

Office of Intercultural Relations





Our “Why”:

“Engagement with diversity is essential for democracy, and learning outcomes for all students to improve when a campus community provides opportunities for students to engage with people who are different from themselves.”

~Milem, Chang & Antonio, 2005





Office of Intercultural Relations Commitment

Inclusion | **Diversity** | **Unity**
Cultural Competence
Globalization | **Authenticity**

- Promote an inclusive and equitable campus community whose members have knowledge of one's own cultural identity and the culture of others
- Cultivate a climate of awareness, understanding, and learning experiences
- Develop and implement opportunities and trainings for cross cultural understanding, communication, cultural empathy and humility, critical thinking skills, awareness of structural power relations
- Intentional and strategic planning for international and domestic authentic and meaningful interaction that prepares students to lead and participate in a global society



An Evolving Philosophy

**Multicultural Student
Services
1980**

**Hugo A. Owens
African
American
Cultural Center
1991**

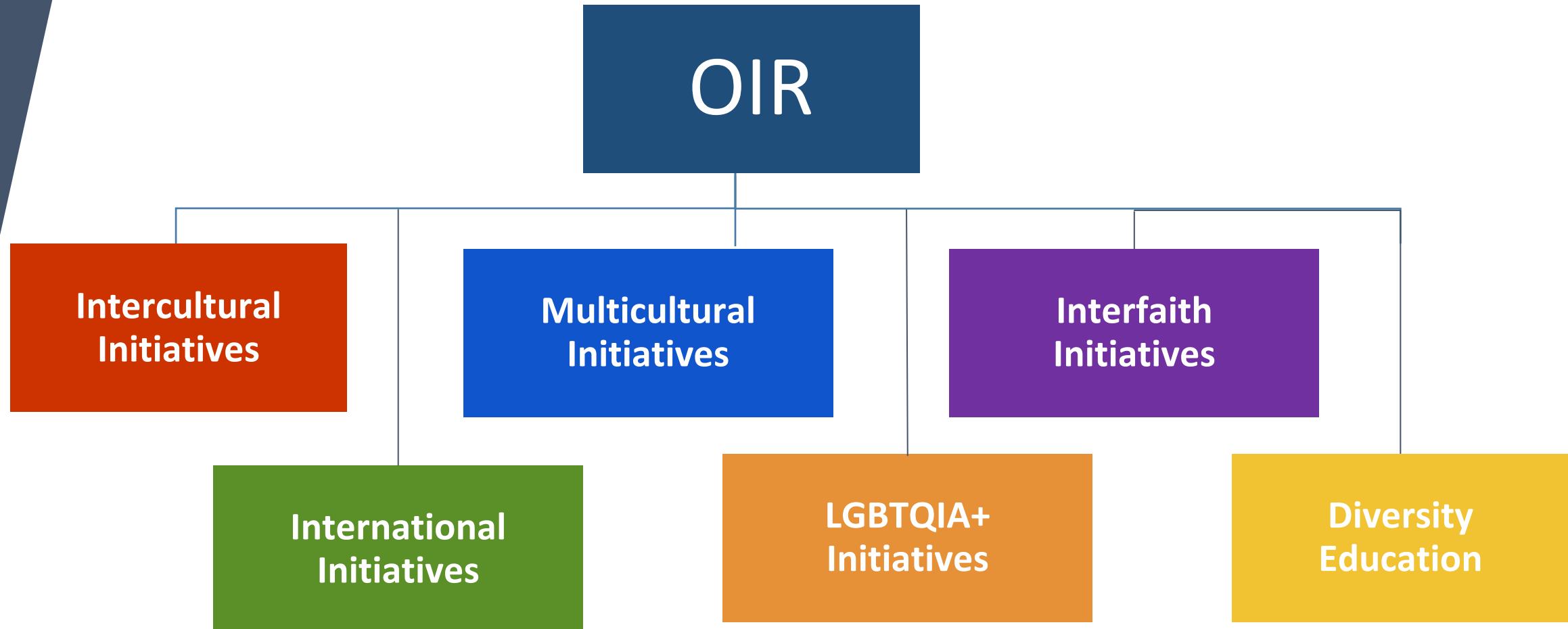
**The Office of
Intercultural
Relations
2009**





Building Inclusive Communities

Authentic Cultural Transformation





Intercultural Initiatives

Works closely with Asian-American, Multi-ethnic, Native American, and Interfaith student affinity groups to promote intercultural learning and engagement.

Objectives

- Support all cultural demographics awareness and knowledge of cultural humility, identities, and intersectionality of self and others
- Educate and promote intercultural interaction through education, training and cultural programs
- Develop Inclusion Competencies: Cultural Knowledge; Cultural Transformation; Intergroup Coalition Building

Initiatives

- Asian Students in America (A.S.I.A)
- Asian Student Welcome Dinner
- Cultural Explosion
- Cultural Competency workshops & professional development seminars
- Head of the Family Dinner
- Native American Heritage Month Celebrations
- Unity Fest



International Initiatives

Connect Globally, Engage Locally

"Internationalization at Home is the purposeful integration of international and intercultural dimensions into the formal and informal curriculum for all students within domestic learning environments" (Beelen & Jones, 2015).

