



## A Letter from AnnaMaria Cirrincione, Our New Interim Director of Multicultural Life and Diversity

My name is AnnaMaria Cirrincione and I am the new Interim Director of Multicultural Life and Diversity at SUNY Cortland. First, I would like to say thank you to everyone who has already been so kind and welcoming to me as I transition from the role of Assistant Director to Interim Director. I am truly excited to be here and to work with all of you in this new capacity.

These past few months has been rough as we have seen one tragedy after another occur, including the shooting in Orlando, the killing of black men by police officers, the killing of police officers and the rhetoric of this presidential campaign. Many of us have heavy hearts so we encourage you to take time to heal and come together to support one another. It is now more than ever that we must continue to push diversity, equity and inclusion as a top priority not only on our campus but as a society.

Our office encourages you to get involved with the many trainings and programming that our office offers to help facilitate conversations that focus on the need for every person at SUNY Cortland to hold themselves responsible for diversity, equity and inclusion as well as creating a climate where every person feels valued and welcome. Students are always welcome to call or stop in with any questions or concerns they may have or just to say hi. I can be reached at 607-753-2336 or you can come to Corey Union, room 402-A.

### Favorite Quotes:

*“Loving ourselves through the process of owning our story is the bravest thing we’ll ever do.”*  
- Brené Brown

*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”*  
- Nelson Mandela



Sincerely,  
AnnaMaria Cirrincione  
Interim Director



### A Letter from Lima Maria Stafford, Our New Interim Assistant Director of Multicultural Life and Diversity

My name is Lima Stafford. I am very excited to be a part of Multicultural Life and Diversity Office. I was born and raised in Carriacou, Grenada and moved to Brooklyn, New York in 2001. I lived in Cortland, New York from 2008 due to me furthering my education. I received my bachelor's degree in physical education in May 2012 and am pursuing my master's in health education at SUNY Cortland.

For the past two years at SUNY Cortland I was a Residence Hall Director for Bishop Hall. I currently serve as co-advisor for Men of Value and Excellence (MOVE) and advisor for Caribbean Student Association (CSA). I am also the advisor for two culturally-based Greek organizations on campus; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc and Co-advisor for Sigma Lambda Upsilon Señoritas Latinas Unidas Sorority, Inc. I am also the advisor for DRAMA dance club and Men's Club Basketball team. Lastly, I am an active member of the It's on Us Action Team Sexual Assault Awareness and Planning Committee.

I want to continue to bring inclusion through discussions, trainings, and programming at SUNY Cortland. I believe in the quote by Neale Donald Walsh that "Life begins at the end of your comfort zone." My goal is to challenge everyone to try new things while celebrating differences. I want to help everyone be successful during their time at this institution by getting involved. Feel free to stop by my office in Corey Union, room 401. I will like to wish everyone the best during this academic year.

Sincerely,  
Lima Stafford  
Interim Assistant Director

If you would like to contribute to the MLDO  
Newsletter, please email  
[lima.stafford@cortland.edu](mailto:lima.stafford@cortland.edu) with submissions.  
Submissions in any language will be accepted.

*"Tough time don't last, but tough people do"*  
-Robert Schuller

*"Life begins at the end of your comfort zone"*  
-Neale Donald Walsh



Fall 2016  
Volume 6, Issue 1

### MLDO Fall 2016 Important Dates

#### Leadership Retreat

Fri., Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> – Sun., Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>

#### Peer Diversity Training

Mon., Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm  
Corey Union, Caleion Room

#### Faculty/Staff/Alumni

##### SafeZone Training

Tues., Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm  
Corey Union, Fire Place Lounge

#### Student SafeZone Training

Sat., Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> from 1-4pm  
Corey Union, Fire Place Lounge

#### Faculty/Staff/Alumni

##### SafeZone Training

Wed., Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm  
Corey Union, Fire Place Lounge

#### Re-thinking Abilities

Sat., Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm  
Corey Union, Fire Place Lounge

#### SafeZone Train the Trainer

Wed., Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm  
Corey Union, Caleion Room

## A Letter from Christopher Kuretich, Our Interim Chief Diversity Officer

My name is Christopher Kuretich and I have the honor of serving as the Interim Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) for SUNY Cortland. Let me begin this note by saying that I hope each and every one of you are off to a positive start this semester. It is my pleasure to welcome our new students, and welcome back our returning students!

