



Office for Institutional Diversity

Diversity and Inclusion: A Shared Responsibility

Newsletter

Winter 2023 Edition

Welcome

The Office for Institutional Diversity (OID) extends a warm and inviting welcome as we embark on the possibilities that 2023 will bestow for the Boston College community. As we come back to campus, I am reminded of the importance of self-care and the African proverb, "If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together," correlating with Ignatian spirituality that teaches us to accompany and to walk companionship with those we encounter.

Giving ourselves permission to rest, we can cultivate self-awareness of what our body needs to be reinvigorated and rejuvenated, thus finding the magis in all things. Increasing mind, body, and spirit is crucial and necessary as we continue the important work of growing our capacity for compassionate belonging. The commitment to increasing belonging in every aspect of campus life is a continuous journey, however, it's one we do not enter alone and without resources and opportunities for shared learning, knowledge, and application.

We invite you to read more about OID's upcoming Summit, programs, and educational initiatives, increasing the institution's capacity and sustainability for inclusive excellence.

With joy,
Patricia Lowe, Associate Vice President

Diversity and Inclusion Summit: Power of Community: Growing Our Capacity for Compassionate Belonging

Save the Date
**8th Diversity and
Inclusion Summit**
May 24, 2023

More info at bc.edu/diversity



The 2023 Diversity and Inclusion Summit: Power of Community: Growing Our Capacity for Compassionate Belonging will be held on May 24, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. in Gasson Hall

The distinction between a workplace and a campus community is the presence of welcoming, respectful spaces that foster engaging dialogue about differences and commonalities. A commitment to a continuous journey of learning and action at the individual and organizational level cultivates a culture of

inclusion and belonging. How do we continue to grow the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools to advance and sustain inclusive excellence at Boston College?

This year's Summit sessions will explore opportunities for learning and action to better equip our community with the knowledge and skills for growing our capacity to foster a compassionate environment of belonging.

For more information on past summits, recordings, and upcoming registration details, please visit the program's [website](#).

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members" - Coretta Scott King

Courageous Conversations at Boston College - Semester Recap



Courageous Conversations Towards Racial Justice, designed in strategic partnership with OID, Student Affairs, O'Neill Library, and the Provost's Office, was pleased to host two events this past fall semester, with two events planned for the spring semester.

The first event was held in-person, entitled "**Cultural Appropriation vs. Cultural Appreciation**," and led by Akua Sarr, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs. The Courageous Conversations Facilitation Team led a group of 15+ attendees in conversation about the different nuances of appreciating a culture and the problematic origins of appropriation and not giving proper acknowledgement to external cultural influences. Attendees viewed different artifacts such as TED Talks and pop culture media examples, and shared and learned together in both small and large group discussions.

The second event was held virtually, entitled "**What's Your Racism Blindspot? The Hidden Biases of Good People**," and led by Scott Britton, Associate University Librarian. Members of the Boston College community from various departments, including a large number of student athletes, viewed artifacts covering the basics of implicit bias, including an insightful interview with Toni Morrison. In breakout rooms, attendees were able to discuss hidden biases, biases that go beyond language, the influence of unearned privilege, and how to be accountable for actions moving forward.

The Campus School Fall 2022 Conference

The Campus School was delighted to host a virtual conference last fall, **Parenting, Communication and Emotions: Perspectives on Our Children with Extensive Support and Medical Needs**. The intent of the conference was to exchange information, and share a sense of community and belonging, virtually bringing together families, loved ones, and professionals working with children with special needs and medical complexity.

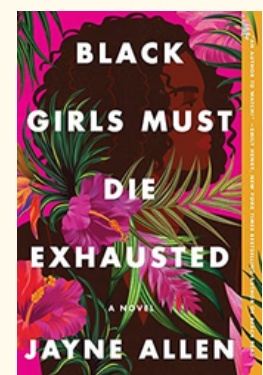
Families shared that the conference was valuable on many levels: "This was an amazing three hours that validated all the feelings we have as parents, but also provided inspirational tools to navigate bad days." There were BC PULSE students in attendance as well, one of whom shared: "The presentation was incredibly-eye opening and gave me some new perspectives, which I will definitely cherish moving forward."

