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Diversity and Inclusion

Home Staff Programs/Events Newsletter Our Centers ODI Series

Our centers are not currently open for visitors. However, the ODI staff are still here to support students, and are available by e-mail to answer questions and provide resources or support. Please reach out to anila.karunakar@maine.edu or robert.jackson@maine.edu to arrange a time to chat!

Mission

The Office for Diversity and Inclusion serves as a vital and integral resource for students and employees in the areas of equity, inclusion and diversity. The office is dedicated to: 1) supporting University of Maine students from historically underrepresented identities, including but not limited to: sexuality, race, gender identity, spirituality, ethnicity, ability, religion, nationality, socio-economic status, and others; and 2) providing awareness and education to the entire university community around issues of equity, diversity, inclusion and privilege.

We address these priorities by providing safe, welcoming centers and through regular celebratory, educational and thought-provoking offerings including but not limited to: Safe Zone and Inclusion training programs, Lunch and Learn sessions, panel discussions, and outreach to students, staff and faculty.

Through our presence in the [Rainbow Resource Center](#), the [Intersectional Feminist Resource Center](#) and the [Multicultural Student Center](#), we serve as a visible hub for students. The ODI reaches out across our campus and into the surrounding community as well in order to help create a climate of respect, of celebration of difference, and of well-being and safety.

A Note Regarding COVID-19:

All of us at UMaine are committed to inclusive excellence. As such here are ways that we as a community can maintain that commitment even through these unprecedented times:

1. Treat all people with respect and kindness. Strive to use inclusive language. For example, start by introducing yourself using your name and your pronouns.
2. Renounce all acts and words of racism, xenophobia, sexism, islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia and all other types of "othering" that divides our community when you encounter them. Commit to being an active bystander and intervene if you are comfortable doing. Report acts of bias to the Bias Response Team [here](#). Call the police if necessary.
3. Support each other. Some among us may need help with food, immediate housing, health care, etc. Please direct students to fill out [this form](#) where they can put in a request for immediate funds. Local students can also access food from the Black Bear Exchange food pantry. For those who do not have transportation, the BBE is now offering a food delivery service. You can get more information at their website found [here](#).
4. Be sure to connect with your friends. Here is a list of things that you can engage with while practicing social distancing from the [Center for Student Involvement!](#) Campus Recreation is also offering many services and activities, check out their website (www.umaine/campusrecreation).
5. Remember to refer to the virus as "COVID-19" or "Coronavirus." Referring to it as "Chinese Virus" or "Wuhan Virus" is racist and directly impacts the Asian community. For the latest information regarding decisions of the University of Maine System, go to: www.maine.edu/health-advisory.

Standing together we can thrive as a community. We can get through this together.

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