



April 20th, 2022

Director's Statement on Multicultural Programming

Multicultural Programming was founded in 2009, because this university and the organizations on campus were seeing an increase in the student population's diversity. Our purpose as an organization is to hold events that ensure that students here on campus are able to see themselves in our increasingly multicultural community, whether that be through their race, faith, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual identity, and so many other cultural markers; in accordance with statute 704.110. These events are meant to bring people together that might not normally interact because of these differences, and to foster a community where new friendships are forming in spite of those differences. We knew that with this administration, we could get this done.

In this past academic year, our team has hosted 32 events that range from doing deep dives into specific cultures, looking at the intersectionality that occurs between cultural groups and identities, and ones that focus on the beauty that can come from being with those that are different from you. These events were designed to make sure that all levels of dialogue were able to happen between those participants present at the events. Our more successful events, like Winter Around the World and Noche de Caribe, were by far the most popular with attendance being between 100-250 students per event. These attendees did not only go home feeling happy after a night of fun, but they also went home now knowing more about the cultures represented by their peers. Our more serious events, such as Confronting Stereotypes and Peace Salaam Shalom, had only about a tenth of those attendance numbers, but that didn't stop them from being able to personally reflect and have engaging conversations about the racism and the homophobia that can often go unchecked when these conversations are not being facilitated. Each and every one of the events that we held were designed to focus on how the students can interact and appreciate each other, whether indirectly or directly, whether it was a large event or a small one. We wanted to take this from being a program where events mostly centered around different holiday traditions and make it so that our events can celebrate everyone, even if their group isn't in the name.

As we reflect on the past year and begin planning for the next academic year, it will be Multicultural Programming Board's goal to commit to do even more multicultural-based programming that will align with our mission and create a sense of belonging for the FAU student body. We have designed a survey that will go out to all students, to gauge what the student body wants to see. We will plan to have meetings with other organization leaders on campus twice a semester to discuss cultural collaboration opportunities and to ensure that we are fulfilling our mission statement. Going into the next academic year, the incoming Multicultural Programming Board will be excited for the new opportunities for events, where we can continue to strive to represent every student on campus.