

MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Multicultural Affairs' mission is to provide opportunities, access, and retention to program participants by supporting their successful transition to higher education. We take a comprehensive approach to increasing students' effectiveness by creating a welcoming environment that caters to first generation, low-income, and/or ALANA/BIPOC (African, Latinx, Asian, Native American and/or Black, Indigenous, People of Color) students.

The office hosts the following programs: The **Alternatives for Individual Development (A.I.D.)**, Worcester State University A.I.D. **Summer Bridge Program**, the **Upward Bound Program**, **Worcester's 100 Males to College/Early College Program Collaborative**, **Intercultural Student Alliance** formerly known as **Third World Alliance (TWA)**, **First Generation Student Nation**, and Worcester State University **Multicultural Programming**.

Alternatives for Individual Development (A.I.D.)

The Alternatives for Individual Development program is an alternative admissions program at Worcester State University which provides educational assistance to students. Participation in the program for some students may begin with WSU A.I.D. Summer Bridge Program held in June and July.

The primary focus is the first two years (first and second year). The program requires a minimum participation of four academic semesters designed by the program staff and based on individual assessment. Other services are provided to students throughout their undergraduate experience including academic assistance, individualized or group skills development, assistance with financial adjustment, and cultural enrichment. To be eligible for the Summer A.I.D. Bridge Program, students must be incoming first-year students and meet minimal admissions requirements.

Upward Bound (UB)

The Upward Bound program is designed to encourage eligible high school students to persist in school through graduation and to seek a post-secondary education. The program actively recruits students who show motivation and desire to succeed and who are college bound. Services include college visits, workshops and seminars in college admissions and financial aid assistance, career counseling, individualized or group tutoring, and cultural enrichment activities. The program has two main components: the academic year Saturday component and the summer residential academy.

Worcester 100 Males to College (100MTC)/Early College (ECW) Programs Collaborative

The 100 Males to College/Early College programs are a secondary/post-secondary partnership involving Worcester Public Schools (WPS), Quinsigamond Community College (QCC), and Worcester State University (WSU). The programs enable high school students to participate in college and career readiness activities and college credit course offerings. The activities and courses are offered at the high school or on the QCC or WSU campuses. Students can earn college and high school credits at the same time.

Multicultural Programming

Multicultural Programming's primary mission is to coordinate and implement comprehensive educational, cultural, and social programs that celebrate diverse cultural contributions. These programmatic efforts are designed to promote dialogue while creating opportunities

for students to develop and expand their cultural competencies. The ultimate goal is to expose and educate all students to understand and appreciate racial and ethnic differences. Annual signature programming includes Latin Heritage, Native American/Indigenous Heritage, Black History, Women's History and Asian American Month celebrations. Other programs include WSU Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Breakfast, Courageous Conversations, and African American Read In Day.

Intercultural Student Alliance (formerly known as Third World Alliance)

Intercultural Student Alliance (formerly known as Third World Alliance) is a student organization dedicated to promoting inclusion and multicultural diversity and enhancing pluralism on campus and within the Worcester community. The organization features activities aimed at informing, educating, enriching, and encouraging conversation around topics related to ethnically and racially diverse issues.

First Generation Student Nation

The First Generation Nation is a student group dedicated to empowering first generation students to develop a sense of belonging and community through social, academic, cultural, career, and financial programming that is easily accessible. First Generation Nation coordinates support groups and experiences to assist students to navigate their college experiences and create a space where students can connect with peers, mentors, and resources on critical topics affecting first generation students' experience at Worcester State University.