

Election 2016: Education and Responses

As we prepare for a leadership transition in Washington DC following the election of Donald Trump as President, we know there will be a variety of responses from our community ranging from fear and concern to those whose identities were targeted during the campaign, to those who are excited and eager to learn more about how new policies may impact their lives going forward. AU faculty and staff are pulling together a variety of programs to educate and support our students.

What's already happened?

- The Institute for Cultural Unity hosted an open space on Wednesday with faculty and staff present for anyone to drop in and just sit, or talk, or process their emotions, or even just grab some snacks.
- Dr. Beach held a stress reduction yoga session at the Judson Leadership Center on Wednesday and Thursday. Yoga Classes continue MW 5:15-6:45 in the multipurpose room of the Joyce Walton Center (McLane annex).
- President Zupan issued a campus-wide email on Thursday.
- Women's and Gender Studies Roundtable took place on Friday to discuss the elections of this week and what they might mean for all of us.
- The CLAS faculty issued a statement of support that was unanimously endorsed at a Friday faculty meeting.
- A "Unity in Diversity" rally happened on Sunday at 1pm at the Bandstand, organized by the students of both campuses, to peacefully share views and rally against discrimination.
- On Thursday, 11/17, our faculty and staff held a **"Know Your Rights, Claim Your Rights" panel**. This panel narrowly focused as a crash course for students and other attendees in terms of knowing about one's individual rights, resources, and how to protect or organize around civil rights. Stay tuned for similar panels as potential policy changes become clearer from Washington.
- The Center for Student Involvement held an outreach event/community builder for Tuesday from 10 am – 2 pm where over 100 people chose to affirm our values by rejecting hate in its many forms. #RejectionRally
- Information has been being provided to faculty and staff about establishing their offices as safe spaces for students who are simply in need of a good listener.
- Modern Languages hosted its El Cafecito Multicultural Dinner on Wednesday, Nov 16, at 5:30 pm at the Language House.

Still to come

- Peer Educators (Wellness Reps) are promoting self-care. In conjunction with the Wellness Center, they are planning a self-care day open to all as a reminder to treat yourself kindly and find ways to relax and de-stress. We also have multiple relaxation and self-care resources available at the Wellness Center Mind Spa. Since self-care is not just something to consider now, but is always useful during stressful times, we will also be holding a Mindfulness and

Wellbeing workshop the beginning of December followed by a de-stress event held by the Wellness Center.

- There will be some additional training and education sessions from our Green Dot Bystander Intervention team to increase awareness of the Green Dot program. This will help in making it clear that violence, harassment, discrimination, and bullying is not tolerated on our campus

Which resources are already in place that can be utilized?

- If you are involved in, or witness, an act of violence or something that threatens the safety of our community: Public Safety – 607-871-2108
- If you experience or witness an act of bias on campus: The Bias Response form is available on <http://my.alfred.edu>; click “AU Report It.” Incidents can be reported anonymously, although please be aware that limits the range of responses.
- If you need a person to talk to: Several faculty and staff on campus are wearing or displaying safety pins, either in the form of an actual safety pin on their shirts or a safety pin sign in their spaces. These people have indicated through this symbol that they are available to listen – and sometimes, a good listener is the best medicine.

Which broader initiatives regarding social justice have been in place for a while?

- President’s Committee on Social Justice (co-chaired by Nur Amir): discussing faculty training and recruitment of diverse faculty.
- The Institute for Cultural Unity is exploring the possibility of restructuring to hire a doctoral fellow or intern as part of our staff.
- Shared Space program with local law enforcement.
- Art Force 5 outreach for youth, promoting creativity over conflict.
- Curriculum Transformation education, with over 85 faculty and staff receiving week-long education on how to include social justice and diversity issues in their curricula and programs
- SafeZone training is being offered throughout the year by Alfred University facilitators.

Resource Library (stay tuned for additional resources as we collect them)

For undocumented students/family members

Organizations:

[United We Dream](#)

[Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#)

[Black Immigrant Network](#)

[Northwest Immigrant Rights Project](#)

[UndocuBlack Network](#)

[Recommendations for school administrators and counselors of undocumented students](#)

Scholarships (just a start)

Dreamer's Road Map (App on iOS and Android)

MyDocumentedLife.org--Monthly Scholarship Lists