UAAlbany’s Journey to Inclusive Excellence Begins

“Inclusive education is good because it’s just, but also because it teaches more and teaches it better. Exclusive education, on the other hand, is abusive and corrupt. When diversity education pays adequate attention to both difference and unifying context, difference and commonality reinforce each other.”

- From “More Reasons For Hope: Diversity Matters in Higher Education, 2008”, Edgar F. Beckham

First, thank you for all your support as we launched UACCESS - UAlbany Collaboratively Creating Excellence, Scholarship and Success. UACCESS is UAlbany’s push toward Inclusive Excellence.

As we heard earlier this week, many university task forces and diversity committees are struggling with overload or lack of direction. That’s not the case at UAlbany. We spent the time needed to build a foundation and now we are moving to the next stage. UACCESS will be a journey. Although we won’t all travel the same route, we will all get to excellence.

As Provost Phillips said on Wednesday afternoon, President Jones and his leadership team are meeting to create specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely goals. These goals will advance UAlbany and continue to build a university where all are respected, supported and expected to be successful. These goals and strategies will be rolled out this spring and we will ensure that Inclusive Excellence becomes part of the UAlbany’s core function.

In an effort to provide strategies and tools you can use in your classrooms, The Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI), along with The President’s Council on Diversity and the University Life Council of the Senate will present “Dialogue In Action,” monthly sessions designed to help us talk about, implement and work through integrating diversity and inclusion in our classrooms. Our first session will be on Monday, Oct. 7 from 10 – 11:30 a.m. in the Campus Center Ballroom. Dr. David Kung, mathematics professor from St. Mary’s College in Maryland, will discuss “Social Justice in Mathematics and Other Fields.” Topics scheduled for later discussions will include lectures on the dynamics of a diverse classroom.

As always, the ODI will remain ready to assist and lead as we move toward Inclusive Excellence. And if you are a staff member know that efforts are being made to create work atmospheres that encourage and support success.

We are all on this journey together toward Inclusive Excellence.