

# Take the initiative with the Diversity Office

By Tiffannie Bond  
Features Editor

How many ethnic groups are there in the world? In China? Name three major racial groups in the United States. The U.S. has how many different ethnic, religious and cultural groups? For what three racial and two ethnic groups are federal contractors required to report hiring statistics? These are all questions asked by the Diversity Initiatives Office in their recent newsletter. The office is planning for a diverse future of UNLV.

"The Diversity Initiatives Office is the 'front door' for all complaints from students and employees, including sexual harassment," Ann Casados-Mueller, director of the Diversity Initiatives Office, said in the inaugural issue.

Even though the office is small, Mueller and an assistant, they are striving to become a focal point on campus, Mueller said.

"Specifically, the Office will provide leadership in advancing UNLV's commitment to equal opportunity, to create the just campus community designated as Goal No. 5 in President Harter's Strategic Planning Initiatives," Mueller said in the newsletter.

President Harter recently appointed a 13-member task force to take on diversity issues. The task force will work towards the creation

of an "inclusive and just campus community," according to the newsletter published by the Diversity Initiatives Office.

The primary mission of the task force is to assess UNLV with regard to the goal of inclusion, justice and civility. It will also make suggestions for a process for "campus constituencies to engage in meaningful discussions and educational programs about justice and civility" and define assessment methods to measure the progress, the newsletter stated.

Paul Meacham will chair the task force. Harter appointed the following official members of the UNLV faculty, staff and student body to serve on the task force: Tony Miranda, anthropology; Cynthia Carruthers, leisure studies; Sam Papalii, football; John Swetnam, anthropology; Phil Burns, Campus Community Development; Bill Sullivan, Academic Advancement; Willard Rollins, history; John Schibrowsky, marketing; Patricia Zozaya, admissions; Mateo Nares, student; Amanda Owens, human resources; and Myoung-ja Kwon, library.

Harter also appointed members who will sit in on discussions but will

not vote. The members include the following: Ann Casados-Mueller, diversity initiatives; Velicia McMillan, multicultural student affairs; Harriet Barlow, graduate college; Juanita Fain, enrollment management; and Rebecca Mills, office of the President.

The Diversity Initiatives Office recently added a new subject matter to their employee diversity training curriculum, "Valuing, Respecting and Understanding Diversity." A companion the training is sexual harassment prevention, required for supervisors and managers. Although the first curriculum is new, the sexual harassment prevention courses have been conducted on campus since last summer.

So, do you think you know the answers to the questions posed by the Diversity Initiatives Office newsletter?

There are 500 different ethnic groups in the world, 50 of them in China. All 500 ethnic groups are represented in the U.S. Caucasoid, Negroid and Mongoloid are the three major racial groups in the U.S. All of the above ethnic groups, along with Hispanic and Native American, are

required of federal contractors to report.

So, how much did you know? Be

honest. For more information on diversity issues, please contact the Diversity Initiatives Office at 895-3891.

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by

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