

Community Relations Committee

Co-Chairs Laurie Cohen and Lovie Jackson Foster...Tuesday, February 18, 2014

EVENTS

Oakwatch

Meeting Wednesday, February 19, 2014

-Location: Career Center, 294 Simple Street

Green Team Meeting

Thursday, February 20, 2014

-Location: Career Center, 294 Simple Street

-Looking for projects

--Got ideas? Email: greenteam@opdc.org

Oakland 2025 Project Development Workshop

March 3, 2014

-Discussion about process of implementing the 2025 plan

-Developing partnerships

-RSVP requested to Tara Sherry-Torres (412-621-7863 ext. 17 or tarat@opdc.org)

Next Community Relations Committee Meeting

March 18, 2014

-Location: Chroghan-Schenley Room, 1st Floor, Room 156

Community organizations are invited to present at this meeting

-Technology will be available for presentations

-John Wilds and Tracy Soska will invite new Director of Pittserves, Misty McKeehan

Good Neighbor Day

March 22, 2014

CRC Fieldtrip

April 15, 2014

-Tracy Soska is coordinating this

Pharmacy School Health Fair

April 11, 2014, 10:00-2:00pm

-Location: Lobby of BST3

-Maggie Folan, Pharmacy, is coordinating the health fair; will bring flyers to next CRC

-Looking for people to serve as "Secret Shoppers"

-19 health issues being addressed (topics follow Health People 2020)

-Target audience: students, faculty, staff, community members

Final CRC Meeting

May 20, 2014

-Will be devoted to planning for 2014-2015

***CRC is seeking a new Chair or two Co-Chairs**-required to be elected members

SPECIAL GUESTS: PITT BRADFORD

Introductions between Pitt CRC and Pitt Bradford

- Dr. Spittler, Director of Career Services
- Tonya Ackley, Coordinator for the Community Engagement Office

Kannu Sahni made brief comments and opened the floor

History of Pitt Bradford

- Established 50 years ago
- Late 1980s established a service fraternity and other programs
- Prior to the 80s had a number of fraternities and sororities contributing
- The local community is very supportive

Trying to address challenges of being a small community

- Career Services established a group to organize social services to support the development of Community Engagement Office

Working to build a Harriet B. Wick chapel on campus

- Tonya Ackley was hired in January 2011 as the Community Engagement Office Coordinator
- The Community Engagement Office was formerly the Center for Leadership and Service (1996-2010)
- Students are very engaged in the chapel

Primary approach to engaging students in community activities:

- Develop relationships with community non-profit agencies
- Focus on student interests and establish mutual goals
- Chose name to be seen as more than community service

Funding

- Minimal funding from the University
- Some funding from Student Affairs Division
- Some of the student organizations that get their members/students involved have their own budgets

Annual Events

- Reach out early to community organizations
- A few programs (among many), were mentioned
- Grandparents Day—a freshman program
- Big Brother/Big Sister recruitment
- United Way Day of Caring
- Make a Difference Day
- National hunger and homelessness
- MLK Day of Service

- Alternative spring break Habitat for Humanity partnered with UPJ...this year going to Miami and Ft. Lauderdale
- Circle K organization

Agency requests

- March of Dimes Regional Committee—partners with Christ in Action
- Luminary sale, a memorial program for babies
—remembering children who have passed away through, for example, miscarriage or still birth, and babies born premature; children’s names are read in a ceremony

How is student participation in programs (interest and participation)?

- Very good
- Students very interested and like participating in community service
- Helps to work through campus organizations...students like to work in teams (more than 40 clubs exist), Resident Assistants are very interested in getting their residents involved, athletics like getting teams involved, etc.
- Connect with the right groups based on their interests

Lots of work with communications and marketing and student organization leaders to advertise events

Faculty Involvement

- Faculty are mostly involved in service learning through their classes (e.g., Care for Children, Head Start, high school “Go Green” Club, partnering with agencies to work on social movement campaigns)
- library created service learning LibGuide
- Friendship Table

Staff Involvement

- More individual volunteerism with various student clubs and events

Are there active groups related to LGBT?

