2013-2014

No Place for Hate Taskforce and Committee

Annual Report

Co-Chairs:
Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston
Vice President for Student Life

Dr. Valerie Lee
Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion,
Vice President for Outreach and Engagement, and Chief Diversity Officer

Administrator:
Terah James Stewart
Assistant Director, Student Life Multicultural Center

Graduate Administrative Associate
Gisell Jeter-Bennett, PhD Candidate, Department of History
Contents

Executive Summary/NPFH Accomplishments 2013-2014....................................................... 3
NPFH Taskforce Steering Committee Recommendations for 2014-2015 ................................. 8
Appendix .....................................................................................................................................11
Executive Summary:

This year, No Place For Hate (NPFH) taskforce restructured its approach toward building an inclusive community at Ohio State University. Steering away from the traditional format of NPFH, the taskforce decided redirected its time and efforts to program development. Reasons for this decision stemmed from recent decline in student willingness to serve on taskforce sub-committees. Despite change in student participation, NPFH pushed forward and organized three community-wide events: “The Struggle Will Not Be Televised: Law & Disorder Week,” “An Evening with Sybrina Fulton,” and NPFH Spring Town Hall Forum: “A Discussion about Asian/Asian American Experience on College Campuses.” In addition to programming, the taskforce launched its website, www.nohate.osu.edu. In recognizing the interest and popularity of the events, the taskforce is considering other ways to address the objectives established by the original committee while also increasing exposure and university engagement.

NPFH 2014 Accomplishments:

NPFH Graduate Administrative Associate

As a result of several staff changes that occurred at the end of last school year, it was suggested that NPFH acquire a Graduate Administrative Associate (GAA) to tend the day-to-day needs of the task force. This year, Gisell Jeter-Bennett, a PhD Candidate in History served as GAA for NPFH. In her position, Gisell has assisted with the development of the NPFH website, coordinated meetings and events, and worked closely with Mr. Terah James Stewart, NPFH administrator, to ensure that the needs and objections of NPFH are properly executed.

No Place for Hate Website

Based upon recommendations from last year’s taskforce and focus groups, NPFH developed and launched the No Place for Hate website (www.nohate@osu.edu). The purpose of this website is to provide students access to the work of the NPFH task force. The site includes the history of the taskforce, access to current initiatives and resources, in addition to information on ways to get involved with the task force as well as how to contact the task force Steering Committee and
its co-chairs. NPFH hopes that www.nohate.osu becomes a site where students can be informed and inspired by OSU’s rich diversity.

**Law and Disorder Week**

During fall semester, September 23-27, 2013, Ohio State’s No Place for Hate Taskforce organized a series of events and dialogues for “The Suffering Will Not Be Televised”: Law and Disorder Week. The week-long programming was created in an effort to build an inclusive climate for OSU students, faculty and staff to engage in healthy discourse surrounding issues of social justice, privilege, and oppression.

Programs from the week included a panel discussion titled “Your Perception Is Not My Reality” which addressed the role that implicit bias plays in human interaction and how to address it. Also, officers from the OSU Police Department participated in “Red, Rights, and Blue” a program that educated audience members about their rights as civilians and familiarized them with the intentions of law enforcement. Students also attended a private screening of *Fruitvale Station* that was followed by a discussion on the impact of race and violence in American society. Lastly, members of the OSU community took the opportunity to write letters of love, support and encouragement to the Martin Family during the all-day “Letters to Our Family” event.

“The Suffering Will Not Be Televised”: Law and Disorder Week would not have been possible without financial support from the Office of the Vice President for Student Life, Student Life Multicultural Center, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity; and The Black Student Association, The African American Heritage Festival, and the NAACP-OSU Chapter.

**An Evening with Sybrina Fulton**

From Monday, March 3rd to Tuesday, March 4th 2014, the Ohio State University welcomed Ms. Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin, to campus for a series of dialogues pertaining to the life of her son and the Stand Your Ground legislation.

At the start of her two-day visit, Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston and Dr. Valerie Lee co-moderated a roundtable discussion with Sybrina Fulton. This discussion included university faculty, staff,
administrators, and community partners talked over issues pertaining to the plight of young black males in America.

