and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color.

- Maya Angelou
Welcome back to school everyone!! The Diversity Committee remains steadfast in our goals to continually advocate for campus wide diversity and inclusion. The Diversity Committee and Student Life will maintain an on-going partnership to ensure that we observe and recognize the cultural diversity on campus. Our hope is to increase mutual understanding and respect among the various religious, ethnic and cultural groups on campus. RCGC’s Diversity Committee strives to build upon the diversity of our community to establish a more inclusive educational environment. RCGC’s Diversity Committee remains steadfastly committed to upholding equality, diversity and inclusion.

The heinous acts of violence against U.S. citizens of various colors, cultures, religions, and political groups have reached new levels. Instead of giving in to the powerlessness we may feel to stop racism and opposing political views, every institution must examine its own role in perpetuating (inadvertently and advertently) racist thinking and policies. We cannot truthfully construct equal opportunities for all until our institutions take specific actions to end that thinking and those policies. Despite the most recent horrific events taking place across our nation, we must continue to be diligent in our pursuit of true democracy for all.

Colleges, Universities and other organizations have found that achieving real and sustained diversity and inclusion programs, initiatives, and committees has been a multifaceted task– one that requires a more concentrated approach. We will continue to publish “CONNECTIONS” as an instrument to augment awareness and sensitivity about religious obligations as well as ethnic and cultural festivities that may affect students, colleagues and neighbors. RCGC strives to build a culture that values meritocracy, openness, fairness and transparency for its staff and students.

“To be kind is to respond with sensitivity and human warmth to the hopes and needs of others. Even the briefest touch of kindness can lighten a heavy heart. Kindness can change the lives of people.” Kyi

Best regards,

Ya Vanca Brooks, Chair of Diversity

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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.
During National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) we recognize the contributions made and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate their heritage and culture.

Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs of their community.

Hispanic Heritage Month, whose roots go back to 1968, begins each year on September 15, the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico, Chile and Belize also celebrate their independence days during this period and Columbus Day (Día de la Raza) is October 12.

The term Hispanic or Latino, refers to Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. On the 2010 Census form, people of Spanish, Hispanic and/or Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or "another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin."

Today, 57.5 million people or 18% of the American population are of Hispanic or Latino origin. This represents a significant increase from 2000, which registered the Hispanic population at 35.3 million or 13% of the total U.S. population.

Share in this special annual tribute by learning and celebrating the generations of Hispanic and Latino Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society.
Suicide Prevention Awareness Week

September 10th-13th, 2018

Location: College Center Lobby

Time: 10 am -12 pm

$2.00 Pins (Purple/Teal)
The Diversity Committee Presents

Diversity Committee & Student Life

Activities

9/26/2018:
Celebrating Hispanic Heritage: Activity in the Spot

11/12/2018
Veteran’s Day – FURever Friends

12/3/2018
Recognizing All Holidays

Diverse Voices Fundraiser

Suicide Awareness Week on 9/10/18—9/13/18

The Diversity Committee presents Ted Talks Tuesdays!

TED began in 1984 as a conference - an acronym for Technology, Entertainment and Design. Ted Talks are short compelling videos covering global issues from science to social justice topics.

We invite all faculty, staff and students to participate. This could be an excellent way to openly and honestly spark a conversation about domestic and global issues at the same time bring diverse voices and questions relevant in higher education and the world at large.

There will also be an opportunity for a short panel discussion after each Ted Talk.

Be on the lookout around campus for the Tuesday Ted Talk flyers!

Ted Talk Tuesdays Dates:

September 11th, 2018
October 9th, 2018
November 13th, 2018
December 11th, 2018
January 8th, 2019
February 12th, 2019
March 12th, 2019
April 9th, 2019
May 14th, 2019
June 11th, 2019
July 9th, 2019
August 13th, 2019
Calendar of Observances – September 2018

1) National Hispanic Heritage Month
2) National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
3) National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month

Let’s Welcome Back the Diverse Voices Student Club!

Diverse Voices is a student club. Diverse Voices is a club designed to build community and global consciousness. We strive to promote cultural awareness as well as opportunities to increase education about other cultures in the United and other countries. We will meet on a monthly basis and it is our goal to offer all students a safe place, and a time to come together, hang out, relax and spend time with each other.

Diversity and Inclusion Resource Center

- Why Does Diversity Matter at College Anyway?
- 7 Best Study Tips for College Students

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The Definition of Social Justice

What is the true definition of Social Justice? The Urban Dictionary suggests that ‘Social Justice’ advocates promoting tolerance, freedom, and equality for all people regardless of race, sex, orientation, national origin, handicap, etc..., but here are some of the common definitions:

“A state or doctrine of egalitarianism (Egalitarianism defined as 1: a belief in human equality especially with respect to social, political, and economic affairs; 2: a social philosophy advocating the removal of inequalities among people)” – Merriam-Webster Dictionary

“The fair and proper administration of laws conforming to the natural law that all persons, irrespective of ethnic origin, gender, possessions, race, religion, etc., are to be treated equally and without prejudice. See also civil rights.” – Business Dictionary

“…justice exercised within a society, particularly as it is exercised by and among the various social glasses of that society. A socially just society is defined by its advocates and practitioners as being based on the principles of equality and solidarity; this pedagogy also maintains that the socially just society both understands and values human rights, as well as recognizing the dignity of every human being.” – Wikipedia

“Social justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities.” – National Association of Social Workers

“Social Justice is the virtue which guides us in creating those organized human interactions we institutions. In turn, social institution when justly organized provide us with access to what is good for the person, both individually and in our associations with others. Social justice also imposes on each of us a personal responsibility to work with others to design and continually perfect our institutions as tools for personal and social development” – Center for Economic and Social Justice

Despite the varying definitions of the term ‘Social Justice’ the common thread that exist among them all are the ideas of: human rights; dignity; political, economic, social, and other equality; equal distribution personal responsibility; and creating access to opportunity and chance through action. Keeping that in mind, it becomes apparent why incorporating Social Justice into pedagogical methods should be a key component of Education.
THE SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

Everyday Democracy Articles to Support Diversity, Inclusion and Civility

WHY MY “GOOD INTENTIONS” AREN’T ENOUGH TO DISMANTLE WHITE SUPERIORITY
"Even though I didn’t consciously consider white skin to be a marker of superiority, I nonetheless had been socialized to believe that was true AND I had spent much of my life acting in good-intentioned ways that nonetheless perpetuated that damaging myth."


COMMUNITIES CREATING RACIAL EQUITY - RIPPLE EFFECTS OF DIALOGUES TO CHANGE
Communities Creating Racial Equity, an Everyday Democracy initiative launched in 2007 helped us better understand the intersection of civic engagement using the Dialogue to Change process. It also helped us learn along with communities about what it takes to address racial equity. This evaluation report features five case studies in this work.


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