



Inclusive Excellence and International Education

Rising to the Challenge: Making Inclusion Matter

2016 STATE SYSTEM SUMMIT

STUDENT POSTER FORUM

An addition to the Summit this year is the Student Poster Forum. Each State System university was encouraged to select at least two students as representatives of their campus. The poster forum provides students with an opportunity for scholarly development by presenting their original research, scholarly activity, or programming related to the Summit theme in poster format (“Rising to the Challenge: Making Inclusion Matter”). Participation is designed to foster an environment of collaboration on each university campus among students, faculty, and staff, and to provide students with a forum to present and discuss their work. The 2016 Summit planning team is pleased to present these students and their work:

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

- **“Growing Up Gay”–Alexander Hazzard**

Created as an artistic and social commentary on the difficulties of growing up as an LGBTQIA individual, the goal of this work is to create awareness of the prevalence of obstacles and abuses, and the need to make them a part of the conversation in the LGBTQIA community. It is a representation of why awareness and inclusion matters. Alexander’s major is Music Recording with a minor in Graphic Design. Staff

Collaborator: Mr. Malik Muhammed, Coordinator of Sexual and Gender Diversity.



- **“Different Houses, Different Closets: Coming Out in Different Family Structures”–Jacob Kelley**

An examination of how different family structures have an effect on a person’s coming out process, an extremely vulnerable situation where the reaction could be either detrimental or beneficial.

Coming out in a person’s family can lead to inclusion within that structure, allowing an individual to feel accepted. Jacob is pursuing a dual major in Psychology and Communication Studies. Faculty

Collaborator: Dr. Angela La Valley, Department of Communication Studies.

- **“Building a Multicultural and Inclusive University in the Age of Globalization”–Alexandria Martz**

As the level of international students attending U.S. universities and colleges rises, the need for multicultural programs, departments, and faculty must also increase proportionally. This ensures the academic and interpersonal success of every student, regardless of their country of origin. This poster demonstrates how American universities have been transformed in the age of globalization and offers a reflection on the success of collegiate multicultural programs over the recent decade. Alexandria is a senior Political Science major. Faculty Collaborator: Dr. Sheng Ding, Department of Political Science.

California University of Pennsylvania

- **“Southwestern Pennsylvania Special Needs Fair and Expo”– Christopher Dixon and Briannah Armstrong**

A review and study of the interaction between vendors, parents, and/or children in promoting the various opportunities available to those who have special needs children in southwestern Pennsylvania. These include available options for children as they transition into being included in the working world. Christopher’s major is Professional Studies in Early Childhood Education and Elementary (PreK-Grade 4); Briannah is majoring in Special Education (PreK-Grade 8). Faculty Collaborators: Dr. Jason Kight and Dr. Kalie Kossar, Department of Special Education.



- **“Preservice Teachers’ Use of Learning Processes in an Integrated Course”–Samantha Middlemiss**
Mathematics and science have similar learning processes, and it has been proposed that integrated courses focused on these and other similarities can enrich learning. However, it is not known how the degree and type of processes in lessons taught to children change throughout a preservice teacher education course. This poster provides a review of this proposal through lessons taught in a local low socioeconomic status, predominately Black-American populated elementary school. Samantha is a senior Early Childhood (PreK-Grade 4) major. Faculty Collaborator: Dr. Peter Cormas, Department of Early Childhood Education.
- **“Children of War: Mental Health Interventions with Syrian Refugees”–Amanda Sloan**
After witnessing horrific events and being forced to leave their homes, many refugees experience psychological distress. Among the most profoundly affected are the children who struggle to understand the situation and cannot cope with the consequences of war. Psychologists and social workers focus on interventions with refugees and strategies for rehabilitation in order to provide services for a transition into a better life. Amanda is a junior in the University Honors Program with a dual major in Psychology and Social Work, and a minor in Art. Faculty Collaborator: Dr. Azadeh Masalehdan Block, Department of Social Work.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

- **“Who Are You @ IUP Campaign”–Cameron Craig and Peter Gillice**

This campaign has taken a unique approach to advocating responsible choices, dispelling drinking and drug-related myths, and advertising IUP programs which serve as safe and confidential places for students who wish to curb or eliminate their drug usage. The seven characters presented are from diverse backgrounds and create a reflective process on how social norms differ from what is commonly perceived. Cameron is a Secondary History Education major. Peter (PJ) is a master’s student in the Department of Sociology. Staff Collaborator: Ms. Ann Sesti, Director of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Program.



- **“Perceptions of Disability: The Impact of Visibility”–Robert Matchett**
An exploration of the relative stigma of visibility of disability among college faculty and staff in disability services and resident life. This research identifies potential bias that university students with disabilities might encounter. Rob created this work while working on his undergraduate dual major in Sociology and Disability Services. He is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Sociology and Special Education. Faculty Collaborator: Dr. Beth Mabry, Department of Sociology.