Later in the evening, Ms. Fulton sat with 10TV news anchor and OSU alumna Tracy Townsend for a meaningful conversation in room of over 1000 Buckeyes. During Ms. Townsend posed questions about her life after the Zimmerman trial, the Trayvon Martin Foundation, and her push for law makers to revise the Stand Your Ground law. During this time audience members submitted questions via a live Twitter feed as part of the Q & A session. The evening program ended with a number of presentations including a video explaining OSU’s connection to the Zimmerman case and the rise of Ohio State’s No Place for Hate Taskforce, and a delivery of letters written by OSU students addressed to the Martin Family. The Hale Black Cultural Center also took part in presentation when Mr. Lawrence Williamson, director of the center, honored Fulton with a Kente stole for her continued courage and commitment. At the close of the program, Fulton greeted the Buckeye audience and even stood for photos. The next morning, Sybrina Fulton met with a group of OSU students for breakfast where they continued the discussion from the previous evening, but also talked about grassroots organizing and the power of young Americans to bring about necessary change.

Ms. Fulton’s visit to the university was of great importance to the Ohio State’s No Place For Hate Taskforce (NPFH). Beginning in April 2012, the students of this university have been invested and expressed great interest in the death of 17 year-old Trayvon Martin and the sociopolitical implications of this tragedy. On Thursday, April 5, the words “Long Live Zimmerman” were discovered spray painted on the West exterior wall of the Frank W. Hale, Jr. Black Cultural Center located on OSU’s campus. From the vandalistic act emerged a student-led initiative, No Place for Hate, which called on university officials to implement policies and programs promoting inclusion, not just tolerance.

Since the founding of the Ohio State’s No Place for Hate taskforce, university administrators Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston and Dr. Valerie Lee have worked alongside students, faculty and staff, to create a more inclusive environment across academics, student life, and campus culture. Examples of efforts put forth by the NPFH taskforce include: “Freedom Festival Week” and “No Place For Hate Week” both hosted by The Network, an OSU student organization; and “Law & Disorder Week” that entailed workshops on implicit bias, a movie screening of *Fruitvale Station*,
and a letter writing campaign to the family of Trayvon Martin which took place September 23-27, 2013.

Bringing Ms. Sybrina Fulton to campus has brought things full circle for the university, particularly members and supporters of Ohio State’s No Place for Hate. It is the hope of the taskforce to remain engaged in issues that both directly and indirectly affect our campus community.

This program would not have been possible without the support and fiscal sponsorship from the OSU partners: Office of the Vice President for Student Life, Student Life Multicultural Center, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Department of African and African American Studies, and the Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

NPFH Spring 2014 Town Hall Forum
“A Discussion about Asian/Asian American Experience on College Campuses”

On Monday, April 14, NPFH hosted a town hall forum at the Student Life Multicultural Center. The purpose of the event was to provide students an opportunity to discuss issues they found relevant to the experiences of Asian and Asian-American students on a local, state, and national level.

Those in attendance included a total of fifty-four students (national and international), faculty, staff, and administrators. Together, they engaged in open dialogue about questions and/or concerns that pertained to the academic, social, and communal experiences of this particular student population. Also in attendance were NPFH co-chairs, Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston and Dr. Valerie Lee who both fielded questions from attendees. At the close of the meeting, a group of students met with the NPFH Graduate Administrative Assistant to discuss next step actions for how to address the issues raised during the program. A week after the town hall forum, an email was delivered to the attendees welcoming them to share any additional feedback or questions related to Pan Asian experiences at Ohio State. Sponsors for the Spring Town Hall included: The Office of the Vice President for Student Life, The Student Life Multicultural Center, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion
As a result of the town hall forum, NPFH has decided to partner with the Pan Asian community to organize a series of programming over the course of a week at the beginning of fall semester 2014. Planning for the events will take place over the course of the summer. Those who attended the town hall forum as well as people who are recommended will be asked to assist with brainstorming and program execution.

**NPFH Mix Tape**

NPFH, in collaboration with Open Doors, is compiling a playlist of songs for a social gathering, signature event, or an evening of private listening that had messages of affirmation, celebration, and honored people's stories.

The NPFH Mixtapes has one mission, to provide an interactive listing of anthems for the Buckeye Nation that resists hate and celebrates all. It can be listened to as a cohesive whole or certain tracks can be pulled depending on the event that a group is hosting. It would be used as a way to both provide uplifting and affirming music as well as a way to highlight music that can be used to explore social issues.

