



EOU hosts 46th annual Indian Arts Festival Powwow & Friendship Feast

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SPRING TERM EVENTS

Conversations in Spanish

Wednesdays @ 3:00

Why Aren't There More Black People in Oregon?

Thursday, April 14 @ 6:30pm

Island Magic Lu'au & Show

Saturday, April 23 @ 6:00pm

Indian Arts Festival & Powwow

Friday & Sat May 6th & 7th

MC & International

Graduation Celebration

Friday, June 3rd @ 4:00pm

The annual Indian Arts Festival and Powwow at Eastern Oregon University marks its 46th anniversary in May. This longstanding event is a tradition for the Native American students and Speel-Ya the Native American Student Council on EOU's campus. A powwow is an American Indian celebration. There will be drumming, singing, Native American food and craft vendors, along with several different dance competitions. Native Americans come from all over the Northwest to join in the celebration. Grand En-

tries are at 7 pm on Friday, May 6 and 1 pm and 7 pm on Saturday, May 7 in Quinn Coliseum. Admission is free. All activities are family-friendly and open to the public. In addition to the regular lineup of social and competitive dancing will be Men's Slick Style, Women's Short Fringe and Traditional, along with a hand drum contest offering opportunities for participants to earn extra cash prizes. There is no dancer fee. In conjunction with the powwow events the Rita Monahan Wellness Event will be happening

that Saturday in Dorian Park from 10am - 1pm. The Friendship Feast precedes the

Grand Entry on Saturday evening with food served in the Auxiliary Gym in Quinn beginning at 5 pm Arts and crafts vendors will be set up both days with a variety of wares including American Indian style flutes, and beaded & wire-wrapped jewelry. There will be many opportunities to win prizes in one of the three raffles. Serving



as Host Drum this year is Enchalamen from the Nez Perce Tribe in Lapwai, Idaho. Thomas Morning Owl is the Master of Ceremonies, representing the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Speel-Ya Native American Student Council, Associated Students of EOU, Wildhorse Foundation and many in-kind donations support the event. For more information visit www.eou.edu/powwow or reach Shoshoni Walker, Native American Program Coordinator at 541-962-3588 or walkerss@eou.edu.

What is “UNDOCUMENTED?”

By Daysi Bedolla

STUDENT CORNER



Daysi Bedolla is a Junior Bio-Chemistry Student and a Diversity Ambassador at EOU

What is UNDOCUMENTED? If you look the definition up in Merriam-Webster you will find that the word undocumented means “*not having the official documents that are needed to enter, live, or work in a country legally.*” According to an article in *The Guardian* published in 2015, “The term ‘illegal immigrant’ used interchangeably with ‘undocumented’ wasn’t widely used to describe a population of people until the second world war, when the media began ascribing it to Jews fleeing to Palestine without authorization. In fact, it was Holocaust survivor and Nobel peace prize winner Elie Wiesel who first framed the debate: “You who are so-called illegal aliens must know that no human being is illegal.” Melissa Padilla, a young student at

Dartmouth College, working on a class project came across the subject headings around immigration were “illegal alien” was widely used and started working to have her college change it’s use of the words. The campaign grew rapidly and eventually, the Library of Congress agreed that the phrase “illegal alien” has taken on a tone in recent years that is damaging to the reputation of individuals and groups. In response, many institutions, organizations, and media outlets have stopped using the term to describe individuals. An organization, Define American, created by Jose Antonio Vargas, a Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist and immigration activist, started a wordsmatter campaign that works with media outlets and political leaders to encourage use of language toward immigrants that is accurate and humane.

There are one million undocumented children under 18 years of age living in America, who have suffered negative impacts which their undocumented status has had on their lives. Many of these young people are top high school graduates and have only know America as their home country. Yet they still face many hardships of not being wanted by the only country that they know and feel like it’s *home*. It is interesting how even if they have been raised here, they do not feel like they fit in because of a document.

As an undocumented student I have suffered this myself. I graduated as one of the top students from my class, but that meant nothing because I do not have the right documentation. There were nights and days of frustra-

tion and not knowing if I was going to attend college. I had the grades, the ambition, the attitude, but I did not have the right documentation. There were times where I knew college was not an option. I thought I would have to drop out and go to work just like those that are in the same situation. Undocumented students do not qualify for federal financial aid; the only money they rely on is scholarships and out of pocket.

