HI AGAIN, COLLEAGUES:

Welcome to Part B of our Newsletter.

At the end of April, we will have our final installment of the newsletter for this Spring; we will be interviewing and celebrating our colleagues.

(Thanks to Moriah Van Norman and Sally Kassamanian for their contributions to this installment; and we wanted to also acknowledge the hard work of Doreen Clay, who has been introducing new faculty in the administration’s newsletters).

If you would like us to include a colleague or have information to contribute, please email Maria Bates (batesmt@piercecollege.edu).

May the force be with you,

THE PDC TEAM
**UMOJA**, (a Kiswahili word meaning unity), is an academic learning community and critical resource dedicated to enhancing the cultural and educational experiences of students. The Umoja program advances academic excellence, community building, and student leadership as its program goals. It is a comprehensive student support program that seeks to provide academic and social support to students to increase the retention and persistence among its participants. This program is necessary to assist the college in eliminating equity gaps in the area of access, course completion, degree completion and transfer rates for African American students.

Students enroll in a year long program where they take will take linked classes by Umoja trained professors. The UMOJA community will allow for strong bonds to be developed by students, professors, mentors, and counselors.

For further information, see the following resources:

Pierce Umoja website: [http://www.piercecollege.edu/umoja/](http://www.piercecollege.edu/umoja/)


Contact:
Melody Smith, M.S.
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(photographs / Top left: From Pierce Umoja website. Middle left: Pierce colleagues at the Summer Institute in San Diego, training to become Umoja advocates and instructors).
Hello colleagues,

This email serves as confirmation of your registration for Black Minds Matter. I am truly grateful that you will be participating in this public course. The course will be live streamed for real-time viewing as well as recorded and made publicly available for replay.

I would like to briefly call your attention to two items. First, I have attached an updated version of the course flier to this communique. You'll note that we have added additional speakers and interviewees. Please note that this includes only some of the many great speakers who have agreed to share their insights and perspectives with our community of learners.

Second, some institutions have agreed to serve as live broadcasting and replay sites for the course. For information on what this entails and to register your school, college, university, or organization, please complete the following form:

https://sdsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2uH3CmU95qNxA69

Lastly, please encourage your friends and colleagues to register for the course at jlukewood.com/bmm and to help spread the word through their networks about this opportunity.

In solidarity,

J. Luke
Join Professor J. Luke Wood for BLACK MINDS MATTER
An eight-week public course on Black Boys and Men in Education

BEGINNING MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2017
FROM 4:30 TO 6:30 PACIFIC TIME

J. LUKE WOOD, PH.D.
Professor of Community College Leadership, San Diego State University

SOME OF THE GUEST SPEAKERS AND INTERVIEWEES INCLUDE:

SHAUN HARPER
Clifford & Betty Allen Professor, University of Southern California

TYRONE HOWARD
Professor of Urban Education, University of California, Los Angeles

PATRISSE CULLETT
Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter

JAWSANZA KUNZFU
Founder of African American Images

KIMBERLY GRIFFIN
Associate Professor of Student Affairs, University of Maryland

JAMES L. MOORE III
Distinguished Professor of Urban Education, The Ohio State University

TERRELL STRAYHORN
Professor & Founder/CEO, DiCourage LLC

FRANK HARRIS II
Professor of Postsecondary Education, San Diego State University

FRED A. BONNER
Professor & Endowed Chair, Prairie View A&M University

EBONI ZAMANI-CALLAHER
Professor of Community College Leadership, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

CHANCE LEWIS
Carol Colwell Bank Distinguished Professor, University of North Carolina - Charlotte

IVORY TOLDSON
Former Deputy Director for the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities & Professor, Howard University

PEDRO NOGUERA
Distinguished Professor of Education, University of California, Los Angeles

ROBERT T. PALMER
Interim Chair and Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Howard University

S. LEE MEBRITT
The Merritt Law Firm & Attorney for the Family of Jordan Edwards

Sponsored by the Joint Doctoral Program in Education (JDP) at San Diego State University (SDSU)
One in every 5 of the Los Angeles Community College District’s 230,000 students is homeless, and nearly two-thirds can’t afford to eat properly, according to a new survey commissioned by the system’s board of trustees.

**JOIN US:**

Anafe Robinson, our Financial Aid Director, is leading a taskforce to see how we can better serve our low-income and homeless student population.

To join this cause, please contact us: pdc@piercecollege.edu. We meet each second Thursday of the month from 11:15-12:30 in the International Student Conference Room.

**ALL ARE WELCOME.**

If you cannot join the taskforce, but want to participate, we will put you on the taskforce email list.

**NEW LAWS**

Homeless students at community colleges: Any community college campuses with shower facilities on campus must allow homeless students who are enrolled, paid and in good standing to use the facilities, under AB 1995.

Another law, AB 1747, requires public and private institutions that offer food services to apply for a state-funded program that provides food for homeless students.
WANTED:

TITLE IX Advocates

Contact: Dr. Earic Dixon-Peters

WHAT IS TITLE IX?
No sex discrimination. No sexual assault. Period.

The term “Advocate” refers to someone who assists a Reporting Party and/or Alleged Victim or a Respondent generally in a Sexual Misconduct case. Advocates provide moral support as well as information regarding procedural issues, throughout the pendency of an investigation, through the last internal Appeal.

