# EQUITY AND INCLUSION GAZETTE FEBRUARY 2024



# From the Desk of the Vice Chancellor for Equity and Inclusion

Dear Campus Community,

Greetings and Happy Black History Month!

The UWT Equity and Inclusion Gazette went on winter break following the December 2023 issue, and we are happy that it is returning to continue connecting our beloved community by sharing the amazing work that students, staff, and faculty do to advance and celebrate inclusive excellence and unity in diversity at UW Tacoma and in neighboring communities.

I am pleased to share with you the February 2024 issue of *UWT Equity & Inclusion Gazette*, the monthly newsletter of the University of Washington Tacoma's Office of Equity and Inclusion. The main purpose of this newsletter is to showcase cross-campus and community partners' leadership in nurturing a safe and welcoming community where everyone feels that they belong and are supported so they can be their authentic best self.

This issue of the UWT Equity & Inclusion Gazette features updates on the signature Race, Identity & Social Engagement (RISE) program; a short report on the Open House and Welcome Day that drew multitudes to the Center of Equity and Inclusion, the vibrant gathering place; announcements about upcoming events; and a community building tip of the month. Please join us in co-leading and highlighting the work that we do to advance inclusive excellence and social justice in keeping with the vision and purpose of the University of Washington Tacoma.

Enjoy reading and sharing the *UWT Equity & Inclusion Gazette*. Please contact us with comments and suggestions through our Office email address at <a href="www.uwteioffice@uw.edu">www.uwteioffice@uw.edu</a>.



Peace,

Dr. Elavie Ndura

Vice Chancellor for Equity and Inclusion & Professor of Education

# **Open House + Affinity Welcome Reception**



Dear UWT Friends & Community Members,

I am excited to share the highlights from our recent events, the Open House and Affinity Welcome Reception, hosted by the Equity and Inclusion. These gatherings were vibrant and well-attended, fostering community, promoting inclusivity, and strengthening connections across campus.

**Open House:** Our Open House on January 16th, 2024, saw an impressive turnout of over 50 students. It was heartening to witness individuals utilizing our space, engaging with resources, and connecting in a relaxed atmosphere. Students explored services, learned about initiatives, and forged new connections within our community.

**Affinity Welcome Reception:** The Affinity Welcome Reception on January 23rd, 2024, drew approximately 150-180 students, staff, and faculty members. Dr. Elavie Ndura, our Vice Chancellor, delivered opening remarks, setting a tone of warmth and inclusivity. Attendees engaged in meaningful dialogue, networked, and celebrated our diverse campus community, forging connections and fellowship.

We extend enormous gratitude to all who contributed to these successful events, from our dedicated staff (Nicole, Annah, Erandy and Danny) to enthusiastic participants. Your support is invaluable as we work towards a more inclusive and equitable campus community. Additionally, we were delighted to enjoy delicious food catered by Byblos Deli, a local family-owned business, adding a flavorful touch to our gatherings.

Furthermore, we were thrilled to welcome different student organizations to our Affinity Welcome Reception, including the Middle Eastern South Asian Association, Pacific Islanders Student Alliance, Vietnamese Student Association, Filipino American Student Association, and Black Student Union. Their attendance made the event better by bringing various viewpoints and adding to the campus community.

Ahmed Wafai

**R.I.S.E. Winter 2024** 



Dear UWT Friends & Community Members,

As we settle into Winter Quarter 2024, I am excited to share updates on the initiatives and programs led by Equity and Inclusion, focusing on advocating for ourselves and fostering accountability.

RISE Cohort: Our RISE Cohort, dedicated to supporting first-year, historically marginalized, and underserved community students, remains a cornerstone initiative at UW Tacoma. Led by Ahmed at Equity and Inclusion, this program provides crucial support and creates a nurturing environment throughout students' academic journeys. We are thrilled to see how RISE Cohort students have immersed themselves in the UWT community, from participating in first-generation cohort programs to becoming active members of ASUWT and joining various student clubs on campus. These efforts not only provide opportunities for networking but also contribute to their sense of belonging and connection to our campus community.

**Partnerships:** We are grateful for the collaboration and support of our partners, including professors, staff, and various campus organizations such as the Office of Global Affairs, Champions Program, Office of Student Advocacy and Support, Student Activity Board (SAB) and Maker Space. Together, we work towards creating a holistic support system for our students, both academically and personally.

As we continue through Winter Quarter and beyond, let us remain committed to advocating for ourselves, fostering accountability, and supporting one another in our personal, professional, and academic endeavors.

# **Upcoming Programs & Events**

#### MULTICULTURAL NIGHT! William Philip Hall

## February 16<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm-10:00pm

Join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating diversity and cultural exchange at the University of Washington Tacoma's Annual Multicultural Night!

### **LUNAR NEW YEAR UWY room 304**

Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5pm-7pm

Join us in decorating red envelopes and enjoy cultural snacks for the Year of the Dragon.

## LGBTQIA2+ Brown Bag Lunch CEI Kitchenette

Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 12:30-1:30pm

Bring your lunch to the CEI Kitchenette and join us for conversation and community building.

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH POETRY & MARKET** William Philip Hall

Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>

- 11am-2pm Market
- 11:00-12:30 Live Jazz
- 12:30-1:30pm Open Mic & Keynote

Join us for our Black History Month Poetry and Market. Come to learn and shop from local vendors, dance to live jazz and listen to prolific poets.

# **Community Building Tip of the Month**

February is Black History Month. The February 8, 2024 Chancellor message lists opportunities to celebrate and enhance our collective understanding of the Black experience, Black culture, and Black excellence. Learn more and plan to attend upcoming Black History Month events in our region. Visit The Whole U, Pierce County, and Metro Parks for event listings. There are events and exhibitions at the Museum of Glass, Tacoma Arts Live, and the Washington History Museum. Discover Black Washingtonians who shaped our state at the Governor's Mansion. Building a beloved community at UW Tacoma is a shared responsibility.