Millersville University of Pennsylvania

- **“Political Knowledge and Voting Behavior Among African American College Students”–Brittney Brown**

This research shows a trend in terms of why African American youth choose or choose not to vote based on political efficacy, cynicism, and past civic engagement. African American youth will not engage in voting if they believe casting a ballot will not result in any significant change.

Accordingly, the goal of this research is to inform African American youth that in order for there to be any reform in schools and communities, it has to become a priority in the community to vote. Brittney is pursuing degrees in Government and Political Affairs, African American Studies, and Philosophy. Faculty Collaborator: Dr. Rita Smith Wade-El, Departments of Psychology and African American Studies.

Millersville
University

- **“Reframing the Gender Gap in Computer Science as a Solvable Problem”–Emmali Montgomery**

The alarmingly low numbers of women pursuing Computer Science degrees in the U.S. continues to be a significant concern. It is the underlying general causes and their sources of the decline that need to be considered methodically from various contexts, thus redirecting the efforts as a solvable problem. The main focus of this research and poster is to include more women within the Computer Science major. Emmali is a Computer Science major. Faculty Collaborator: Dr. Nazli Hardy, Department of Computer Science.

Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania

- **“Gender, Disabilities, and Comic Book Superheroes”–Sabrina Becker**

A focus on the severe lack of well-represented people with disabilities, specifically women, in the comic book world. This research compares four female superheroes from the Marvel and DC series with their male counterparts. As comic books are becoming mainstream literature and now used in educational fields, it is important to make this inclusion matter as well. Sabrina is a senior Social Work major. Faculty Collaborator: Dr. Marita Flagler, Department of Social Work and Gerontology.



- **“Promoting Inclusion for Adults with Disabilities at Shippensburg University”–Sarah Herman and Kaleb Sylvain**

A presentation of two student-run programs at Shippensburg that promote social inclusion among adults with disabilities: People Involved Equally (PIE) and Inclusive Basketball. The poster demonstrates how friendships and relationships are built, the promotion of Social Capital, the provision of safe and enriching environments, and the success of allowing all individuals to feel included. Sarah is a senior Social Work major with a minor in Disabilities Studies. Kaleb is a sophomore pursuing a degree in Social Work. Faculty Collaborator: Dr. Marita Flagler, Department of Social Work and Gerontology.

Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania



- **“Oscars So White”–Yonshalae Powell**

Central to this presentation is the concept of that which is absent accrues as much cultural meaning as that which is present, and the absence of African Americans in Hollywood reflects a microcosmic example of systemic racist ideology. Since its inception in 1929, only 13 African Americans have won, and only 32 have been nominated. Yonshalae completed her undergraduate degree at SRU in Communications and is currently pursuing a degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education. Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Cindy LaCom, Director of Gender Studies.

West Chester University of Pennsylvania



- **“Stereotypes about Boys of Color: Information about Race/Ethnicity and Socioeconomic Status Biases Ratings of Boys’ Behavior”
– Julie Belling and Peter Ippolito**

Boys of Color in the U.S. face multiple risks to healthy academic and socio-emotional functioning, and face negative stereotyping and biased judgements. Understanding such biases lays a foundation for counteracting them to promote equality and inclusion in an increasingly diverse society. This study asks, “Does information about race/ethnicity and socioeconomic status bias ratings of boys’ behavior?” Julie and Peter are Psychology majors. Faculty Collaborator: Dr. Eleanor Brown, Department of Psychology.

- **“The Effects of a Health Career Summer Academy on Positive Youth Development in Underrepresented Minority Students”– Sarah Himes**

The West Chester Health Career Summer Academy (HCSA) is an interdisciplinary program designed to introduce underrepresented minority (URM) youth students to a variety of academic and professional opportunities in the health sciences. This study evaluates the effectiveness of the program in increasing middle and high school students’ interest in attending college, doing well in school, and pursuing health sciences careers, as well as to increase participants’ overall self-confidence and appreciation for professionals working in health fields. Sarah is pursuing a degree in Athletic Training. University Collaborators: Dr. Daniel Baer, Department of Sports Medicine and Mr. Nicholas April, Athletic Training Alumnus.

- **“Matters of the Past and Inclusion Today: The Evolution of Racial and Gender Dynamics at West Chester Normal School to what is now West Chester University”– Samantha Jeune and Frederikia Wilson**

An examination of what the past teaches us about today’s struggles to achieve true inclusion. While African American, Cubans, Puerto-Ricans, and other minorities were recruited to West Chester Normal School during segregated America, they still experienced hardships and denial of opportunities from white faculty, staff, and students. The recent campus climate survey conducted at WCU supports continuing problems with inclusion. Samantha is majoring in Women’s and Gender Studies, with minors in Biology and Peace and Conflict Studies. Frederikia is majoring in English Literature with a minor in Applied Ethics. Faculty Collaborators: Dr. Lisa Ruchti, Department of Women’s and Gender Studies; Dr. Eleanor Shevlin, Department of English; and Dr. Tara Wink, Special Collections Library.