At this time, I wish to update our campus community about some very important endeavors currently underway. First, as many of you know, Dr. Noelle Chaddock assumed a new role at Rhodes College after serving our institution well as both the Director of Multicultural Life & Diversity, and Chief Diversity Officer. While I am excited to be serving in the role as Interim CDO, I am even more excited to share that we have begun a national search to identify the next person to lead the College's efforts related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. I encourage you all to monitor your email and stay updated about this search. The process will include an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to provide feedback on identified finalists.

Second, one of my major responsibilities during my time as Interim CDO is to lead our efforts in developing a strategic diversity and inclusion plan. This plan will help our institution identify priorities, strengthen our diversity commitment, and shape the future direction of our diversity, equity, and inclusion work. In developing a draft of this plan, I look forward to hearing from all members of our campus community so that your feedback and input can be incorporated into this process.

In closing, I would like to remind all of you that I am here to serve as a resource to you. If you wish to share concerns or suggestions, provide input or feedback, or have questions please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach me via email at [christopher.kuretich@cortland.edu](mailto:christopher.kuretich@cortland.edu) or via phone at 607-753-4721. You are also welcome to visit my office in Corey Union, room 407A. I wish you all the best this semester!

Sincerely,  
Christopher Kuretich  
Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs  
Interim Chief Diversity Officer

Fall 2016  
Volume 6, Issue 1

### Voice Office Weekly Meeting Times:

**Black Student Union (BSU):**

- Mondays at 6pm in the Corey Union, Voice Office

**Caribbean Student Association (CSA):**

- Wednesdays at 6pm in the Corey Union, Voice Office

**Hillel:**

- Tuesdays at 8pm in the Corey Union, Voice Office

**La Familia Latina (LFL):**

- Tuesdays at 6pm in Corey Union Voice, Office

**Men of Value and Excellence (MOVE):**

- Tuesdays at 7pm in the Corey Union, Voice Office

**Pan-African Student Association (PASA):**

- Mondays at 7pm in the Corey Union, Voice Office

**Spectrum:**

- Thursdays at 7pm in the Corey Union, Voice Office

**Women of Color (WOC):**

- Thursdays at 6pm in the Corey Union, Voice Office

## Hispanic Heritage Month September 15- October 15

Many Hispanic Americans trace their roots to the cultures of the indigenous peoples of the Americas including the Arawaks (Puerto Rico), the Aztecs (Mexico), the Incas (South America), the Maya (Central America), and the Tainos (in Cuba, Puerto Rico and other places). Some trace their roots to the Spanish explorers who in the 1400s set out to find an easier and less costly way to trade with the Indies. Other Latinos trace their roots to the Africans who were brought as slaves to the New World.

For purposes of the U.S. Census, Hispanic Americans today are identified according to the parts of the world that they or their ancestors came from, including Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, or the nations of Central or South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 10, falls within this 30 day period.

### Fun Facts on Hispanic Heritage

1. There are 1.1 million Hispanic veterans of the U.S. armed forces.
2. The term "Hispanic" originally denoted a relationship to Hispania, more commonly known as Portugal and Spain, and the people colonized by those two countries.
3. The Hispanic family is a close-knit group and the most important social unit. The family unit usually extends beyond the nuclear family.
4. Seventy percent of the Hispanic population lives in five states: California, Texas, New York, Florida and Illinois

Source: <http://www.hispanicheritagemoth.org/>

Fall 2016  
Volume 6, Issue 1

**Spring 2016  
Important Dates**

**Kente**

Sat., April 1<sup>st</sup> @ 6pm  
Corey Union, Function Room

**The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Student  
Conference on Diversity, Equity,  
Inclusion and Social Justice  
“Inspiration, Compassion and  
Our Shared Humanity”**

