

# Multicultural Student Services & Programs Office (MSSP)

## History

- 1992: No MSSP - Admissions Counselor Focused on Minority Student Recruitment / UMAS
- 1995: Minority Student Affairs was created (Director/Advisor), named was changed shortly after
- 1996: I was hired as Advisor of Multicultural Student Services & Programs
- 1997: I was hired as Director of Multicultural Student Services & Programs
- 2003: Advisor position was cut due to budget cuts.
- 2003: Recruitment of underrepresented students was moved to Admissions so that MSSP could focus more on retention efforts.
- 2003: MSSP office moved from WUC to APS
- 2004: MSSP was given .5 Office Coordinator for support.
- 2005: On-Track Program was added to support students that were non scholarship recipients.
- 2006: MSSP was given an additional .5 Office Coordinator and an Advisor position.
- 2007: CECLC chose WOU as their hosting site because of our ongoing support and grant funds.
- 2008: MSSP Office Coordinator upgraded to a 1.0 position.
- 2008: MCR Program was created to support recruitment efforts and to establish a mentor program.
- 2011: MSSP moved from APS to WUC
- 2015: MSSP and COE began collaboration with support for BTS Program.
- 2018: Advisor changed to AD and an additional AD was added.
- 2020: Office Coordinator was cut and one AD position was reduced due to budget cuts.

# Multicultural Student Services & Programs Office (MSSP)

The office of Multicultural Student Services & Programs is committed to the recruitment, retention and graduation of historically underrepresented & underserved populations by providing educational opportunities and outstanding programming for ethnically and culturally diverse students. MSSP strives to enrich the undergraduate experience and foster a supportive environment for students of color to live, learn and grow as active members of the Western Oregon University community and as individuals.

# MSSP STAFF & MISSION



**Anna Hernandez-Hunter**  
Director



**Luanne Carrillo-Avalos**  
Assistant Director



**Akaanchya Pradhan**  
Program Advisor & Coordinator

MSSP currently serves approximately 400 students and is committed to providing our students support through various programs such as:

- ◆ The Diversity Scholars Program
- ◆ The Conexiones Program
- ◆ The On-Track Program,
- ◆ Peer Support and Mentorship Programs.

# DIVERSITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- The Diversity Scholars Program supports students financially with a renewable \$6000/year scholarship (students must meet scholarship renewal requirements each year).
- This award is only available to new, incoming students (not current students).
- The scholarship is awarded for 5 years total for freshmen, 3 years total for transfers
- All freshman scholarship recipients are required to take a class their entire first year (ICS 104)
- All scholarship recipients will meet with their MSSP Advisor and develop and update their Academic Plan on yearly basis.

Note: MSSP also coordinates the selection process for the **David S. Brody Memorial Scholarship**, which is a full ride scholarship (tuition, fees, room/board, books/supplies). Recipients of this award are new incoming students that are bilingual and have a 3.0 or higher GPA. Recipients of this award (one a year) are also automatically included in the Diversity Scholars Program.

# THE CONEXIONES PROGRAM

- The *Conexiones* Program is a collaboration with the College of Education's Bilingual Teacher Scholars Program.
- This program supports students, that are planning on becoming bilingual teachers, financially with a \$3000/year scholarship.
- This award is only available to new, incoming students (not current students).
- The scholarship is awarded for 5 years total for freshmen, 3 years total for transfers (students must meet scholarship renewal requirements each year).
- All freshman scholarship recipients are required to take a class their entire first year (ICS 104).
- All scholarship recipients will meet with their MSSP Advisor and develop and update their Academic Plan on yearly basis.

# THE ON-TRACK PROGRAM

- The On-Track program targets first generation, underrepresented/underserved student populations.
- This program is open to new and current students.
- On-Track participants are provided with academic support, peer mentorship and one on one advising.
- All program participants will meet with their MSSP Advisor and develop and update their Academic Plan on yearly basis.

**Students must apply for this program and can access the application on our website:  
([www.wou.edu/mssp](http://www.wou.edu/mssp)).**

# PEER SUPPORT AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

## MCR Mentor Program:

- All first year students (freshmen and transfers) that participate in any of the MSSP programs are assigned a peer mentor through the MCR Mentor Program.
- This gives students access to an upperclassman that can assist with their first year transition by providing support, tips, suggestions and ideas on how to succeed at WOU.
- All mentors and mentees will gather twice a term for coordinated events designed to provide education on campus resources and an opportunity to create peer connections.
- MCR Coordinators plan and implement **Cultural Connections**; a program that runs concurrently with New Student Week. This program is designed to provide an orientation and provide an opportunity for new students to connect with peers and staff they can relate to and seek out for support while at WOU.

## Multicultural Student Union (MSU):

- MSSP also advises the **Multicultural Student Union (MSU)**.
- MSU is a student organization whose mission is to promote diversity on campus and the surrounding community.
- MSU sponsors annual cultural events. Examples: Dia de los Muertos, Out and Proud, Women of Culture Celebration, African American Awareness Celebration, MSU Pow-Wow and Nuestra Fiesta Latina.
- They also have weekly meetings to connect with members every Wednesday night at 6pm.
- Everyone is welcome!



# MSSP Highlights

- **CECLC: Cesar E Chavez Leadership Conference:** After several years of our office supporting and participating on the planning board for CECLC, MSSP spearheaded a proposal to the CECLC Board offering WOU as an ongoing hosting site.
  - CECLC chose initially to move the conference to WOU for 5 years and after that, because of our dedication and campus commitment, they decided to make WOU the permanent hosting site. The last conference in 2019 hosted approximately 2,200 high school students and staff. 2020 would have been the 30th Annual CECLC Conference was canceled due to the pandemic. For 2021, we hosted a virtual video conference.
  - Future: We are poised to “inherit” this event and we have a unique opportunity to establish it as ongoing collaboration with Oregon High Schools.
- **Celebration and recognition of “Scholars”.**
  - Over the years we have been able to build a scholarship program that serves as a community of peers, a community of support and a distinction of pride for our students.
- **Diversity events in collaboration with MSU**
  - Dia de los Muertos, Out and Proud, African-American Awareness Celebration, Women of Culture Celebration, MSU Pow-Wow, Nuestra Fiesta Latina
- **Cultural Connections:** Has allowed us the ability to connect new incoming students with staff and students from the very beginning of their time on campus.



**QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!**



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