Nearly 150 KU faculty, staff, and graduate students participated in the 3rd Annual Spring Symposium on the Scholarship of Diversity. The two nationally known speakers—James Johnson of the UNC-Chapel Hill faculty and Syracuse University’s Chancellor, Nancy Cantor—provided compelling information and discussed challenges facing higher education in the near future. Several of your KU colleagues also shared insight from their research and scholarship in smaller breakout sessions. I want to thank all of our KU presenters and those who joined us for this annual symposium. The two keynote presentations will be on the D&E website soon for those who were unable to attend.

Weather forced rescheduling of the Langston Hughes Visiting Professor lecture by Professor David Holmes. Please join us April 9th at 3:30 in the Kansas Room for his talk and the reception that follows.

Additionally, the LHVP professorship moves to the fall semester rather than what has been a spring-semester appointment. The call for nominations led to the LHVP committee offering the fall 2013 LHVP to Professor Matt Pettway from Bates College in Maine. His appointment will be in the Department of Spanish & Portuguese, and plans call for him to make an early May visit to meet with department colleagues, students, and administrators; coordinate his teaching load; view the housing arrangements; and briefly tour the campus and Lawrence. These visits have proven to be extremely valuable as they allow the visiting professor to get familiar with the department and campus and begin to connect with colleagues. Upon their subsequent arrival to campus for the semester, all is not foreign to them.

On April 19th, the offices of Diversity & Equity and Multicultural Affairs team up with four student groups—Asian American Student Union, Black Student Union, First Nations Student Association, Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO)—to sponsor a panel discussion on immigration issues and their implications for higher education; details on pg. 2.

As always, I welcome your comments or questions at fredrod@ku.edu.
WEIGH IN ON THE DIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM

If you attended last week’s diversity symposium and haven’t given your evaluation, please go to http://diversity.ku.edu/symposium-eval and provide feedback to help us improve future collaborations.

Below, James Johnson of UNC-Chapel Hill, conducts a breakout session after being the first of two keynote speakers.

OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS IMMIGRATION ISSUES

KU joins a network of U.S. colleges and universities to bring attention to the topic and issues surrounding immigration: Specifically, the impact immigration policy (or lack of) has on higher education and the U.S. economy. A panel of KU faculty and staff will present perspectives and there will be opportunity for Q&A and dialogue at this one-hour event. Beverages and light snacks will be provided.

Four student groups, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and the Office of D&E are sponsoring the event.
Friday, April 19 2:00–3:00 Big 12 Room, Kansas Union
Open to all students, staff, faculty

SCHOLARSHIP OF DIVERSITY: A SYNOPSIS

Attracting the missing students

A study reported in December revealed that most low-income, high-achieving high school students aren’t applying to a single competitive college. Further, the study found that many colleges are searching for these students at a very small number of U.S. high schools and in the process are missing lots of talent.

Nearly 40,000 students were tracked for the study, with an emphasis on high-achieving, low-income students who were not enrolled at high schools where many students go on to the most competitive colleges. These students received a series of interventions in the form of the kind of information similar to what wealthier students receive or addressing concerns poor families might have; these included customized information. For example, the materials showed that the more selective colleges generally have higher success rates than do those institutions to which these students commonly apply or that the actual cost of attending more-selective colleges is less than that of attending less-selective colleges for lower income students.

The results of these interventions were dramatic:

• Students in the program submitted 19% more applications to college, on average, than did comparable students not receiving the interventions, and were 27% more likely to submit five or more applications.
• The students were significantly more likely to apply to “peer” institutions and 31% more likely to be admitted to one. They also were significantly more likely to enroll at a peer college.
• Once admitted, the students who enroll at the competitive colleges did as well or better than similar students who attended less competitive institutions.

Read more about this successful intervention (at a cost of $6 per student), the reasons more colleges aren’t doing this, data resources available, and more, plus a link to the original study.


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