

DAC Newsletter:

Cross-Cultural Solidarity Experience

As a committee reporting to Academic Affairs, DAC is, among other things, charged with curricular issues, and we have worked closely with different entities on campus to promote classroom practices that facilitate dialogue across differences, the enhancement of pedagogical tools that enable such dialogue, and support for the development of new courses or course modules to include issues of diversity in the curriculum. We offer Curriculum Diversification Grants for faculty, a Student Fellowship to support two students every year doing research related to diversity (resulting in a workshop for faculty along the "teach the teacher" model), and we offered an Inter Group Relations (IGR) Workshop in August to equip both faculty and administrators with some tools for dialoguing across ethnic and racial differences. In May, a small group of faculty and administrators will be fully trained as IGR Facilitators, making it possible to offer IGR courses at Siena. We have also worked closely with Student Affairs and the Damietta Cross-Cultural Center to organize SafeZone Training and other initiatives to provide safe spaces for our LGBT community on campus.

In this week's Newsletter, **Christa Grant, Director of the Damietta Cross-Cultural Center**, speaks about the Cross-Cultural Solidarity Experience Enrichment Grants, another initiative to help support faculty interested in addressing issues of diversity in, and beyond, the classroom:

The Damietta Cross-Cultural Center is accepting applications for the Cross-Cultural Solidarity Experience (CCSE) Enrichment Grants. The *Siena College Strategic Plan 2011 - 2016* has directed the College to "create a culture of diversity" across divisions. The outcome for initiative 3.5 is to "enhance and expand its co-curricular program to demonstrate that our graduates are cross-culturally competent." The Cross-Cultural Solidarity Program was developed with the support and input of faculty, administrators and students and has been approved by the BOT. The Cross-Cultural Solidarity Experience Enrichment Grants are a means to achieving this outcome. The CCSE program is going on its fourth year and the program is growing steadily. All faculty members are encouraged to apply. Funding will be approved by the CSSE committee based on the grant proposal, proposed budget, and solidarity experience.



For more information and direction to apply for the CCSE grant, please visit www.siena.edu/damietta. If you have any questions about the CCSE grant, please contact Christa Grant at cgrant@siena.edu or at 518-783-2330. Applications are due July 1, 2014.