- Active student group, “The Alliance”
- Safe Zone

Related

- Maggie Folan, Pharmacy, mentioned Pitt Oakland efforts to increase faculty sensitivity and skill integrating health and other concerns related to LGBT
- Laurie Cohen mentioned that this originated via Women’s Studies and has grown

Long-term engagement

- Holly Hickling, Honors College asked about whether there was an ongoing mission to engage students in long-term service
- This occurs via internships and study abroad opportunities

Spring project

Partnership with SPCA and justice programs

- working with shelters and students to do dog behavior training
- goal is to increase chances of dogs getting adopted

Related

Kannu Sahni mentioned Pitt partnerships

- Pitt's People for Pets—annual food drive for pets
- Therapy dogs on campus

John Wilds

- Mentioned that they posted Pitt Bradford's activities along with other campuses' on the "225 webpage"

Questions from Tonya:

What suggestions do you have for engaging volunteers?

-Utilize multiple opportunities to build momentum

- Social media, Pitt Facebook page to announce drives, My Pitt portal, Twitter
- University publications
- Word of mouth—biggest influence
 - e.g., United Way, university departments and schools, student clubs
- Present as "student events," rather than faculty driven
- student representatives hold places of leadership on various events and drives
- Friendly competition between departments and schools
- Faculty, students, others acting as "champions" by sharing information (e.g., CRC members)
- Honors College-community-based research fellows
- An Honors College Fellow is doing research with the Red Cross on developing and retaining volunteers over time
- Student Government Board—establish a sense of civic engagement and community service—they are very accomplished in getting the word out

How often do community groups/champions meet?

- At least once a year meet over lunch

Dept. of Student Affairs: Pittserves

- New office: received a federal grant 10 years ago to go out and listen to the community and work on projects identified by the community
- Have had multiple other grants to continue the program
- Have established a new program called "Pittserves" to go out in the community and give students the opportunity to develop their skills and help the community
- New Director: Misty McKeegan—came from Public Allies

What role will the Pittserves director play?

Developing programs

Outreach

- Faculty Liaison
- Community connections

-New software package: Students, organizations, departments, offices, programs can track what they're doing (e.g., Students can now develop a "profile" of the skills they've developed and put it in a sort of "transcript" or "resume")

What kind of relationship-building does Pitt Oakland do with regional campuses?

- Want to have more frequent communication (i.e., sharing back and forth)
- Bring the university together on the student and institutional levels
- A new social work faculty member at Bradford, Stephanie Ecton, does environmental programs and service learning associated with national forests
- Some Pitt students doing outreach in Bradford
- Tracy Soska helped develop SSW masters program there
- great outreach to human services, opportunities to develop connection to environmental groups
- some of this is beginning with development of bike trails

What alternative spring break options does Pitt Oakland provide to students?

- Run by Student Affairs
- Travel projects (Katrina relief, city exchange (Pitt students went to Chicago; Tracy Soska took students to Ireland)
- Coordinated by Student Volunteer Outreach

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Megan Fabbri-OPDC

West Oakland-3 vacant lots

- Process to decide what to do with the lots
- *Looking for consultant to facilitate community feedback process

Laurie Cohen-CRC

Bylaws on Senate procedures--Laurie read bylaws stating that Chair/Co-Chairs must be elected members of the committee

- *Looking for a new Chair or 2 new co-chairs

Laurie read Faculty Assembly announcements

- The Faculty Assembly Chair acknowledged the activities of the CRC as one of the most active of the 15 standing committees

Paul Supowitz-Governmental Relations

- Updating Oakland Task Force website
- monitoring what is happening with BRT, bike share
- 9 bike stations in Oakland (similar to Bakery Square bike share program)
- \$60/year for 30 minute rentals free, then must pay a fee for time after that
- Targets age 35 and older
- website: <http://www.pghbikeshare.org>
- Salk Hall addition will be ready for occupancy in the fall of 2014

SEE YOU MARCH 18, 2014 - Chroghan-Schenley Room, 1st Floor, Room 156