My name is Daysi Bedolla, one of the co-founders of our new United Undocumented Club, here at EOU. I am originally from Michoacan, Mexico, and a transfer student from Chemeketa Community College. I come from Woodburn, Oregon, where the Latino population is above 90%. Those of us involved in this journey have agreed that it is time to start talking about the issues that happen nation-wide regarding this topic. We believe it is time to start talking about who we are, where we come from, our involvement on campus and in our communities. We come from diverse backgrounds and age groups, and have very unique stories that we would like to share with you all. I believe that it is important for our stories to be told in order for others to know who we are and how we have contributed to our society as well as what we hope to continue to do. Being undocumented does not provide us with many financial options especially when it comes to going to colleges. We have to work extra hard to maintain our grades, get scholarships - which are very limited because of our status - and try to get involved in

our campus to more people have a better understanding of who we are and the challenges we face. If we do not have enough money to pay for school, school is not an option for us.

As a club, we have three major objectives we will be working on. First, we want to provide a safe environment for those who identify as undocumented. We want to make sure when they come to our club they feel safe about saying who they are. We want to help those students who are undocumented to feel comfortable, and proud of who they are. We want to empower them, and support them. Second, we want to raise awareness of our undocumented community; and third, share any resources such as scholarships and leadership opportunities that might be available.

Our United Undocumented Students Club (UUS) will make sure those who are undocumented feel safe, and also will seek allies who are willing to help us. We are here to make an impact in the institution as well as in our community. We welcome people to join the club and help support our goals.

If you have any questions about our club please email president Daysi Bedolla at dbedolla@eou.edu or go to our Facebook page United Undocumented Club Eastern Oregon University. Feel free to contact us for any suggestions, or questions.



SPANISH TUTOR AT THE MULTICULTURAL CENTER

**Mondays & Thursdays
4 - 6 pm**

For more information, call 541-962-3741 or e-mail mccenter@eou.edu

BELINDA SANCHEZ



CONVERSATIONS in SPANISH

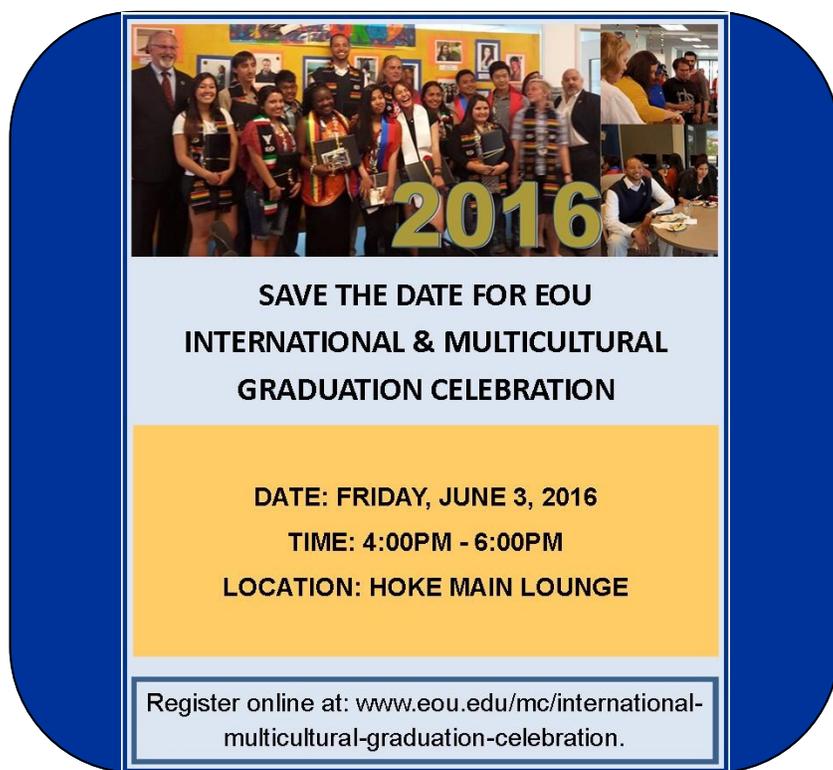
Wednesdays @ 3:00pm
EOU Multicultural Center
Hoke 2nd Floor
All levels welcome!

Come join us to practice your Spanish.

For more information: mccenter@eou.edu or 541-962-3741

*"What makes someone an
AMERICAN
isn't just blood or birth but allegiance
to our founding principles and faith in
the idea that anyone—from any-
where—can write the next chapter of
our story."*

President Barack Obama



2016

**SAVE THE DATE FOR EOU
INTERNATIONAL & MULTICULTURAL
GRADUATION CELEBRATION**

DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2016
TIME: 4:00PM - 6:00PM
LOCATION: HOKE MAIN LOUNGE

Register online at: www.eou.edu/mc/international-multicultural-graduation-celebration.

The Mystery of Student Support Services: What is TRiO?

By Naomi Tuinstra

What do Oprah Winfrey and our very own Vice President for Student Services at EOU, Xavier Romano, have in common? In addition to both being influential leaders, they were both part of TRiO Programs during their educational journey. These two individuals are among many famous TRiO alums who were able to use the support provided by Federal TRiO Programs to make their educational dreams a reality – despite the various hurdles they faced at the outset.

