

Indiana State University

2005 - 2006 Administrative Annual Report

African-American Cultural Center

Year in Review

Achievements

As you have heard, increasing public awareness of Indiana State University's accomplishments is crucial to building student enrollment, influencing policy makers, and developing a place of pre-eminence in the Midwest. What do you consider to be your department's accomplishments for the 2006-07 year that will contribute to this effort? (Please list in priority order and limit to no more than 8.)

The five top accomplishments for the African American Cultural Center for the 2005-2006 academic year were: 1. The Ebony Majestic Choir Reunion. It was the choir's 35th anniversary, but the first ever choir reunion. The impact of the influence of the choir on its members was reflected in the response of 160 EMC Alumni who chose to attend. Many of the former members were accompanied by their families. This event was highlighted with the creation of a first time ever Ebony Majestic Choir CD. 2. The Miss Ebony Pageant. Students preparing to participate in this event gain valuable experience in leadership skills and personal values as well as confidence in their abilities to present themselves to an audience of peers. This event has become recognized as an important event for the entire campus and was reflected in the diversity of the audience. 3. Kwanzaa Celebration. Kwanzaa is a unique African American celebration with focus on the traditional African values of family, community responsibility, commerce, and self improvement. The African American Cultural Center invited a spiritual dance troupe from St. Louis, MO to participate in this event. Also, student organizations such as the Ebony Majestic Choir, Expressions Modeling Troupe, Black Student Union, Spoken Heard, African Student Union, Sisters Too and other organizations participated in this event. The Department of African and African American Studies also collaborated in this event. 4. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Commemoration Dinner. This annual program is held in Hulman Memorial Student Union each year. The dinner's estimated attendance at this event was approximately 280 people. 5. Black Leadership Conference. The African American Cultural Center worked with Charlie Potts, the Office of Student Affairs, Office of Affirmative Action and Diversity and student organizations in planning the first Black Leadership Conference ever to occur on the Indiana State University campus. The conference took place in February and was attended by students from ISU and other colleges around the Midwest.

Enrollment

What steps did you take this year to aid ISU in overcoming enrollment challenges?

The African American Cultural Center director attended the Indiana Black Expo that is held each year in Indianapolis, IN. The director represented the African American Cultural Center by providing recruitment information to prospective students and parents along with the Office of Admissions. The African American Cultural Center hosted visiting students from Chicago High Schools and visiting students from Broad Ripple High School from Indianapolis, IN. Students from the Ebony Majestic Choir volunteered their time to act as guides giving campus tours to the visiting students. The African American Cultural Center in collaboration with Dr. Candace Hinton (Department of Education) provided a tour and a catered lunch to visiting students from Evansville, IN.

Action Steps

Do you have any further progress you would like to report?

Assessment

What are two ways in which you evaluated the quality or effectiveness in your area last year? What changes did you make based on those assessments?

For the 2006-07 academic year, a before and after summary report card will be used to articulate program outcomes (i.e. tracking attendance, reviews, options, comments, educational & entertainment goals, and achievement). This card will be developed by selected members of the campus community, the AACC Graduate Assistant and the Director of the African American Cultural Center.

Budget

As you know, ISU is facing significant budget challenges. Finding ways to overcome these while increasing efficiency requires innovation. How are you overcoming your budget challenges this year?

The African American Cultural Center, with limited financial resources is fighting furiously to adequately serve the needs of the ISU and Terre Haute community by offering valuable programs and providing useful services on the ISU campus. If we are to broaden our programs and services an increase in the budget is needed. Also collaboration with other departments in sponsoring programs will help in overcoming budget challenges.

Future Goals

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Have you considered any action steps your department could make to enhance Indiana State University's reputation as a University of choice? If so, please indicate what you are planning to do and tell us which area of planning your steps fall under.

Enrollment Management Recruitment of new students and retention of current students remains a priority of the African American Cultural Center. African American student enrollment at ISU have declined sharply during the past decade. ISU was once the first choice of many African American students from throughout the state but must now compete with the recruitment activities of other schools. The Center is open daily and hosts many students during campus visits and during planned visitation days. Just this year a bus load of students from the Chicago and Indianapolis area visited the campus. More emphasis needs to be placed on the coordination of recruitment activities throughout the campus. The enrollment figure for the past two years confirms this belief.