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Otterbein Office of Social Justice & Activism
Otterbein University, osja@otterbein.edu

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EQUITY & INCLUSION MATTERS

Otterbein's Office of Social Justice & Activism: Making the Invisible Visible



Middle school students display their poster presentation at the Women, Leadership, and Innovation Conference, presented by WELD held at Otterbein.

CALENDAR

Nov. 17

International Night
Campus Center Lounge
7 - 9 p.m.

Nov. 29

The Arena of Masculinity
Roush 330
4 - 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 17

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Convocation
Cowan Hall
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Jan. 22 - 26

Social Justice Week

Feb. 9

William Henry Fouse Student
& Alumni Dinner
(Location TBD)
7 - 9 p.m.

OTTERBEIN CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS POWER OF WOMEN, MIDDLE, HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

More than 400 women and 150 middle and high school girls came to campus in summer for the Women, Leadership, and Innovation Conference, presented by Women for Economic and Leadership Development (WELD) at Otterbein University.

The event started with a keynote panel of speakers for all attendees, featuring female leaders, including:

- Kathy Krendl, president of Otterbein University, moderator;
- Tara Abraham, chairman and co-CEO of Accel Inc.;
- Donna James, managing director of Lardon & Associates;
- Natasha Pongonis, co-owner of Nativa;
- Elaine Roberts, president and CEO of the Columbus Regional Airport Authority; and

- Brooke Yoakum, founder of GiftPocket and winner of the Young Entrepreneur Academy.

Participants then broke into tracks with topics ranging from presentation skills to career acceleration; emotional intelligence to generational disparities in the workplace; and social enterprise to personal stories shared by those who followed an unexpected path to achieve career success.

The Girls' track was held at Otterbein's Point. Guided by Otterbein students, the middle and high school girls conceived and developed a social innovation project.

COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS SENDING BEST, BRIGHTEST TO OTTERBEIN

Otterbein President Kathy Krendl, a first-generation college graduate who became the University's first female president in 2009, made it her mission to renew Otterbein's commitment to access and affordability for students from all backgrounds.

The outcome of her commitment is incredible: a 93 percent success rate at Otterbein for first-year students from Columbus City Schools, making them the highest performing student cohort on campus.

"Access without success isn't really access," said Jefferson Blackburn-Smith, vice president for enrollment management.

"OUR COMMITMENT WAS NOT TO BRING CCS STUDENTS TO CAMPUS, BUT TO CREATE A PROGRAM THAT WOULD ALLOW THEM TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE LIFE-TRANSFORMING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT OTTERBEIN."

To support this, Otterbein has established outreach efforts in central Ohio through its enhanced need-based financial aid program, as well as participating in the state's Senior to Sophomores program. The new financial aid model began with 28 entering Columbus City Schools (CCS) students in 2014, an increase from only six CCS

students entering the year before. Because of its success the program has recently expanded to Southwest City, Westerville City and Whitehall City schools. Currently, there are 92 CCS students enrolled at Otterbein.

The current retention rate of 93 percent for CCS students who entered in 2015 is up from 62 percent for CCS students who entered in 2012, and higher than the retention rate for the entering class as a whole. Of the new students who enrolled in fall 2016, 40 percent are first-generation college students and 64 percent are federal Pell grant eligible. The Pell grant helps students living in poverty to pay for college.

"Otterbein was one of first partners to sign on with the district to provide the Seniors to Sophomores program. I think that speaks volumes to how Otterbein was ahead of the game," said Tanya McClanahan, the higher education partnerships supervisor for CCS.

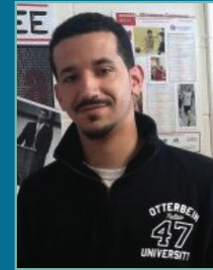


Adunia Tsehaie, Northland High grad (front left) and Mairame Daff, Columbus Global Academy grad (front right), are both high achievers at Otterbein this semester.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings:

There are many discouraging events happening in our world, country



and campus. The United States should be a country of freedom, acceptance and liberty for all.

In order to do

so, it must be a place where opposing views are heard. However, when an ideology contends that some people are less human, deserve fewer rights than others, and commands violence in the name of racial purity, we must reject that ideology as immoral.

College campuses are certainly on the frontline of white supremacy's battle against inclusion. We must affirm an unequivocal commitment to diversity, inclusion, equity, and the dignity and worth of all people. We must pledge together to have an unwavering commitment to study, teach, work and live in a climate of respect and safety.

We need to be a resilient community united against hate. As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., taught, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." Silence is an appropriation of injustice. I encourage us to first examine our stance on critical issues.

(See Director, page 3)



Mairame Daff (left), Bethany Soto (center), and Tonia Dunson-Dillard (right) learn about jobs in the health communication field.

THE MOST DIVERSE FIRST-YEAR CLASS IN OTTERBEIN'S HISTORY BEGAN IN AUGUST

This fall's first-year class exceeds 20 percent students of color, or 126 students. It is the most diverse class in Otterbein's history for the fourth year in a row. The class of approximately 607 students represents 25 states and 62 Ohio counties. Forty-five students have enrolled from Columbus City Schools, thanks to outreach programs to the district's graduates, which boast a 93 percent retention rate.

Otterbein also has 25 new international students this fall and two international scholars, representing 10 countries. The students come from China, Germany, Ghana, India, Japan,

Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. Students from South Korea are the largest incoming group followed by Japan, then China.

OTHER STATISTICS INCLUDE:

- Thirty-two percent of the entering class is eligible for the federal Pell grant;
- More than 40 percent of the class has a 3.8 or higher GPA;
- Retention is up 8 percent over the last five years, from 75 percent to more than 83 percent.

(Director, from page 2)

Why do I believe the way do? What is the context of the information I am receiving? What can I do to promote equity and inclusion on campus and my community?

It is my hope that with one voice, we will oppose hatred—whatever its form. Let us unite in remembering those who lost their lives to this struggle. Moreover, let us continuously work for goodwill among us all. Our voices need to be raised together, now more than ever.

Sincerely,

James E. Prysock III



Left: Otterbein students joined in the Campus Center to openly voice opinions on the racist acts that took place in Charlottesville, Virginia. Right: Posters distributed on campus after rally.

OTTERBEIN'S CAMPUS REACTS TO CHARLOTTESVILLE EVENTS

Shortly after the racist confrontations in Charlottesville, Virginia, that left one woman dead and scores wounded, Otterbein held a Common Hour meeting to discuss reaction to the Charlottesville events.

The goal of Otterbein's Common Hour was to discuss, highlight and educate students about white supremacy and neo-Nazism in our

society, and appropriate reactions to them.

One student panel on microaggression discussed how students must be conscious of their views and language toward all people on campus.

"I attended because of the social justice aspect of the protests and

because I wanted to learn how students on campus who are underrepresented feel," said junior Haylie Schmoll. "It was a standing room only crowd."

As a result of the rally, posters were created and distributed stating unequivocally, "Hate has no home here." The posters can be seen throughout campus.

BY THE NUMBERS

20% of students of color in this fall's first-year class represent the most diverse class in Otterbein's history, for the fourth year in a row.

40% of the first-year class has a 3.8 or higher GPA.

25 new international students are on campus this fall representing **10** countries.

8% is the increase in the retention rate at Otterbein over the past five years.