

**CLARION  
UNIVERSITY**

**A Report on the Presidential Commissions  
2016-2017**

For  
President Karen Whitney

Prepared by:  
The Office of Social Equity  
Amy Salsgiver, M.A.

## 2016-2017 Presidential Commissions Co-Chairs and Members:

### **Presidential Commission on Disabilities:**

Co-Chair Lynne Fleisher: lfleisher@clarion.edu

Interim Co-Chair Erin Lewis: elewis@clarion.edu

Members: Amy Love, Christina Hearst, John Massa, Stephen Gendler, Kathleen O'Donnell, MaryPat McCarthy, Young-Gyoung Kim, Juanice Vega, Jennifer May, Chad Smith, Eric Martin, Nate Mathewson, Dave Hartley, Erin Neely, Kristina Dworek, G. Chad Thomas, Lori Taylor, and James Mccafferri

### **Presidential Commission on Sexual Harassment**

Co-Chair Matthew Shaffer: mshaffer@clarion.edu

Co-Chair Elsa O. Wise: ewise@clarion.edu

Members: Jason Hendershot, Jenn Dutkiewicz, Corey Negley, Andrew Keth, Jim McGee, Emily Burkett, Shelia Kazar, Lana Smith, Kari Morris, Cristin Ketley, Ron Radaker, Brooke Wamsley and Natalia Naranjo

### **Presidential Commission on Status of Women**

Co-Chair Kathleen McIntyre: kmcintyre@clarion.edu

Interim Co-Chair YooJin Ha: yha@clarion.edu

Members: Jamie L. Phillips, Laurie Pierce, Laurie Bladen, Maria Jessica Crespo, Cate Stiller, Amy Love, Young-Gyoung Kim, Sandra R. Trejos, Naomi O'Neil, Janet K. Knepper, Carol BrennanCaplan, Peggy Apple, Jane Walsh, Erin Schuetz, Briana Steele, Alexis White, Tia DeShong and Tina Horner

### **Presidential Commission on LGBT Concerns**

Dana Bearer: dbearer@clarion.edu

Ronald Radaker: rradaker@clarion.edu

Members: Robert Levy, Mark Lepore, Ellen Foster, Todd Spaulding, Shawn Hoke, Scott Courtney, Corey Negley, Jana Ashley, Elisabeth Sauvage-Callaghan, William Naugle, Jessica Thomas, Kurt Regester, Beck Mullen, Morgan Woodin, Emily Gammon, Matthew Dovidas and Hannah Dewey

Clarion University's Presidential Commissions work within the *Strategic Equity Diversity Plan 2013-2018* to identify goals that assist in implementing the Goals as well as advance the mission of equity, diversity and inclusion. Each commission reported on specific goals throughout the year. The office of social equity worked to coordinate joint meetings, work within budget parameters and, when feasible, co-sponsored events and speakers.

To view the Plan and the Goals please visit: [www.clarion.edu/strategicdiversityplan](http://www.clarion.edu/strategicdiversityplan) and [www.clarion.edu/strategicdiversitygoals](http://www.clarion.edu/strategicdiversitygoals).

For more information on the Presidential Commissions, or to view previous year's reports, please see: [www.clarion.edu/presidentialcommissions](http://www.clarion.edu/presidentialcommissions).

### **Accomplishments for 2016-2017:**

#### Presidential Commission on Sexual Harassment (Goals 1.3, 1.4 and 2.3)

- Continue to update and promote the brochure used by survivors of sexual violence.
- Partner with other Commissions and groups such as Athletics, Greek Life, and Wellness Programs on programming focused on harassment and sexual violence.
- Work with Social Equity and Student Affairs when appropriate, to aid in the development and approval of the updated sexual harassment/sexual violence policy.

The Commission updated the brochure "Have You or Someone You Care about Survived an Incident of Sexual Violence" and assisted in the review of the updated *Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures*. The Commission was able to grow membership and charted a clear path forward for the 2017-2018 academic year. The Commission used 2016-2017 as an opportunity to grow and define its purpose.