In the future, NPFH plans to partner with such university organizations and initiatives as Buckeython, Ohio Union Activities Board (OUAB), and Block O to host Mix Tape Jam Sessions as a way to foster social engagement and relations through affirming music as well as create environments that passively affirm diversity.
NPFH Task force Steering Committee:

Since No Place For Hate’s founding in 2012, the task force has worked to improve the inclusivity and dealings with diversity on the OSU Columbus campus, making the university open and welcome to all. Within the span of three years, NPFH has made successful strides: created a Public Safety Hate Crime Alert, implemented the preferred name mechanism in university systems, and launched its own website. In order for the taskforce to continue leading the way in social change at this university, NPFH must address these two important questions—what kind of society does it want students to live in while at Ohio State, and how can the university create a collective force of knowledge and resources to empower its students, faculty, and staff to address and resolve societal problems on a local, national and even global scale?

In order to better address these questions in a meaningful and productive manner, the NPFH Taskforce Committee recommends establishing the No Place for Hate Social Justice Initiative (NPFH-SJI). This initiative intends to address the short and long term goals of the original taskforce, as well as, support the development and expansion of collaborative programs university-wide. NPFH-SJI will provide students, faculty and staff will have an opportunity to deepen their understanding of social injustice while also learning how to develop and implement social change on Ohio State’s campus, in the city of Columbus, across the United States, and other parts of the globe. An initiative of this magnitude will situate Ohio State among the leading socially conscious colleges and universities in America.

Justification

The No Place For Hate is currently at a crossroads. The level of interest and enthusiasm once dedicated to the taskforce has begun to wane. This year, the task force witnessed a decline among students, faculty and staff to serve on subcommittees. Reasons for this include, but are not limited to: the matriculation of students who served an integral role in the founding of the taskforce; committee goals and objectives appears too daunting for one-year appointments; the level of commitment necessary to execute the recommendations set by the committees exceeds the amount of time and resources allotted by committee volunteers; NPFH taskforce is under publicized among student population; and it lacks a clear mission statement. In spite of these challenges, the university needs a program like NPFH to assess the cultural climate of the
university while also encouraging the OSU community to discuss issues of inequality and injustice in a way that will inspire social change. The events organized by NPFH this year prove that there is want and need for open dialogue and action on matters of privilege, bias, oppression, racism, sexism, and human rights. With that in mind, it would be in the interest of NPFH to continue organizing regular lectures, programs, and events that address different facets of social justice and empowerment. Furthermore, in order for NPFH to thrive, it must become a university endeavor; one that it embraced by university departments, offices, and professional schools. This type of intellectual collaboration and sharing of resources would certain raise the level of scholarship, research, and pedagogy university-wide. Potential contributing departments and offices include: Anthropology, History, Fisher College of Business, Social Work, OSU Medical School, Moritz Law School, Kirwan Institute on Race and Ethnicity, Sociology, Anthropology, Comparative Studies, Psychology, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, African and African American Studies, Asian and Asian American Studies, Latino/a Studies, Human Development and Family Sciences, The Women’s Place, John Glenn School of Public Health, Political Sciences, Office of the Vice President for Student Life, Student Life Multicultural Center, Open Doors, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, among others. This will increase visibility, resources, commitment by the OSU community, and sustainability.

**Potential Outcome**

An initiative like NPFH-SJI has the capability to make social justice synonymous with Buckeye Nation. NPFH-SJI seeks to achieve the following goals:

- Creates a positive cultural climate that spans the university
- Enhance students’ leadership skills through core courses and extracurricular offerings
- Provide students, faculty, staff and administrators space to critically assess inequalities, foster stronger inclusion on campus, and encourages social change scholarship, research, and policy
- Build relationships between the university and the community by connecting students, faculty and staff with community leaders and organizations
- Position Ohio State to be a leading institution of future social justice pioneers
Recommendations for The NPFH Social Justice Initiative

Short Term:

- Adopt No Place For Hate Social Justice Initiative (NPFH-SJI) as its new title
- Launch a publicity campaign that will introduce the OSU community to NPFH-SJI
- Send NPFH GAA and administrator to the 2014 American College Personnel Association (ACPA) Institute on Social Justice to learn about cutting edge, innovative campus programs and social justice education initiatives at colleges and universities
- Continue programming NPFH events and programs
- Evaluate NPFH taskforce subcommittees and their respective goals
- Schedule meetings and/or focus groups with university students, faculty, staff, and administrators to assess interest in NPFH-SJI
- Research colleges and universities with social justice institutions
- Schedule appointments with university programs and units that currently support social justice initiatives and discuss ways to collaborate and expand