GENERAL OVERVIEW
Africana Center at Tufts University: Celebrating 50 years of Black Excellence

OUR COMMUNITY
Who is in our community and how are they thriving

PROGRAMS
It's all about the programming: A collaborative approach

HOW CAN YOU HELP
We need you! How to get involved!
OUR COMMUNITY

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE’VE ACCOMPLISHED

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The Africana Center has a long history of being a frequently called upon resource to assist with the overall University diversity efforts. Nevertheless, its main focus is to support the large volume of students of African descent (African American, African, Afro-Latinx and Caribbean,) as well as students who self-identify as Black outside these groups (Biracial, multiracial, etc).

An additional area of opportunity for the Center is to focus on improving the huge communication and student engagement challenge which has resulted from years of past wrongs, whether perceived or real. It is my observation that it is crucial to implement a plan to lower the risk of future student strife and establish the Africana Center as a safe haven for everyday campus life issues.

OUR WORK

- SKILL BUILDING
- MANAGING RELATIONSHIPS,
- COMMUNICATION/PERSONALITY EXPLORATION
- PROBLEM SOLVING/Critical THINKING
- LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING
- IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT
- SERVICE LEARNING, INTERNSHIPS, STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCES
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- COMMUNITY PARTNER COLLABORATIONS

DEMOGRAPHICS

UNDERGRADUATES
- 429 (114 FRESHMEN, 119 SOPHOMORES, 89 JUNIORS, 107 SENIORS)

GRADUATE –
- 411 - INCLUDES AS&E, UEP, HEALTH SCIENCE SCHOOLS

OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

- Advocating through policy work
  - Speaking on behalf of the student and/or community in cases of intolerance and/or discrimination
  - Supporting diversity & inclusion efforts
- Managing relationships
- Focusing on Retention
- Providing a safe haven.
OUR PROGRAMS

The Africana Center began our year of programming and events with the theme “Belonging at Tufts” with a focus on building relationships throughout the Tufts community, as well as having small scale events to help students begin to develop their own relationships. As a result, a few things happened:

- students began to see the Africana Center all around campus,
- students began using resources typically unknown to them,
- events became more popular due to the limited amount of space.

A Collaborative Approach:
Through our collaborative efforts with Tufts community partners, the People of Color Graduate School Plan for Success event brought multiple departments together to support students thinking about graduate school. Students also began to learn the names and faces of allies in spaces they did not expect support would be offered to them. The Tisch College of Civic Life Civic Lunch and Distinguished Lecture events afforded a select group of students to participate in pre-event discussions with invited guests and students were able to learn more about Tisch scholarships and the foundations of civic activism. And, we supported the Center for the Study or Race and Democracy and Center for STEM Diversity lectures and special events throughout the year. These collaborations strengthened the visibility of the Africana Center throughout campus.

Working with the Tufts University Social Collaborative and Office for Campus Life, the overall Tufts community received a view into Africana cultures via the Black History Month Film Series and the Africana Center Takeover of the Campus Center event. Additional results include:

- the Black Men’s Group’s collaboration with Career Services yielded a higher number of students seeking career advice and support.
- The Black Women Collective’s collaboration with Counseling and Mental Health Services also provided an opportunity to break down the stigma of mental health in the Black community and seek support from our Counseling and Mental Health staff.

Lastly, we diversified the types of events offered: sometimes moving programming out of the Center or to another part of the Center proves to do the trick! For each month that we did not host a “big food” event (i.e. Annual Welcome Back BBQ, Harvest Feast, Winter Extravaganza, etc), we hosted Small Community Dinners. This gave students space to get to know each other and the Africana Center and Tufts staff in a relaxed environment around the social connector: food. We also focused on different skill sets students tend to speak most about. Our collaboration with the Math department provided tutors for Calculus II where students were able to get more direct attention and learn how to study and solidify their understanding of the course materials - all in a relaxed setting in our new meeting space: The Underground.

We also started our Cookin w/ Dom sessions where students learned to cook items for particular meals (i.e. breakfast, lunch, dinner) during the last few months of the spring 2019 semester.

Signature Africana Center Programs
- SQUAD Pre-Orientation
- Peer Leader Program
- Cape Cod Orientation Retreat
- Welcome Back BBQ
- Black Womyn’s Collective
- Black Myn’s Group
- Africana Advisory Alliance
- Art Exhibition Gallery
- Library Book Sign Our Program

Events/Activities
- “The Scoop” weekly campus events newsletter
- Winter Extravaganza
- Black/Graduation Stole Ceremony (rites of passage ceremony)
- People of Color Graduate (School) Plan for Success
- Small Community Dinners and Cookin w/Dom sessions
- Black History Month Events
HOW CAN YOU HELP

- **MENTORING/COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES**
  - Industry specific alumni - student mentoring
  - Support for Black Womyn's Collective & Black Myn's Group Service Projects

- **EVENTS/SPEAKING**
  - Africana Experience guest speakers/lectures/signature events
  - Participation in industry specific panel discussions

- **GIVING**
  - Complete renovations for the underground (lower level)
  - Conference registrations, transportation, lodging
  - Financial hardship support
  - Funding for food pantry and support for cooking classes
  - Graduate intern for student organization support and graduate and undergraduate event creation/marketing

For more information: go.tufts.edu/africana
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