Objectives

- **Campus Internationalization.** Supporting the academic, social, and cultural integration of the international student population.
- **Global Learning.** Providing educational, experiential, and cultural programs that enhance global awareness and international perspectives.
- **Intercultural Engagement.** Stimulate cultural engagement of globally diverse populations in inclusive, local environments.

Initiatives

- Discover America Series
 - Academic Integration and Success
 - Intercultural Learning/Community Connection & Engagement
 - Personal and Professional Development
 - Student Life/Life in the U.S.
- International Student Advisory Board
- International Student Success Advisory Council
- Global Monarch Club
- MINT (Monarch International Newcomer Transition) Program
- International Education Week (IEW)



Multicultural Initiatives

Provides intentional programs, culturally-relevant celebrations, events, safe-spaces and cross-cultural trainings that fostered Black and Latinx student engagement, sense of well-being, and academic success

Objectives

- Create a university climate that welcomes and values the cultural identities and lived experiences of our Black and Latinx Monarch communities
- Support these communities through intentional programs, cultural celebrations, activities, events, and cross-cultural trainings
- Foster Black and Latinx student engagement, sense of wellbeing, and academic success
- Embrace students' voices, unique personality, talents, and abilities

Initiatives

- Sankofa Dinner
- Umoja Conference
- Barber Shop Talks
- Family Reunion
- Black Male & Sisterhood Symposiums
- Adelante
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Hispanos & Latinos Unidos
- Latinx Mentorship



LGBTQIA+ Initiatives

Strives to reduce homophobia, transphobia, and heterosexism on campus through educational and interactive programming, mentorship, and advocacy. Creates a wider network of support for LGBTQIA+ students through interdepartmental collaborations and co-sponsorships.

Objectives

- Reduce homophobia, transphobia, and heterosexism in the ODU community
- Provide interactive programming, mentorship and advocacy
- Be the number one educational resource for LGBTQ+ at Old Dominion University
- Engage the community in the creation of a safe and open campus environment
- Support the development of students of all gender and sexual identifies through advocacy, programming, and social outreach

Initiatives

- ODU Sexuality and Gender Alliance (SAGA)
- Safe Space
- Lavender Reception
- Rainbow Graduation
- World AIDS Day
- HIV/AIDS Testing
- LGBTQ+ Mentor Program
- Queer-EDU



Interfaith Initiatives

Interfaith affinity groups are committed to promoting an inclusive university culture that provides opportunities for positive interactions, engaged learning and celebrations that respects the multi faiths and beliefs of all Monarchs.

Objectives

- Interfaith Initiatives helps one to understand and see faith through another person's eyes.
- It helps one to experience their own faith in a whole another dimension by experiencing another person's faith.
- It helps one to spear through the various racial and religious challenges.
- It helps one to be a better leader in the society.

Initiatives

- Monarch Interfaith Community (MIC)
- Monarch Interfaith Dialogues
- Interfaith discussions
- University Chaplains - Student discussion
- Partnering with University Faith Organizations such as Hillel, Campus Crusade for Christ, Muslim Student Association, Global Student Friendship, Buddhists Association and many others.



Diversity Education

provides opportunities for students to gain knowledge, self-awareness, and skills needed to engage and lead from a culturally inclusive paradigm.

Objectives

- Educate and promote cultural humility as acquisition of knowledge and self awareness to effectively navigate, negotiate and cooperate in diverse settings
- Develop and enhance self-awareness and cultural competence
- Create space for dialogue, with an emphasis on voices often marginalized
- Build skills and capacity to address emerging social issues and create positive social impact

Initiatives

- DiversABILITY (In partnership with Office of Educational Accessibility)
- Diversity Institute
- Own Your Narrative Series
- Workshops on dialogue skills, intersectionality, and social identity recognition
- Spill the Tea



IMPACT

Self Awareness and Identity | **Cross Cultural Engagement**
Enhance Global Learning, Interest and Experience |
Sense of Belonging/Community



“Afro-Latino's face more discrimination that I knew. I learned that I am not alone here.”

“I enjoy learning about the diversity of our student community”

"When thousands of people discover their story is also someone else's story, they have a chance to write a new story together"

“I probably never would have this amazing experience, and this is why this program is so vital for any person who has not fully opened their mind to other(s) cultures or people who may not be “Like them”.

“There are many different cultures represented in the Global Monarch Club.

“I’m glad there’s an opportunity to find others like me. Knowing other queer people are here and thriving gives me hope.”



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