

The Student Affairs Diversity Council (SADC) strives to cultivate an environment that embraces and promotes the broad scope of diversity within the division.

## SADC: On Why Diversity is Important On Our Campus?



During the current academic year, we will feature articles written by many of the leaders within Student Affairs covering a range of topics concerning diversity and why it is so important to create a diverse and inclusive environment on campus.

We thought we would introduce the current Student Affairs Diversity Council by providing our brief thoughts on why diversity is important on our campus.

“The University is one of few places where we benefit from living in a global community. Respecting differences can enhance our education beyond the classroom and teach us all about making the world a better and safer place for everyone.” -Debra Daniels, Co-chair Women’s Resource Center

“For many students, college is the first time they are confronted with the fact that most people don’t look, act, think or believe as they do. Our job is to help them celebrate rather than fear this fact.” -Kari Ellingson, Co-chair Student Development

“I find it hard to learn and grow without continually challenging my existing thoughts and paradigms. I can think of no better way to do that than with a diverse group of peers, friends, teachers, and mentors.” -Michael Bard, Registrar’s Office

“The U is a research one institution. Diversity is crucial to fostering critical thinking. What a boring campus this would be if we were all the same.” -Karen Cone-Uemura, Counseling Center

“The diversity of cultures, thought, perspectives and individuals helps to advance any population. This is particularly true in the case of an institution of higher learning. Without diverse opinions and without recognizing as well as celebrating difference, we become an echo chamber in which one outspoken opinion becomes a widely accepted truth. This causes stagnation and hinders progress.” -Branden Dalley, Union Administration

“Diversity is a vital component to fostering members of our society that are actively engaged in meaningful community dialogue, change, and action.” -Kris Fenn, Bennion Center

“Through open dialogue we have the opportunity to create a safe environment which strengthens acceptance, respect, and knowledge for all cultures.” -Marci Healy, Conference & Guest Services

“Diversity is an essential component of a college campus learning environment. Students and staff need to hear and experience differing perspectives in order to truly understand the full human experience.” -Scott Jensen, Housing & Residential Education

“Diversity conversations are important to our campus because it is how we come to learn about and appreciate one another.” -Trisha Jensen, Orientation & Leadership Development

“Everyone being the same is boring!” -Suzanne Jones, Registrar’s Office

“Education is for all. The educated community must reflect the

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## Cont. “Importance of Diversity”

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entire community. Knowledge knows no boundaries and education shouldn't have any either.” -Chris Macias, TRIO

“Diversity on campus is critical to make everyone feel welcome, at home, and safe. Diversity generates value in differences which will impact campus climate as a whole.” -Carol MacNicholl, Center for Disability Services

“It is my belief that beauty of diversity at the University of Utah encompasses a multiplicity of interests and experiences, intellectual and cultural perspectives which enrich the educational experiences of the entire campus and greater community.” -Pablo Martinez, Office of Admissions

“It prepares us for a changing society. It is essential to creating access.” -Kai Medina-Martinez, LGBT Center

“Diversity is important on this campus because it provides a more in-depth and well-rounded education and experience for our students.” -Susan Miller, Campus Recreation

“Diversity to me means realizing what everyone brings to the table and how it helps to make sense of the world around us. Without it, we are deprived of so many opportunities and experiences that would help to enrich and enhance our own lives.” -Sana Muller, ASUU

“Diversity is important on this campus because it fosters the idea of inclusiveness regardless of one's personal beliefs. This inclusive thinking will carry on through personal and professional life, which aides in creating stronger communities.” -Rachana Patel, Office of Admissions

“The University experience should prepare all students to be engaged in a relevant way in the global community after graduation. Diversity is inherently important in this goal.” - Cynthia Powell, Student Health Center

“Students thrive when they feel included and welcomed at our institution. It's by broadening our understanding of inclusion that we can see our students grow and develop into the leaders that will carry us forward.” -Valery Pozo, Career Services

