**California State University, Sacramento**

**Speakers and Events**

**2015-2016**

**Speaker events sponsored by the Serna Center include:**

* Sonia Cortes, first Latina to serve as a judge for the Yolo County Superior Court.
* Hispanic Serving Institution Summit brought together partners from all sectors of the community invested in student success and college completion.
* Jennicet Gutiérrez, a transgender undocumented Latina activist and organizer.
* Film screening and lecture of the film *Documented*—Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas outed himself as an undocumented immigrant in the New York Times Magazine. *Documented* chronicles his journey to America from the Philippines as a child; his public struggle as an immigration reform activist/provocateur; and, his journey inward as he reconnects with his mother, whom he hasn't seen in 20 years.

*Co-sponsored by the Centers for Diversity and Inclusion.*

* Dr. Antonia Darder, scholarship focuses on issues of racism, political economy, social justice, and education. Her work critically engages the contributions of Paulo Freire in [to] our understanding of inequalities in schools and society.

**Events sponsored by Student Academic Success and Educational Equity Programs (SASEEP) include:**

* Dr. Estela Bensimon,  Professor of Higher Education and Director of the Center for Urban Education is known widely for her work on issues of racial equity in higher education from the perspective of organizational learning and socio-cultural practice theories. Widely published in the field, Dr. Bensimon has held the highest leadership positions in the Association for the Study of Higher Education and is author of The Equity Scorecard, a leading approach to equity in higher education. Dr. Bensimon was the featured keynote speaker at the **SASEEP Mentoring and Tutoring Institute** held in August of 2015.
* Dr. Eric Thomas, one of the top motivational speakers in the world, served as the keynote speaker for **Student Academic Success Day** held in September 2015. The theme for the event was “Taking Graduation by Storm.” The event brought together over 1,000 students, faculty, and staff to learn about the importance of graduation and student success.
* Connie Reitman-Solas, Executive Director of the Inter-Tribal Council of California (ITCC) spoke at the **Native American Day On-Campus Celebration**. As Director, Connie leads a statewide association of 47 tribes in California.  The ITCC works to create programs and services impacting health, education, economic, social, cultural, environmental, legal, and tribal governance development for tribal people throughout California.
* Dr. Rose Borunda is a faculty member in the College of Education. She is known extensively through her work in the areas of [around] social justice, identity formation, and cross racial bridge building. Dr. Borunda served as the keynote speaker for the “Healing Forward” Event in recognition of **Indigenous People’s Day** held in October of 2015.
* Coach V., motivational speaker and community figure, was the keynote speaker for the 2016 November **Male Empowerment Conference**. Utilizing his own journey as a centerpiece, Coach V. shared tricks of the trade for success in life in support of the Sacramento State Male Initiative.
* Chris Robinson, Executive Director and CEO of 4 Your Epiphany, served as moderator and motivational speaker for the **“Race and You Forum: Achieving the Common Good.”** Mr. Robinson works arduously in the community promoting social change, men’s leadership development, mentoring, and school preparation. As a lead trainer in the school districts he has developed a program called “Way up Sacramento Youth Leadership Program Summer Camp.” His dynamic platform in the community has leveraged him as an innovator and pursuer of excellence. Mr., Robinson spoke as a part of Black History Month in February 2016.
* As a kick-off to **Black History Month**, Lawrence C. Lee, President and General Manager of the Observer Media Group provided the luncheon keynote address. The theme for the event was “Affirming the Dream: Making History Today.”  To gather momentum to the start of Black History Month, Mr. Lee provided a historical snapshot of progress made over time in the African American Community.
* STRONG 2016 built on the talent and expertise of students as a part of an academic showcase to explore real world challenges. The keynote speaker was Urijah Faber, a Sacramento Native World Champion professional mixed martial artist, who shared his story of success. The event was held in April of 2016.
* Dr. Hill Harper, actor, author [,] and philanthropist, served as the keynote speaker for the **DEGREES Project Recognition for 2016** with the theme “Celebrating the Fight to the Finish Line.” Known for his roles in an array of feature films and on television, Dr. Harper inspires, and electrifies crowds with his great vision for being bold and having a blueprint for the future.  This event was held in May of 2016 drawing a crowd of faculty, staff, and students to honor families and mentors in success.

