The Diversity Team at Elizabethtown College would like to welcome you to our campus for a visit. For further questions, comments or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact us.
About the Team

The Diversity Team is comprised of Elizabethtown College students who have an interest in increasing cultural diversity on the campus of Elizabethtown College. These students come from a variety of ethnic, cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds and epitomize “diversity” in every sense of the definition. They share a common goal that is consistent with one of Elizabethtown College’s signature attributes. They seek to enrich the campus community with a diverse student body. The Diversity Team’s primary focus is to assist in the recruitment of prospective students from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds. The Diversity Team will provide an opportunity to serve as a resource of information by sharing their own unique experiences.

Email us:

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What does your position entail?
As the Coordinator of Multicultural Programs and Residential Communities, I support Elizabethtown College’s mission of creating and sustaining an inclusive campus by hosting multicultural programs. These programs help recognize and celebrate the various tenets of diversity on our campus. Tenets of diversity can include race/ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, gender identity, economic background, and more.

What is a multicultural program?
A multicultural program is one that purposefully focuses on an underrepresented culture. The purpose of these programs vary but may include helping underrepresented students feel more included in the Elizabethtown community, or providing an opportunity for all Etown students to explore an underrepresented culture on campus.

Which activities and events are sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Programs?
Multicultural Programs celebrate a variety of heritage months including Hispanic Heritage Month, American Indian Heritage Month, Black History Month, and Women’s History Month to name a few. Some programs may include biographic films such as “Cesar Chavez” or “Mandela”, Latino salsa dance lessons, Motown Music Karaoke night, and guest lectures on diversity topics.

How does the Office of Multicultural Programs benefit Elizabethtown College students and the overall campus community?
Many colleges, including Elizabethtown College, have a relatively diverse student body. Our students represent a variety of cultures, backgrounds, and lifestyles. It’s important that college graduates learn to embrace those differences in a way that values that contributions of each individual. While our campus is relatively diverse, we know that simply sharing a space with others is not enough. Multicultural programs benefit Elizabethtown College because it provides opportunities for everyone to have meaningful interactions with each other, and each program promotes a deeper understanding of others and oneself.

What are the goals of Office of Multicultural Programs for upcoming years?
Multicultural Programs seeks to make our campus even more inclusive of all types of diversity while helping everyone learn and grow from diverse interactions with others.
Biography:
Jennifer Preston is a 2014 graduate of Elizabethtown College from Lancaster, PA. She majored in sociology and anthropology and had the opportunity to study abroad in ___ her sophomore year. Upon graduation, she started working for a local counseling service as therapeutic support staff. She works with children who have autism or behavioral health issues and provides specialized interventions to support them in the home, school, and community. She is also working on getting her graduate certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis. In the future, she hopes to earn her Master’s Degree in education or psychology.

Which multicultural clubs were you involved with at Elizabethtown College?
I was in Noir(Black Student Society) and Latinos Unidos(Latino Student Club).

What was the reason you joined the Diversity Team?
I joined the Diversity Team when I was a junior because I felt that I could help make a difference. I wanted to help educate others on the importance of diversity and help people realize that everyone can make an impact. I wanted to be a part of a team that believed in uniting people despite their differences.

What was your favorite aspect of being a member of the Diversity Team?
My favorite part about being on the Diversity Team was working with the other team members and getting to know them.

How is the Diversity Team a useful asset to the campus?
The Diversity Team is a useful asset on campus because it is important that perspective students have somewhere they can go for information. The Diversity Team is a resource for perspective students who have an interest in the college. It can benefit new students to ease their transition into the campus community.
Clubs and Events

“Stories from the Stoop” educates Student Audience
By: Deysey Salgado

Chris Bashinelli was invited to Elizabethtown College on September 18, to help students understand the importance of learning about other cultures and how important it is to accept one another. Bashinelli began his presentation by informing audience members where he came from and the city he grew up in: New York City.

At first, all this information about him did not make sense until he showed a picture of himself and three other boys sitting on the steps of his home. He informed everyone how he has always been surrounded by people from different places and has learned from other cultures.

“Bashinelli stated that his goal for traveling to these other countries is not to just travel, but to see the different cultures there are and to learn from them.”