#### Presidential Commission on LGBT Concerns (Goals 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 and 2.3)

Goal 1.1 Increase the visibility of the university's commitment to diversity (public affirmation): By co-presenting in two Student Training, Awareness & Resource Series topics focusing on Inclusion, Diversity, and Promoting Anti-Bullying Behaviors, the commission was able to increase visibility of the University's commitment to diversity by creating greater awareness of diversity, equity and inclusion among the university's community.

By co-presenting at the Penn State Fayette, Student Success Summit; theme - All In: Solidarity in Diversity, the commission was able to increase visibility of the University's commitment to diversity by creating greater awareness of diversity, equity and inclusion among the university's community.

Goal 1.2 Create opportunities for meaningful dialogue on difficult topics surrounding diversity: Co-presenting in two Student Training, Awareness & Resource Series topics focusing on Inclusion, Diversity, and Promoting Anti-Bullying Behaviors; engaged the campus community in a dialogue

of awareness in inclusion, diversity and respect for all to reduce the negative effects of harassing behaviors. This created an avenue for dialogue among faculty, students and staff that was engaging with difficult topics.

Presenting at the Penn State Fayette, Student Success Summit; theme - All In: Solidarity in Diversity, engaged the campus community at large in a dialogue of awareness in diversity based on the program content and topic discussions. This created an avenue for dialogue among peers and colleagues that was engaging with difficult topics.

Goal 2.1 Increase the number of diverse student experiences (i.e., student groups and programming): By participating in the development of the Clarion University Athletics Department Transgender Inclusion Policy Committee, the commission was able to assist in the implementation of a university wide policy to increase the campus' competency on diverse topics which will allow for a greater understanding and appreciation for diversity, equity and inclusion.

By sponsoring the Allies Club Drag Show Event, the commission was able to increase the campus' competency on diverse topics which will allow for a greater understanding and appreciation for diversity, equity and inclusion.

By sponsoring the First Annual Lavender Graduation, the commission was able to increase the campus' competency on diverse topics which will allow for a greater understanding and appreciation for diversity, equity and inclusion.

Goal 2.3 Educate the university community on the differences and challenges associated with diverse student population: By participating in the development of the Clarion University Athletics Department Transgender Inclusion Policy Committee, the commission was able to assist in the implementation of a university wide policy to increase the campus' competency on diverse topics which will allow for a greater understanding and appreciation for diversity, equity and inclusion.

By participating in the Presidential Commissions' Social Event, the commission was able to increase the campus' competency on diverse topics which will allow for a greater understanding and appreciation for diversity, equity and inclusion.

By sponsoring the First Annual Lavender Graduation, the commission was able to increase the campus' competency on diverse topics which will allow for a greater understanding and appreciation for diversity, equity and inclusion.



#### First Annual Lavender Graduation

May 6, 2017

Left to Right:

Morgan Woodin, Lauren Bender-Stringham, Shaylor Klein, Nathan Shreckengost, Natalia Naranjo, Beck Mullen, Malavika Vemulapalli, Kayce Pifer, and President Karen Whitney

Photo By: Unknown

#### Presidential Commission on the Status of Women (Goal 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4)

Goal 1.1 Increase the visibility of the university's commitment to diversity (public affirmation): Presidential Commission on the Status of Women hosted an International Women's Day luncheon and campus film screening of Brazilian film *The Second Mother*.

Goal 1.2 Create opportunities for meaningful dialogue on difficult topics surrounding diversity: The Presidential Commission on the Status of Women screened the documentary *Life on the Line*, followed by a discussion afterward on the theme of Latin American immigration. The Commission also hosted a panel to discuss the 2017 Women's March on Washington.

Goal 1.4 Increase programming that supports an inclusive environment at the university: The Presidential Commission on the Status of Women co-organized a panel on the intersection of gender and speech entitled "Valley Girls, Uptalk, and Vocal Fry."

#### Presidential Commission on Disabilities (1.1, 1.4 and 2.3)

Goal 1.1 Increase the visibility of the university's commitment to diversity (public affirmation) and Goal 1.4 Increase programming that supports an inclusive environment at the university: The Commission sponsored a Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day featuring Ms. Deborah Casadei, PennDot Public Information Officer via a Facebook Live session for the Clarion Borough and Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

The Commission conducted their annual safety walks, one in fall and one in spring, to identify areas that may be unsafe or to make recommendation to improve a certain area.