"TRiO was in so many ways my "touchstone" or "home away from home" during my undergraduate years. It was the one place where I could be myself, relax and not worry about what others thought of me or my place at the University. With time I would check in less often but then the Director would quite literally track me down to check-in with me. Oddly our conversations were less about my academics and more about "life" and adjusting to a place so far away - both in distance and in culture – to anything that I had known. Little did I know how important this "reaching out" would mean to me. Strange that in hindsight when I think about when I had lost confidence, felt alone or simply "lost" that I would always return to my "base" at TRiO. TRiO made a difference then...as it will now." – Xavier Romano, EOU VP for Student Services Eastern Oregon University is now part of this nation-wide network of support programs that have a long history of success. TRiO began in the late 1960's with just three programs (hence the name TRiO), and

has since multiplied into a total of seven programs that each serve a slightly different underrepresented population. What all these programs have in common is a mission to support historically underrepresented students in education attain their goals of college graduation or even graduate school. The U.S. Department of Education has recently



awarded a five-year grant for \$2.2 million to the Eastern Oregon University TRiO Student Support Services Program, set to serve 160 students each year. The TRiO program design encourages and supports eligible students through a structured program that includes personalized services such as tutoring, supportive guidance and counseling, academic advising, college success workshops, university field trips, technology and financial literacy. This type of holistic student support has shown success in increasing the retention and graduation rates of participants.

Michael Williams, Director of Student Support Services stated, "As a TRiO alum, I know what this program is capable of doing. We are much more than a program for helping students who are struggling aca-

demically; we are a program that gives students support in a way that few other programs can, with an approach that takes into account the whole student. One thing we know is that education is the road to independence, and in that effort, TRiO programs are the most successful federal initiatives to help our students become the best that they can be."

The EOU TRiO SSS Program has hit the ground running and is currently serving students and accepting applications for new participants on a rolling basis. All students who believe they may benefit from these support systems are encouraged to apply.

To be considered for SSS, a student must be a U.S. citizen, national, or meet the residence requirements for federal student aid and be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at EOU.

Students must also meet one of the following requirements:

- Be a first generation college student (neither parent has a baccalaureate degree).
- Meet federal low income guidelines.
- Be an individual with a disability.
- Be aging out of the foster care system.
- Homeless within the past year.

For more information about the program or how to apply, please visit eou.edu/sss.

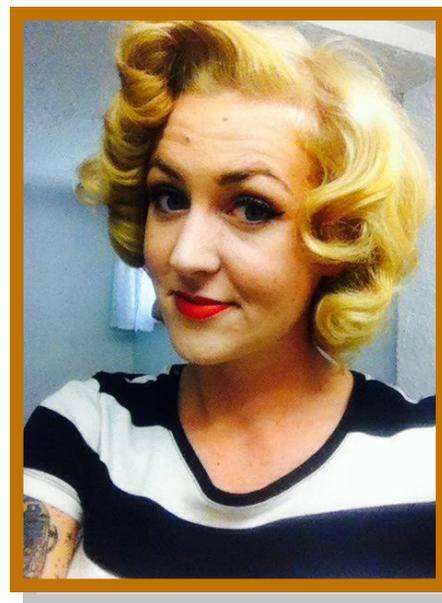
TRiO
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Mountaineer Money Returns to the MC!

By Camila Palmer

If learning to use financial aid and paying for college confuses you, you are not alone! Many students struggle with applying for FAFSA and scholarships, budgeting, using Work Study, and understanding student loans. Mountaineer Money is back for spring term, however, to help students prepare to meet these challenges and ensure that you are able to feel organized and prepared when it comes to your finances. During the spring term, Mountaineer Money will be offering free workshops in the Multicultural Center on Wednesdays from 12-1 pm. These workshops will help students learn how to manage their finances while in

school. Along with improving your financial literacy, simply for attending, students will be entered into a scholarship drawing for \$500. Students will be able to enter the drawing every time that they attend, so the more often you come, the higher your odds of winning will be. The first workshop, Financial Aid 101, will be held on April 13. Sit down with other students and learn about options available to help you pay for college while feeling more organized about your finances. Financial literacy coordinator, Camila Palmer, will be available to answer questions that you may have about your financial aid account.



For more information contact Camila @ 541-962-3550 or clay-coc@eou.edu .



Workshops will be held in the Multicultural Center with Camila Palmer Wednesdays from 12-1pm.

