and Velda! We're excited to work alongside you!

Please direct any questions about the AACC Director search to VP/CDO Dr. Frank Tuitt at franklin.tuitt@uconn.edu.

For any questions concerning the AACC's operations, please contact Velda Alfred-Abney at velda.alfred@uconn.edu. Any questions about student programs, support, and development can be directed to Carl Dean at carl.dean_jr@uconn.edu. Finally, all questions about AACC-related trainings and presentations should be directed to Dr. Simien evelyn.simien@uconn.edu.

Would You Like to Share an Event, Class or Opportunity?

Please submit using the link below by the Thursday prior to the event/class/ opportunity. ODI Updates are shared with our ListServ weekly. Please email diversity@uconn.edu if you have any questions.

[Click Here to Submit](#)

UConn Office for Diversity & Inclusion

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