WACTC Equity DEOC Updates 3.27.25 (from Iesha Valencia at Clover Park)

* NADOHE (National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education) conference took place in Chicago (3/5-3/8). This is our second year being actively involved in the Pacific Northwest Chapter of NADOHE. A focus on actionable strategy. NADOHE is a lead plaintiff in a lawsuit filed against the Trump administration challenging the constitutionality of executive orders aimed at dismantling Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts. NADOHE is currently seeking to strengthen their legal case:
  + “Our legal counsel, Democracy Forward, is actively building a comprehensive record of concrete harms to strengthen our advocacy. To do so, they need real stories—your stories. Whether it’s information about programs within your institution that were paused or altered, staffing challenges, funding losses, grant or contracts withdrawn, certification demands, or directives to refrain from use of certain terms, these details help demonstrate the tangible and lasting consequences of these executive actions. Data and statistics are especially useful in quantifying impact. It would be especially helpful to receive information about developments that relate to government actions or are undertaken by your institutions with explanations that cite fear of enforcement or a need for compliance with new Trump administration priorities.”
  + “If your office or institution has experienced changes, challenges or constraints as a result of the Trump-era directives, we urge you to share those details with president@nadohe.org. These insights will play a critical role in our efforts to protect and advance our work. Please include specifics in the information you share with us, to the extent you have them; we may also want to follow up with you if we have questions. However, as with prior examples that we have cited in the litigation, any information that is used in a court filing will be cited without identifying members or their institutions by name, except as to institutional actions that have already been reported in the media.”
* DEOC March Business meeting was held on March 14th. Attendance from our AGs office has enhanced the level of support we need in understanding the legal terrain we are in. This does not bypass our responsibility to connecting with our campus AAG, rather allows us to gain a deeper understanding for the interpretation of Executive Orders and surface questions impacting us system wide. Our next business meeting is April 9-11th at Yakima Valley College. We welcome the opportunity to have WACTC Equity join us for a part 2 discussion we began at our Fall Quarter meeting in October. Thursday, April 10th would be the best time for this. Megan Matthews, Director of the Office of Equity under the Office of Governor Bob Ferguson will join the DEOC Spring Business meeting on Friday, April 11th.
* DEOC uplifts the annual SOCC taking place at Green River College on April 3-5th. Led by MSSDC and co-chaired by Edwina Fui (Highline College) and Marwa Almusawi (Green River). Each college is eligible to take 10 students and there are a total of 450 attendees. The DEOC has contributed $5,000 towards SOCC to support the rising costs of keynote speakers. Thank you to WACTC who contributed $12,500 this year. The DEOC encourages other commissions and councils to also consider supporting this state wide effort to retain and support the students success for our students of color. The website contains the full schedule: [https://whova.com/web/Fi8VZrnWUUzZpp3CAIbynUT2QO5Wbcu2AqxslTXvKBE%3D/Agenda/](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwhova.com%2Fweb%2FFi8VZrnWUUzZpp3CAIbynUT2QO5Wbcu2AqxslTXvKBE%253D%2FAgenda%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cpatrick.tanner%40scc.spokane.edu%7C2cdc1a6ea7dd4c97011e08dd6d7ecc80%7C4dedfefa6bd04442a06c98aed0b4b8da%7C1%7C0%7C638787113575427822%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=sS%2FgsH9y87oRbrW6HJYFMQ73DIV6zXNHcyr52tZ76pM%3D&reserved=0)
* Vanessa Neal and Iesha Valencia will be connecting with Dr. Villa and Dr. Harrison to schedule a quarterly co-chair meeting for Spring Quarter.
* DEOC plans to virtually join tomorrow’s AGs Office update from Aileen Miller 10am-12pm. Additionally, DEOC will be joining WACTC in person on Friday, April 25th 8:30am-12pm.
* The DEOC would like to advocate for DEOC representation on all hiring committees for any executive level positions at the SBCTC to ensure there are sound, seasoned and expert DEI best practices. Further, we have requested that the DEOC be engaged as a consultative body for the creation of any executive level position focused on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as subject matter experts. We would like to be involved in the recruitment, selection, and hiring for the next Executive Director of SBCTC
* The DEOC supports Colegas as a statewide effort to support professional development and networking opportunities for Latine employees across our system. We are concerned with the last-minute location change based on perceived risk for it being hosted at a college campus. We are concerned this could set precedent and have a negative ripple effect for SOCC, FSOCC, and other professional development opportunities that center identity-consciousness.