“Diversity is important to create an inclusive campus that empowers all individuals to reach their potential in a safe space, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, ability, sexual orientation, etc.” -Erica Rojas, Financial Aid & Scholarships

“Diversity is integral to intellectual growth and academic excellence, particularly as we learn from individuals whose perspectives, experiences, and subject-positions are vastly different. It challenges us to (re)consider preconceived assumptions. Moreover, as we think about inclusion and equity on our campus/institution, we are only a fraction of a greater landscape of national and global citizens from all walks of life.” - Belinda Otukolo Saltiban, Diversity & Inclusion

“The reason I advocate for diversity education at an institution of higher education is that it is our responsibility as educators to create a safe space for all students to feel safe in an academic environment, affirm their life experiences that define their character, and further the advancement of a multicultural community.” -Adam Sibenaller, HRE, AREC

## Pen Name Series: Calling for Submissions

Do you have a story or experience related to diversity that you would like to share but feel intimidated for various reasons by the idea of having your name and picture published along with it? This may be your chance to positively contribute to the discussions currently taking place in Student Affairs by providing a story that will help drive further conversation, as well as provoke thought and growth opportunities.

We are looking for submissions this academic year to run in this newsletter. Submitted articles must be no longer than 500 words in length, be pertinent to the subject of diversity, and provide a respectful, thought provoking experience for your fellow readers. Stories will be selected and published based on the above criteria and provided that there is room in the upcoming edition of the newsletter.



**To submit your story, email it to the newsletter editor, [michael.bard@utah.edu](mailto:michael.bard@utah.edu).**

# Upcoming Events

## Documentary Screening:

### War Child

FREE

Tue., Sept. 10, 7pm

Broadway Cinemas



## Tongan Ark:

### Performance and Talk

Thurs., Sept. 12 9am

Saltaire, Room, Union



## John Prendergast:

### “A Changing Africa”

Wed., Sept. 11, 11am-12pm,

Libby Gardner Hall

## Utah’s Latino Americans—

### Screening of the new PBS series

Wed., Sept. 11 7-8:30pm,

The City Library

## Utah’s Ongoing Demographic Transformation: Our Changing Campus Community

Presenter: Pam Perlich, Senior Research Economist at the Bureau of Economic and Business Research

Location: Pano East, Union



We are witnesses to and participants in a great demographic, economic, and cultural transformation. The dynamics driving this change originate from our increasing interconnectedness with the rest of the world, principally through markets, technology, and migrations of people. Although markets are often portrayed as mechanical processes, in reality they are ways of organizing complex networks of human actions and interactions. Similarly, expanding networks of near-instantaneous communication connect us to people and ideas globally. Finally, the greater frequency and volume of long-distance migrations of people to Utah have introduced cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and intellectual diversity that has catalyzed creative synergies and new cross-cultural collaborations. However, the confluence and interplay of all these dynamics is coincident with increasing economic inequality. Importantly, patterns of this emerging complexity and diversity vary dramatically by neighborhood and community. We will consider the implications of this great, ongoing transformation on the composition and diversity of current and future University of Utah students.

## 2013 Sandy and Annie Dolowitz Lecture in Human Rights

Thur., Sept. 26, 4-6pm,

Eccles Auditorium

## Screening of “The Reader”

Fri., Sep 27, 7pm,

Eccles Auditorium

For more information about these and other events, please visit:



[www.events.utah.edu](http://www.events.utah.edu)



Debra Daniels, Co-chair Women’s Resource Center  
Kari Ellingson, Co-chair Student Development  
Michael Bard, Registrar’s Office  
Karen Cone-Uemura, Counseling Center  
Branden Dalley, Union Administration  
Kris Fenn, Bennion Center  
Marcy Healy, Conference & Guest Services  
Scott Jensen, Housing & Residential Education  
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For more information and recourses, please visit:

[sadc.utah.edu](http://sadc.utah.edu)