Goal 1.4 Increase programming that supports an inclusive environment at the university and Goal 2.3 Educate the university community on the differences and challenges associated with a diverse student population: The Commission successfully sponsored a speaker Ms. Carolyn Hrach from Canine Companions for Independence and hosted a panel comprised of students and community members sharing their stories of how assistive animals have enriched their lives.



Top Photo: Audience participating in the Canine Companions for Independence panel; Photo taken and contributed by: Erin Lewis

Bottom Photo: Carolyn Hrach from Canine Companions for Independence and Nathan Mathewson, Clarion student, and his dog Neptune; Photo taken and contributed by: Erin Lewis



## **Additional Sponsorship**

In addition to each Commission's own accomplishments they also co-sponsored events on campus and assisted with policy updates. The Commissions and the Office of Social Equity helped sponsor the Annual MLK, Jr. Breakfast, the Holocaust Remembrance Speaker and the presentation of the play *Edward's Blues* which was written by Clarion University faculty, Dr. Brain Roberts.

The Office of the President, the Office of Social Equity and the Presidential Commissions also hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Presidential Commission Fall Social, Let's CU Make a Difference. The event was held in Moore Hall and allowed members of the campus and community to learn what the Commissions have accomplished. The event led to increased interest in membership in all the Commissions.

## **The Presidential Commissions for 2016-2017**

Front Row from left to right: Dr. Kathleen McIntyre, Dr. YooJin Ha, Dr. Karen Whitney, Ms. Lynne Fleisher and Ms. Amy Salsgiver

Back Row from left to right: Ms. Erin Lewis, Mr. Ronald Radaker, Ms. Dana Bearer and Mr. Matthew Shaffer

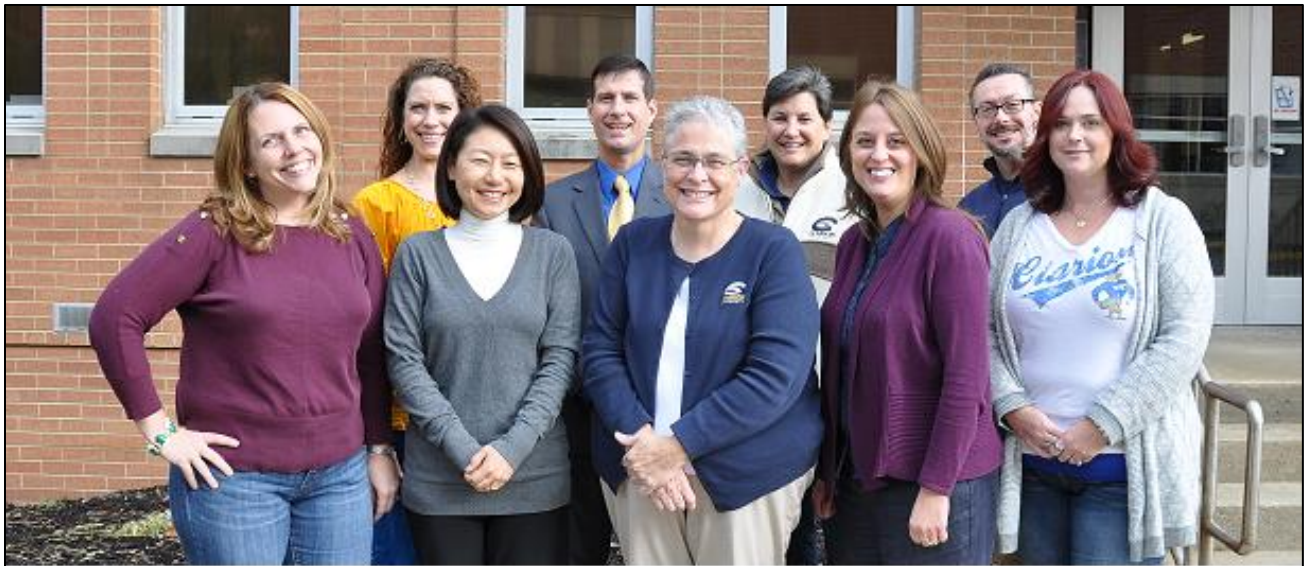


Photo taken by: Jason Strohm