



## University of Kentucky President's Commission on Diversity 2005-2006 Annual Report

After the departure of Dr. Deneese Jones, former chair of the President's Commission on Diversity (PCD), the commission did not meet from May through December, 2005. In January 2006 after meeting with President Todd, the commission appointed Jaime Nebbitt and Ricardo Nazario-Colón as interim co-chairs for the remainder of the academic year. Then, after a long search of available and interested candidates, the commission recommended to Dr. Todd, the name of Dr. William Turner, vice president for University Engagement and associate provost for Multicultural and Academic Affairs for consideration as the next PCD chair. The following report of activities during the spring semester 2006 was submitted by co-chairs, Ricardo Nazario-Colón and Jaime Nebbitt.

- Coordinated and sponsored the President's Award for Diversity, where Dr. Samuel Betances delivered the keynote address. Honored individuals and departments in the categories of UK student (3), faculty (1), staff (1), administrator (1), and unit or program (1) who have demonstrated outstanding efforts toward advancing Goal V of UK's Strategic Plan of "nurturing diversity of thought, culture, gender and ethnicity."
- Presented two well-attended faculty diversity recruitment presentations by invitation for administrators, deans, and department heads, and a separate presentation for the general campus. Representatives from the University of Colorado and the University of Michigan presented their successes and challenges with recruitment of staff and faculty of color.
- Participated in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Celebration.
- Compiled strategies for the Best Practices Grid to be included in the Comprehensive Diversity Report. These practices will be applicable to all departments and units within the university.
- Supported commissioners to attend the 2006 National Conference on Race and Ethnicity.

- Supported several organizations on campus and throughout the community with funds for specific projects related to Goal V of the University's Strategic Plan.
  - The Commission awarded \$1,000 to the Affrilachian Poets for their celebration on June 30, 2006. The Affrilachian Poets was formed 15 years ago on the UK campus, in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Cultural Center. Original AP members teach as faculty at UK, Chicago State University, Indiana University, IUPUI, Temple University, Spalding University, Transylvania University, and the Governor's School for the Arts. Together they have taught and mentored thousands of young writers all over the United States.
  - The Commission awarded \$865 to the Office of International Affairs for its project titled Women Around the World-Their Roles and Goals, where international students learn about Appalachian culture with an emphasis on women's roles.
  - The Commission co-sponsored the campus wide Cultural Diversity Festival, spearheaded by Student Affairs.
  - The Commission awarded \$750 to MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources and Related Sciences) to help offset expenses associated with attendance at its 2006 national conference.
  - The Kentucky Women Writers Conference was awarded \$1,000 for the annual conference, which featured presenters such as Alex Beauchamp, Diane Gilliam Fisher, Amy Ganter, Phoebe Gloeckner, Hayden Herrera, Urban Bush Women, Sonia Sanchez, and Sarah Vowell.
  - African American Studies and Research Program received \$1,000 for the twelfth annual Black Women's Conference. This year's theme was "Soul Well: Mental Health Issues Among African American Women." The conference recognizes, highlights, and examines issues that are central to the lives of black women including their historical and contemporary roles in the black community and beyond. Toward this end, each year, the conference focuses on a theme relevant to the physical and mental well-being of black women in an effort to offer information that can be used to empower them on a daily basis.
  - The Commission contributed \$250 to Patricia Callaway to attend the 2006 Hawaii International Conference on Education.