Making History: IMR

In fall 2002, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Division of Student and Multicultural Affairs established the Institute on Multicultural Relations (IMR). The IMR is designed to address the needs and respond to the concerns of communities of color through research, public service, and information resource sharing. In partnership with faculty, staff, and community members, the Institute conducts scholarly research on issues affecting multicultural communities, serves as a clearinghouse of information, and distributes and publishes reports, studies, and papers in a broad range of topic areas. The Institute also conducts public forums for debate and discussion on policy and/or practices impacting multicultural populations.

Over thirty UWM faculty serve as IMR Scholars who direct the Institute’s activities. Upcoming events include An Evening with Dr. Cornel West on October 18, 2002, and an IMR Urban Think Tank Forum on issues in education slated for Spring 2003.

For more information, please access the IMR web site at www.imr.uwm.edu, or contact Gary L. Williams at (414) 229-5566.

The Epiphany is a quarterly newsletter published by the Department of Multicultural Affairs. For any comments or suggestions, please call (414) 229-5566.

An Evening with Dr. Cornel West

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Distinguished Lecture Series
Friday, October 18, 2002
8:00 p.m., Union Wisconsin Room
Advanced tickets available at UWM Bookstore

Dr. Cornel West, a self-described “intellectual freedom fighter,” synthesizes theories based on religion, philosophy, historical tradition and postmodern thought, popular culture and social analysis to develop his awe-inspiring observations. The former Harvard, now Princeton University, professor is a philosopher-theologian whose work as a social activist confirms that he practices what he preaches.

Race Matters, a best-selling and highly-acclaimed book of essays published in 1993, placed West in a national spotlight by taking on a subject that White America tries to avoid. The author of titles such as The American Evasion of Philosophy, Jews and Blacks: Let the Healing Begin, and The Cornel West Reader recently released a CD project entitled Sketches of My Culture, an audio-history lesson draped in gospel, R&B, and hip-hop beats that speak of the Black American experience. Braving the storms of controversy that every life-warrior faces, West continues his “call-to-action” journey unwaveringly.

This event is sponsored by the UWM Union Programming, UWM Sociocultural Programming, UWM Department of Multicultural Affairs, UW System Institute on Race and Ethnicity, Project Equality, and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. For more information, please call (414) 229-3787.
Dr. Tess Arenas to Visit UWM

All administrators, faculty, staff, and students are invited to meet and talk with Dr. Andrea-Teresa "Tess" Arenas on Thursday, November 21, 2002. Dr. Arenas is the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Senior Advisor to the President for Academic Diversity. She is in charge of the newly created UW System Office of Academic Diversity and Development.

An issue Dr. Arenas plans to discuss at the sessions is UW System’s update on the first five years of Plan 2008, where we go from here, and the unique role of UWM and Milwaukee in reaching diversity goals. Please plan to attend one of these very important and informative sessions. The date, times, and locations of the sessions are as follows:

**Thursday, November 21, 2002**
- 11 a.m. - 12 noon, Union E340 - meeting with students
- 1 p.m. - 2 p.m., Union E240 - meeting with faculty and staff
- 2 p.m. - 3 p.m., Union E340 - meeting with academic deans and division heads

For more information, please contact Umeeka Harris at (414) 229-5566

New Training Initiative

The Department of Multicultural Affairs is very excited about a new training initiative. Beginning this fall, we will partner with the Department of Human Resources and the Office of Equity/Diversity Services to collaborate on providing training/education to the entire campus community.

Working together to address the culturally diverse concerns of the campus as a team will provide UWM with well-rounded programs designed to meet specific needs. Workshops conducted by this team will vary in format, delivery, content, and length based upon the UWM unit requesting the session. By forming a partnership, we will alleviate duplication and improve efficiency and effectiveness of diversity training at UWM. Contact Pauli Taylorboyd at 229-3787 or pauli@uwm.edu for more information.

UWM Black and Gold Commission: Investing in Diversity

The Commission has worked long and hard to make suggestions for positive change at UWM. Co-Chairs Carol Haertlein and Isaac Monteagudo, and members of the Commission are to be commended for a job well done.

The recommendations regarding diversity on the UWM campus will primarily be the responsibility of the Provost, the Vice Chancellor for Student and Multicultural Affairs, and Division Heads.

The Commission’s operational plan includes:

- Implementing recommendations such that UWM’s diverse populations are fully represented and participatory.
- Reaffirming the goals of the Milwaukee Commitment.
- Expanding the circle” of what is meant by “diversity and multiculturalism” to include race/ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, political views, religious perspectives, income level, nationality, and stage of life (i.e., non-traditional students). Communicate this expansion by publishing profiles on students—mosaics—that articulate the various ways UWM celebrates the unique and varied backgrounds of all students and educators.
- Providing multicultural sensitivity programming for all faculty, staff, and students in a number of modalities such as theatre presentations, documentaries of experiences of students of color and international students at UWM, and “Cultural Competency” seminars devoted to demystifying stereotypes about various multicultural groups. Materials will be utilized, for example, in various First Year Experience courses and new faculty/staff orientations.