Growing up with these friends of his who were all different in every way led him to understanding the differences between people and later made a connection to his travels. Bashinelli is the host of Bridge the Gap, a T.V. show about his travels around the world, as he meets new people, tries to live in others people’s shoes and overall makes connections and friendships. Bashinelli stated that his goal for traveling to these other countries is not to just travel, but to experience the different cultures and to learn from them. His TV show is a documentary of places he has gone and the way he tries to adapt and communicate with others. His main focus of the night was to show Elizabethtown students that everything is possible, whether traveling the world is a goal of ours, having our own T.V show or simply trying new things; especially taking the opportunity to travel, so we can experience and understand the diversity in which we live in and the diversity that that surrounds us.

Diwali Celebration
By: Bhim Thapaliya

Diwali, also known as the “festival of lights”, is a Hindu festival celebrated at Elizabethtown College [Thursday October 23th]. The festival signifies the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, and hope over despair. During the celebration, Dr. Jeff Long, of the religious studies department, spoke about the “festival of lights” and shared its importance. This celebration started at 8 pm and lasted about an hour. All the students and staff were welcome to learn more about the “festival of lights,” Diwali music and enjoy “fireworks” with Indian sweets. The Office of International Student Services and the Religious Studies Department sponsored this event.
“Navigating Worldviews” Conference Takes Place on Elizabethtown College Campus

By: Nicole Drews

On Saturday, September 27, Elizabethtown College was host to the “Navigating Worldviews: Can Diverse Religions and Modern Science Save our Endangered Planet” Conference. This conference featured speakers from different areas ranging from our very own Elizabethtown College all the way to India. The main focus was to discuss how a diversity of religions and modern science can both be beneficial in helping our environment. Jeffery Long, Professor of Religious and Asian Studies at Elizabethtown College discussed Buddhism as one of the religions that society should better understand. It is his belief that with an understanding of the Buddhist traditions our society can learn from their peaceful ways. The Buddhist believe nature should not be harmed and this belief would be an important step into saving our own planet. This conference featured a special guest speaker all the way from India: Dr. Anindita Balslev, a philosopher, author, and founder of the Cross Cultural Conversation forum. Dr. Balslev discussed how a better understanding of diverse religions can bring people together. With our society taking an initiative to understand other cultures we can grow to accept others for their different cultures and religions. This in turn will allow all cultures to work together to preserve our endangered planet. This conference also featured other professors from different universities who came in to discuss the importance of people being able to express their religions without fear of judgment. They spoke of how our society tends to follow certain judgments on other cultures which causes people of those cultures to hide their beliefs. Although the speakers all presented different ideas they did all have one thing in common: their belief that religion can correlate to saving our planet. The main focus of this conference was to show people how powerful an understanding in different cultures and religions can be. If we work together and try to understand differences in others rather than judge their differences all cultures can come together. We can even learn ways in which to preserve our environment through the beliefs of other cultures and religions.

Diverse Clubs around the Elizabethtown College Campus

By: Courtney Fox

Allies: A campus club that is dedicated to welcoming students as well as helping them feel safe and comfortable with who they are. The club deals with issues and events regarding equality, specifically in regards to gender and sexual orientation.

Intervarsity: A Christian based clubs on campus. The club hosts meetings every week to discuss the religion as well as host events to celebrate the religion. While they are a Christian club, they welcome other students who are interested in learning about the religion.

Hillel: A Jewish based campus club. The club hosts events dealing with Judaism, such as celebrating important Jewish holidays. All students are welcome to join and experience the traditions of the culture and discuss Judaism today.
Clubs and Events Continued

Diverse Clubs around the Elizabethtown College Campus (cont’d)

Noir (Black Student Society): A campus club dedicated around concerns dealing with the Black student population on Elizabethtown campus. Everyone is welcome to join and learn about the history as well as modern day concerns that the population deal with every day.

No Boundaries: Originally known as the International Club, No Boundaries, is a campus club that allows anyone to learn about diverse cultures as well as other countries. All students are welcome to join and mingle with students and professors who have knowledge of different cultures.

Act For Humanity: Seeks to relieve the impact of poverty and deprivation on the underprivileged, down-trodden, and destitute children by specializing programs for refugee in Lancaster County, PA. Open to anyone in the Elizabethtown College community who loves to devote their time and volunteer service to aiding under privileged children and families. (Pictured below)