**Events sponsored by the Centers for Diversity and Inclusion:**

* Q/T Chat: Love My Trans Body: As part of the “Love Your Body Week,” this workshop gives people who identify as Transgender or Gender-Non-Conforming a space to explore their bodies and their unique beauty through conversations on oppressive societal norms, liberation and self-love and body modification.
* FWORD Discussion: Police Brutality: This discussion featured a panel of speakers from Sacramento Black Lives Matter, the local activist community, and Professor Sanyu Mulira from our campus’s department of Ethnic Studies. The WRC hopes to centralize the experiences of women for the discussion. This event was part of the FWORD (feminism) series.
* Creative Queens Pop-Up Art Show: This event hosted a temporary art show organized by a community group founded by a Sac State alum. The group is an artist collective that hosts a monthly open art space focused on anyone identifying as a women, transgender, non-gender conforming, or Queer.
* Environmental Justice: Reclaiming Your Body: This event highlighted the harmful ways that patriarchy and capitalism work together with a panel discussion on the harmful effects of hygienic products, and the chemicals associated with them, on reproductive health and the environment.
* Selfies for Self-Care and Framing Empowerment: An interactive selfie workshop for establishing effective self-care and self-appreciation habits.
* \*Men Who Ask\* Sexual Assault Prevention Workshop: A sexual assault prevention program that engages men and people of all genders. Student interns worked through a curriculum across the semester which focused on feminism, patriarchy, and sexual assault prevention, and then lead this workshop to teach others. Workshop topics included: bystander intervention, basic principles of feminism, and CSU Title IX policies.
* Black Power Mixtape: Film documents the evolution of the Black Power Movement in the 60’s and 70’s, using a mix of footage filmed by Swedish Television journalists. Activists included are Angela Davis, Stokely Carmichael, Huey P. Newton, and Bobby Seale. Talib Kweli, Erykah Badu, Abiodun Oyewole, John Forte, and Robin Kelley are among the many important voices providing narration and commentary, adding modern perspective to this essential time capsule of African-American history.
* American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs: Film documents Chinese American Grace Lee Boggs, an activist and philosopher who devoted her life to an evolving revolution that encompasses American’s past and its potentially radical future.
* Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin: Film illuminates the public and private lives of Bayard Rustin, a visionary strategist and activist who has been called “the unknown hero” of the civil rights movement, and who also happened to be gay.
* Out in the Night Reception: Out in the Night is a documentary that tells the story of a group of young friends, African American lesbians who are out, one hot August night in 2006, in the gay friendly neighborhood of New York City. As they and their friends walk under the hot neon lights of tattoo parlors in the West Village, an older man sexually and violently confronts them. A fight ensues, and the man is stabbed by one of the women. The women are called a “gang of killer lesbians” and charged with assault and attempted murder. After the film screening, the director and one of the women visited the campus for a reception.
* Queer Picnic: The WRC hosted a picnic for LGBTQIA identified peoples and their allies. All were welcome.
* All People’s Recognition Ceremony: Annual end of the year celebration which gives campus community members the opportunity to recognize each other’s’ dedication to social justice and community building.
* Lavender Graduation: A celebration of LGBTQIA identified students’ academic achievements. Participants received a certificate and rainbow tassel to wear at Commencement.

**UNIQUE Program events included:**

* Divas of Diversity: A lecture, Q&A presented by BeBe Zahara Benet and Shannel, cast members from the game show RuPaul’s Drag Race on the Logo channel. The divas are putting on their heels to entertain and educate. The event provides the opportunity for the audience to have a platform to embrace their differences and celebrate diversity. Bebe and Shannel will share their stories of discrimination and acceptance, perform in a short drag show, and open up to the audience for questions and answers.
* Power on Earth – One man show, featuring Darryl Van Leer, dramatizing key moments and events of prominent African-Americans of the 19th and 20th centuries.

**Student Organizations and Leadership events included:**

* 2016 Spring Diversity Leadership Conference *“Leadership Transformed”*

**Other campus events included:**

* Japanese American Experience & Current Events Symposium/Forum: Doris Matsui, members of the Japanese American, the Muslim American, and the Sacramento State Communities came together to recognize the 74th anniversary of the day that President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, resulting in the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans in camps. “*Understanding America’s past and how that past can shed light on our current climate and culture can spread tolerance and compassion.”*