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|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4/13 Financial Aid 101 | 5/11 Understanding Student Loans |
| 4/20 Budgeting | 5/18 Filing the FAFSA |
| 4/27 Applying for Scholarships | 5/25 Student Loan Repayment |
| 5/4 Work Study and Off Campus Jobs | |

29th Annual

Island Magic

Lūāu & Show

Saturday, April 23, 2016

6:00PM

EOU Gilbert Center

\$12 General Admission
\$10 Student and Seniors

Tickets Available @ Looking Glass and EOU Bookstores.

For more information contact the Multicultural Center: 541-962-3741 or mccenter@eou.edu

International Dinner & Show 2016

By Yonhee Yiu



Why Challenging Conversations are More Important Than Ever

By Xavier Romano
Vice-President for Student Services

Some of my more interesting thinking happens around the 30,000 ft level. In this case I am not speaking in metaphor but rather somewhere in the air between Detroit and Salt Lake City en route to Pasco/Tri-Cities Airport returning from a national gathering of student development/services professionals. From seasoned Vice Presidents to that wonderful enthusiasm that is so easily spotted in first-year professionals. This gathering which took place in Indianapolis (the era of direct flights is long gone) and among all of these practitioners representing virtually every facet of North American higher education was something different... *FEAR*. *Fear* of student activism, *fear* of the unfolding United States Presidential campaign, *fear* of continued violence both here and abroad and ultimately what I can only define as *fear of the unknown*. Others articulate the *fear* of change... a social fabric that is evolving at an unprecedented rate here in the United States. And many believe that the one place to engage this *fear* are our University campuses. And the more I re-

flect on this the more I think that there may be something to this. Regardless of where you may sit on the political spectrum most of us acknowledge that "Americana" is evolving demographically at a remarkable rate. I am forever reminded that the United States has been and continues to be the *great human social adventure* with no predetermined outcome. Arguably no society in history has attempted what we often take for granted. An imperfect society that is struggling with a level of social, societal and cultural change that is neither easy nor simple. It is complicated. Very complicated. And becoming more so with each passing day. If not cautious we can easily fragment, break into comfortable silos and fear them - *the other*. The challenge is that *the other is us*." If there is an imperfect arena for the engagement of challenging conversations it can be found in Universities such as Eastern Oregon. I would like to think that such conversations can take place at "any" post-secondary institution but that is simply not the case. But these challenging conversations can take place here in

La Grande facilitated by one another, our faculty, our staff, our alumni and our students. Don't get me wrong...we will struggle and at times we will fail. But if we agree to disagree but do so with earnest respect and care I believe that such conversations can and often do happen here at EOU. But we need more of them. In cafe's, residence halls, off-campus houses and apartments and soon on our campus lawns (once Spring arrives in the Blue Mountains). We live in challenging times that demand challenging conversations... about who we are and what our society is morphing into. It begins with conversations that took place this Winter Term with the amazing CEAD Conference. It continues one conversation at a time. The flight attendant just announced that we have started our decent into Salt Lake City. I wonder what tomorrow will bring. I will be curious as to how many engaging conversations will take place on a university campus in La Grande and what we can do collectively to engage in challenging conversations. One conversation at a time.

What did you think about the CEAD Conference 2016?



*"Entertaining with lots of new people"
Julie Gulliford*

*"The Black-Jew Dialogue was really funny!"
Nicole Almanza*

*"A great way for networking and learn more about diversity."
Belinda Sanchez*

*"I can't wait until next year!"
Christa Tryon*



Education Faculty to Lead Trip to Costa Rica over Spring Break

By Tawnya Lubbes

For many, spring break is a time of rest and relaxation. While others take the opportunity to travel and explore. This spring break a group of ten student and one faculty member will be spending 12 days in Costa Rica. Tawnya Lubbes, assistant professor of ESOL will be leading the group on a language and culture exploration in San José, Costa Rica over spring break. The group will stay with host families and have the unique opportunity to visit during Holy Week. While in country the

students will visit local museums, market places, coffee plantations, and ancient ruins while also traveling to the coastal region, a local volcano, and the rain/cloud forest. The group will also have the opportunity to attend guest lectures on the history, culture, and education of Costa Rica and participate in a survival Spanish course with local teachers. Students will receive college credit while completing a hands on investigation of Costa Rican language with a faculty member who specializes in

language and multiculturalism. During the trip students will have time to debrief on their learning each day and will complete in-depth journal reflections about their experiences. They will also be exploring a topic that they selected to research more while in country. Students have been preparing for the trip for the last 6 months and are excited about the opportunities that Janet Camp has lead through international student programs and the ISA program.

MC STUDENT WORKERS



MC STAFF



Bennie Moses
Multicultural Center Director



Janet Camp
International Student Services Coordinator



Shoshoni Walker
Native American Program Coordinator



Nanda Van Houten
MC Office Manager