The Campus School looks forward to hosting conferences in the future to further raise awareness and sensitivity, and to advance advocacy for individuals with disabilities, medical complexity and extensive support needs and their families, with hopes that one day all may feel they belong.

Conference speaker and Boston College alum Dr. Christina Cipriano's words are for all of us: "I encourage us all to take a moment to reflect on our life, our families, our classrooms, the populations with which we work and serve, the science that we engage in. And think about those challenges that you may be facing, those challenges to inclusion, to equity. And we're going to reframe them as an opportunity, as opportunities for us to help to support and grow and create the world that we want for all of our kids and families to thrive in."

[Click here to read the full article on the Campus School's Conference](#)

Recommended Reading



Black Girls Must Die Exhausted: A Novel by Jayne Allen (available in the [O'Neill Library](#)) "Black Girls Must Die Exhausted encapsulates the infinite expectations and challenges thrown in the direction of Black women while also confronting the ways women are gaslit and thrown into impossible situations that they have no choice but to overcome. This is a novel about female friendship, the weight of the future, and learning to accept that you can want what

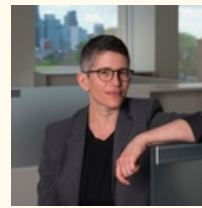
you truly want." — Shondaland

"Allen's debut novel. . . captures the complexities of Black women coming into adulthood while learning to manage the disappointments and expectations placed on them by society."

— Booklist

Upcoming Events The Human Right to Access

Vaccines: The Case of COVID-19



This event, co-sponsored by the Boston College Law School and the Schiller Institute's Global Public Health and the Common Good Program will take place at the Law School in East Wing 115A on Thursday, January 26 @ 1:00 p.m, by [registration](#).

In this panel which leads a discussion on COVID-19 and the availability of vaccines, Professor Forman will ask how state obligations to secure human rights to health and science, recognized in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and elsewhere in international human rights law, impact vaccines and treatment issues. She will also discuss the possibility of a pandemic treaty. Professor Landrigan will speak to the value of vaccines to prevent disease and to stabilize societies, drawing on his decades of experience as an epidemiologist working on public health issues.

Speakers: **Lisa Forman**, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Human Rights and Global Health Equity, University of Toronto; **Phillip Landrigan**, Professor of Biology, and Director of the Global Public Health Program and the Global Observatory on Planetary Health, Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society, Boston College
Moderator: **Katie Young**, Professor of Law, and Professor Associate Dean of Faculty and Global Programs, Boston College Law School

Vandana Shiva: My Life in a Biodiversity of Moments



This event, co-sponsored by Environmental Studies, BC Real Food, the Winston Center for Leadership and Ethics, and the School of Social Work, as part of the Rewilding Planet Earth Series, will take place at the Robsham Theater on Monday, February 6 @ 6:00 p.m, open to the public.

Vandana Shiva, a world-renowned environmental thinker, activist, feminist, philosopher of science, writer and science policy advocate, is the founder of Navdanya Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology in India and President of Navdanya International. The recipient of many awards, including the Right Livelihood Award, (the 'Alternative Nobel Prize') and the Sydney Peace Prize, she has been named among the top five "Most Important People in Asia" by AsiaWeek. She is a prolific writer and author of numerous books and serves on the board of the International Forum on Globalization, and member of the executive committee of the World Future Council.

The OID welcomes diversity and inclusion-related articles and content from all departments and offices!

If you have an article you would like to submit or an event you would like us to highlight, email us at diversity@bc.edu

Visit the OID website at www.bc.edu/diversity to see more on what we offer, community events, and to engage in online resources.

Email us at diversity@bc.edu or visit our office:

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