

## 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***, ***Intercultural Student Alliance*** formerly known as ***Third World Alliance (TWA)***, ***First Generation Student Nation***, ***Women of Color In STEM***, Worcester State University's ***Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Breakfast***, ***Multicultural Programming Committee*** and the ***Antiracism subcommittee***.

### 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 on 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 and cultural 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.

### 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 Courageous Conversations and African American Read In Day.

The Antiracism subcommittee grew out of the work of the Multicultural Programming Committee which focuses more programming on campus in response to cross-racial and cultural topics.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Breakfast is our city's annual celebration of our city's youth event in celebration of the legacy and commitment of Dr. King Jr. to improving the lives of young people through education. The program includes performances, noted distinctions and awards to our community and youth, university scholarships, and essay/poetry contest.

### 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.

### Women of Color In STEM

Women of Color In STEM is a student organization to help women of color interested in pursuing academics and careers in the STEM field succeed academically and connect socially.