Sat., April 8<sup>th</sup> from 8am – 4pm  
Corey Union

**Follow MLDO on Social Media**

**Facebook:** Diversity Cortland

**Instagram:** @sunycrtmldo

**Twitter:** @sunycrtdiverse

**Follow Voice Office Clubs on  
Instagram**

**BSU:** @cortlandbsu

**PASA:** @cortlandpasa

**LFL:** @lafamilialatina

**MOVE:** @cortlandmove

**Hillel:** @cortlandhillel

**CSA:** @cortlandcsa

**WOC:** @\_womenofcolor

**Spectrum:** @cortlandspectrum

For more information, visit our  
website or contact MLDO at  
607-753-2336  
[multicultural.life@cortland.edu](mailto:multicultural.life@cortland.edu)

**The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Conference on Diversity,  
Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice: “Inspiration,  
Compassion and Our Shared Humanity”**

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**Sat., April 8, 2017 @8am – 4pm**

This year’s office theme is Inspiration, Compassion and Our Shared Humanity. The theme is looking at ways in which SUNY Cortland students can gain the experience they need to be inspired to make a difference in our world through evoking genuine compassion and empathy in understanding our shared humanity. When we recognize our shared humanity, profound connections can be fostered across cultural divides to promote a more inclusive community.

“It is not so much a matter of having exact rules about how precisely we ought to behave, as of recognizing the relevance of our shared humanity in making the choices we face.” ~Amartya Sen: Development as Freedom

Please join us for this amazing conference, facilitated by the student conference committee, under the leadership of Michael Guity, here at SUNY Cortland. For more information please email [multicultural.life@cortland.edu](mailto:multicultural.life@cortland.edu)



Fall 2016  
Volume 6, Issue 1

### Voice Office Orgs Upcoming Events:

#### BSU and SAB Roller Skating

- Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>
- Moffet Gym at 7pm

#### PASA Taste of Africa

- Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>
- Port Watson Center at 6pm

#### BSU Black out for Justice March

- Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>
- Corey Union Steps at 5pm

#### Spectrum National Coming Out

- Tuesday, October 11

#### WOC Breast Cancer Walk

- Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Corey Union Steps at 12 pm

#### CSA Spooksville Children Festival

- Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>
- Corey Union Function Room at 4pm-6pm

#### MOVE Halloween Bash

- Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>
- Corey Union Function Room at 11pm-2am

#### CSA Music 4 the Cause Show

- Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>
- Corey Union Function Room at 5:30pm

#### MOVE Celebration of Men

- Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>
- Corey Union Exhibition 12pm

## MLDO welcomes our new Student Conference Co-Chair Christine Matos



Christine is from Manhattan, Lower East side. She received her bachelor's degree from Le Moyne College in Criminology. She also recently received her Master's in Public Administration Nonprofit Management in August 2016 from Buffalo State College. During her time at Buffalo State she worked as a Resident Director, was the coordinator of the NASPA Undergraduate Fellowship Program (NUFP), worked at the Educational Opportunity Program as a Lead Academic Mentor, was a Graduate Intern at the Diversity and Equity office and was the President of the Graduate Student

Association. She currently works at SUNY Cortland as a Residence Hall Director in Shea Hall.

## Fall 2016 Annual Diversity Retreat



On September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016, a diverse group of 36 students and 5 staff came together to attend a weekend long retreat focused on helping students gain an understanding of their leadership style, the role of diversity in leadership, the value of diversity, equity, civility, access, and inclusion in their educational experience, the value of teambuilding and teamwork in leadership development, and the value of working with people different than themselves as a key to achieving goals.

Participants experienced workshops and activities such as high and low ropes courses, a social identity exercise, the True Color activity, the LGBTQAIP Star Facilitation, the Diversity Challenge, etc. It was amazing to see the level that our students bonded and the willingness they expressed to learn from each other's lived experiences.