

CONNECTIONS

The Business of Relationships

Diversity and Inclusion

Newsletter

We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color.



- Maya Angelou

COMMUNITY
COLLABORATION
LEVERAGE
CREATIVITY
CULTURE
INTERCONNECTED
SYNERGY
UNDERSTANDING
STRATEGIC
CULTURE
EQUITY OPPORTUNITY
PERSPECTIVES
VALUE
ADVOCACY
BETTER SOLUTIONS
INNOVATION
BUSINESS IMPERATIVE
VALUE
BUSINESS IMPERATIVE
COMMON GOOD
ENGAGE
AWARENESS
RESPECT

INCLUSION
COMMUNITY
COMMON GOOD
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BUSINESS IMPERATIVE
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EMPOWER

INCLUSION
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A Note from the Chair

2017 is upon us and with it comes the promise of great growth and change. As a nation and institution of higher learning, we continue to work toward and strive for full participation and equality of all citizens, upon whose shoulders the responsibility for upholding these principles rests. America is a multicultural society dedicated to inclusive participation in our democracy; our laws and our social policies have evolved over time to reflect this strong commitment. RCGC's Diversity Committee strives to build upon the diversity of our community to establish a more inclusive educational environment. We have published this first newsletter called "**CONNECTIONS**" to provide guidance, support, articles and updates on the Diversity Committee's initiatives to promote an environment of "**Respect, Civility and Inclusion.**"

Colleges, Universities and other organizations have found that achieving real and sustained diversity and inclusion programs, initiatives, and committees is a multifaceted task— one that requires a more concentrated approach. For this reason, the Diversity Committee considered it necessary to create a newsletter to help our community navigate the difficult tasks encountered during the journey for meaningful diversity and inclusion. This newsletter is designed with the goal of helping our campus foster a culture of inclusion that addresses the multifaceted tasks facing colleges. "**CONNECTIONS**" aims to provide resources necessary to establish, modify or maintain diversity efforts, shift the instructional standard to include leadership models found in diverse communities, embrace collective methods to outline a new and more inclusive institutional diversity standard, and to develop knowledge and capacity for greater diversity and inclusion success across all levels.

It is my sincerest hope that the RCGC community can attain significant and meaningful diversity and inclusion programs.

Ya Vanca Brooks, Chair,

Diversity Committee

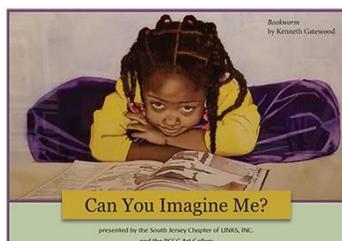
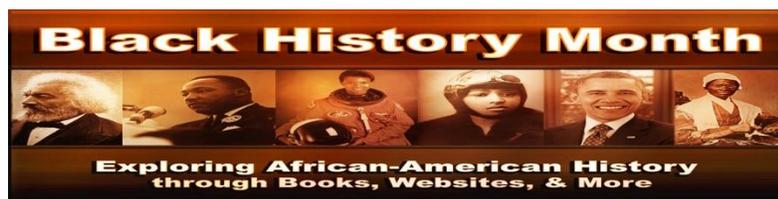
Diversity Committee's Mission

RCGC wishes to express its strong commitment to the goal of diversity, respect, civility and inclusion on our campus. The promotion and retention of a diverse faculty/staff and student body is essential to the success of our institution as a collective body as well as our respective professional pursuits. Diversity brings to our campus a broader and richer environment, which produces creative thinking and solutions. As such, RCGC embraces and encourages diversity in all aspects of its activities. RCGC is committed to creating and maintaining a culture that supports and promotes diversity and inclusion.

Purpose & Intent

Diversity Committee: serves as a review advisory and recommending body to the appropriate Vice President to promote diversity in all RCGC activities- academic, co-curricular and administrative. The Diversity Committee also provides strategies for infusing multiculturalism into all aspects of the campus community and encourages a respectful workplace.

