



SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

College of the Great Smoky Mountains

ETHNIC & GENDER DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING

3:00 p.m., Friday, September 19, 2008
Room 311, Balsam Center

Present: Mary Bradley, Erin Kelly, Delos Monteith, Vita Nations (joined via teleconference from Cherokee Center), Chuck Reece, and Jan Smith.

Absent: Linda Aiken, Keith Ashe, Peter Buck, and Bucky Dann.

July Meeting Update

Erin Kelly updated committee on her meeting with Roseanna Belt, director of Western Carolina University – Cherokee Center. Roseanna Belt expressed an interest in speaking at SCC about her experience as an American Indian and working in the Cherokee community. She also advised that her husband, a professor at WCU, could speak about the Cherokee language.

Heritage Celebration Months

Erin Kelly provided a list of heritage celebration months. The committee decided to focus on October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month and November as National American Indian Heritage Month.

October Event:

The committee proposed hosting a TLC on disability awareness for National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Ms. Kelly will contact Dr. Gene Couch for approval; she will also contact Cheryl Contino-Conner, Diane Page, and Debra Klavohn, respectively, for possible speakers.

November Event:

Vita Nations proposed to have an American Indian Heritage Day at the Cherokee Center. The committee chose the morning of Friday, November 14 as Cultural Heritage Day (event will begin at 10:30 a.m.). The event will take place at the Cherokee Center; it will showcase American Indian artwork, cooking, and a speaker.

Ms. Kelly will contact Dr. Cecil Groves for approval; she will also contact Phil Weast for Student Activities involvement; Ceretta Davis for the culinary students' participation (fry bread and chili samples); Roseanna Belt and/or her husband for a speaking presentation. Ms. Nations will contact Rickie Wesbrooks to coordinate the artwork display and possibly art demonstrations for the event. Jan Smith will arrange American Indian artwork to be displayed in the Balsam Center lobby for the month of November (either through Rickie Wesbrooks or the Native American Club).

Chuck Reece suggested using the college vans to transport attendees from the Jackson Campus to the Cherokee Center.

The committee will receive future e-mails on the progress of scheduling the two events. The next Ethnic and Gender Diversity Committee meeting will be scheduled for the spring semester. The specific time and date will be announced in January.