For more information, contact Dr. Earic Dixon-Peters, Vice President of Student Services & Title IX coordinator, peterseb@piercecollege.edu

Title IX

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”
For the 2016-17 academic year, the book selected for Pierce College’s One Book-One Campus program was *I Am Malala*, written by the sixteen-year-old Pakistani young woman Malala Yousafzai, who in 2014, became the youngest winner or co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, for working “against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education.” Malala had been advocating for the right of girls to be educated and to attend school in Pakistan’s Swat Valley. Malala ran afoul of the Taliban for her advocacy, and was shot in the head while on her way to school. Transported to a London hospital, Malala’s life was saved, but she and her family were transplanted to London, where they reside unable to return to Pakistan.

Among the activities were:

- an October screening of the documentary “He Named Me Malala” and a panel discussion about human rights

- a six-week exhibition during November and December at the Pierce College Art Gallery about women fighting back against abuse, violence, and discrimination in their lives throughout the world

- a November screening of the documentary “A Path Appears” paired with a “living statues” student activity where students portrayed historic and contemporary figures that they admire
• screenings of the documentary film “The Hunting Ground” about predatory rapists on college campuses and how they are institutionally protected

• the Music Department’s spring concert highlighting human struggle around the world and focusing on Malala Yousafzai’s story

The 2016-17 academic year represented the second year of the One Book-One Campus program at Pierce College, with the college reading Operation Homecoming, edited by Andrew Carroll in 2015-16, about the military veteran’s experience.

ALL ACTIVITIES WELCOME:

If you have an event for 2017-18 that you’d like to integrate into the ONE BOOK ONE CAMPUS PROJECT, please contact our OCOB team leader and community librarian, Lisa Valdez: valdezl@piercecollege.edu.

PHOTOGRAPHS
Top: 11-17-16. Living statues program in the Great Hall, before a screening of the documentary film “A Path Appears.” (photos by Michael Habata).

Middle Photos: Other drama students presenting the story of Malala and other human rights activists in a pre-show before the Performing Arts Concert. The students also told those stories during the concert proper.

Bottom: A student’s ticket for the June 1-2 Malala Concert
The OCOB selection for academic year 2017-18 will be *Enrique’s Journey: The Story of a Boy’s Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with his Mother*, by Sonia Nazario, based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Los Angeles Times* series. It is the story of a Honduran boy who braves unimaginable hardship and peril to reach his mother in the United States, riding on the top of trains from Guatemala through Mexico towards the United States border.

The selection was made by the Pierce College Library, working with the college Diversity Committee and Associated Students Organization. The One-Book One-Campus (OBOC) program is sponsored by the Pierce Diversity Committee, Pierce College Library, English Department, Theater Arts Department, and Equity Committee.

Members of the Pierce community, including students, faculty, staff, and administrators, are encouraged to read a common book throughout the academic term and participate in campus-wide, thematically integrated activities.

Faculty members may include either version of the book in their curriculum for Fall 2018, through their bookstore requisitions. The deadline for requisitions is April 15, 2017.

The Pierce College Library has purchased multiple copies of both the standard book and the Young Adult adaptation. Several copies of both editions will be available for checkout from the library for faculty to review. As during past One Book events, there will be a limited number of copies of the book given away to faculty.
Special thanks to Lori Travis, Professor of Communication Studies and PDC Member; she recognized a student need and fulfilled it with the kind help of Jamie Ray (Professor of ESL), Equity Funding, and the stellar Student Success team.

**Communication Café for Non-Native English-speaking Students**

Communication practice is one of the most important parts of learning a new language. Come practice this skill with students from the Communication Studies Department at Pierce College.

**When:** Fridays 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Sign in at CAS and then meet at the cafeteria.

**What:** Conversation + Free Food!

Library & Learning Cross-roads Building
Room 5130 (1st Floor)
Phone: (818) 719-6414
DIVERSITY WISH LIST / OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE:

ALL ARE WELCOME

PDC invites all members of our community to participate. We meet from 11:15-12:30 every second Thursday of the month in the International Student Conference Room (i.e., second floor of Student Service Building). Right now, we are trying to build a taskforce for homeless and low-income students.

In particular, we have a VOTING member positions open in the following areas: a) Special Student Services; b) Staff Representative.

The PDC promotes diversity / equity awareness on campus and contributes to activities and programs that honor this diversity. Some of our projects include Pierce’s One Campus-One Book Project with the Library, the B.R.A.V.E Program with ASO, Campus Awareness (PDC publications), Homeless and Low-Income Student Task Force, ESL Conversation Café, and International Student Advocacy & Support.

In addition to these projects, we also actively support other campus events: Sanctuary / Undocumented Students, the Health Department’s Film on campus assault, Safe Zone training for LGBTQ students, and Faculty Training during the Fall Convocation and Spring Break-Out sessions.

If you have a project or event you would like us to support, please contact pdc@piercecollege.edu.

PDC NEWSLETTER CONTENT WANTED

PDC welcomes submissions for our future newsletters. We are requesting the following materials (on topics of diversity):

Reflections / flyers of events / example of faculty or student work / reflections-reactions-questions / case studies in equity / reviews of books or movies / articles with permission to reprint / best practices / concerns / creative endeavors / art – infographs – quotations... / info about new programs / info about changes in laws or policies / resources

CONTACTS:

DISTRICT OFFICE OF DIVERSITY PROGRAMS:
Gene Little,
Director of Diversity Programs
Office of Diversity Programs
Phone: (213) 891-2317 or (213) 891-2315
diversityprograms@laccd.edu

PIERCE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE
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Marcela Portillo
First Year Student Experience
Anafe Robinson,
Task Force Leader, Homeless Students
Lori Travis
Communication Café Team Leader
Shigui Rui Tsucha, DACA Team Leader
Lisa Valdez,
OCOB Team Leader
Candy Van
Moriah Van Norman
Student Athletes
Shaheen Vaz
Abigail Watson,
International Students Team Leader