Black History Month Events 2017



Nine artists will bring their distinctive, elegant works to Rowan College at Gloucester County (RCGC) in celebration of Black History Month. The show will run until March 3 in the Art Gallery located in the College Center. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 856-415-2122

<https://www.rcgc.edu/News/Releases/Pages/Links-Black-History-Art-Show-at-RCGC-2017.aspx>

15 Wednesday

DE Stages of Discovery: *Everybody's Hero: The Jackie Robinson Story* at [The Grand](#), Wilmington. Kids in grades 3-8 watch the challenges and triumphs that shaped Jackie Robinson's life play out on stage.

16 Thursday

PA African American Poetry Mashup at the [Walnut Street West Library](#), Phila. After reading famous African-American poetry, use the poets' words to create poems of your own. **FREE**

17 Friday

NJ "I Have a Dream" Open Mic Night at the [South County Library](#), Atco. Ages 9 & up write speeches in honor of King's famous speech, then perform their words to the audience. **FREE**

18 Saturday

PA Black History Month Workshop at the Center for Architecture & Design, Phila. Join the Handwork Studio to make a peace.

NJ Story Time: *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin* at the [New Jersey State Museum](#), Trenton. Read this award-winning picture book about the artist's life, and see one of his pieces in the museum.

19 Sunday

DE Fats Waller: A Man of Many Talents at the [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), Dover. Pay tribute to the jazz legend, view a clip of his performance and listen to stories of his musical legacy. **FREE**

NJ Story Time: *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin* at the [New Jersey State Museum](#), Trenton. Read this award-winning picture book about the artist's life, and see one of his pieces in the museum.

20 Monday

PA The Story of We the People at the National Constitution Center, Phila. Explore the museum's African American interactive exhibits and programs to

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learn about the lives of African American leaders, the history behind the Emancipation Proclamation, and more. **FREE**

22 Wednesday

NJ RCGC's Diversity Committee [College Center, Lower Level](#); The Diversity Committee will sponsor Black History Month activities to acknowledge African Americans who have left an indelible mark upon history between 10 am and 2 pm.

24 Sunday

PA Out of Africa at the [Kingsessing Library](#), Phila. Explore African folktales and how they impart wisdom & reflect a culture's value **FREE**

25 Saturday

PA A Freedom To Go Forth at the [Historic Strawberry Mansion](#), Phila. Items from the Lest We Forget Slavery Museum and from Historic Strawberry Mansion's first builder and occupant Judge William Lewis will be on display. Curators will be on hand to discuss the artifacts.

PA Celebration of African Cultures at [Penn Museum](#), Phila. Includes traditional storytelling, African drum & dance performances, gallery tours, kids' activities and an African marketplace.

Issue 2, February 2017

What would YOU like to see included?

Send us your thoughts, comments, publications, planned events, announcements, and your campus wide Diversity initiatives.

CONNECTIONS will be circulated on the 2nd Monday of every month. Please make all submissions by the 1st Monday of the month to ybrooks@rcgc.edu

What are the Protected Characteristics...?

Age

Race

Disability

Sex

Gender Reassignment

Marriage & Civil Partnership

Pregnancy & Maternity

Religion of Belief & Sexual Orientation

Dates for your Diary- February to March 2017

1. February is Black History Month!
(<https://asalh100.org/origins-of-black-history-month/>)
2. February is also International Boost Your Self Esteem Month!
(<http://www.pghhealthandhealing.com/blog/2013/02/february-international-boost-your-self-esteem-month>)
3. Tu Bishvat – 2/11/2017
(<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/tu-bshevat>)
4. Mardi Gras – 2/28/2017
(<http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/mardi-gras>)
5. International Women's Day – 3/8/2017
(<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/About>)

Diversity and Inclusion Resource Center

The Office of Diversity and Equity has on-demand training material available to you. Just contact Almarie Jones at ajones@rcgc.edu or x2154 or Joan Kuhar at jkuhar@rcgc.edu or x2111 to borrow:

- ***Training Staff to Respond to Racial Climate Challenges*** (DVD, 1:30:42 length; handout material included)
- ***The Power of Respectful Language*** (Interactive, on-line from Workplace Answers, approx. 40 minutes.)

Peace and Justice Institute:

www.peaceandjustice@valenciacollege.edu/pji

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie; The Danger of a Single Story

http://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story