



BERKELEY STAFF ASSEMBLY

Berkeley Campus Update to Council of UC Staff Assemblies January 2009

BSA Annual Holiday Lunch

BSA held its annual holiday luncheon Friday, December 5, 2008, while we were deliberating at UC Santa Cruz. Participants were invited to bring something for a “white elephant” gift exchange, adding to the festivities.

BSA Staff Mentorship Program Update

Mentors and mentees began meeting and working together January 5, 2009. We successfully matched 53 mentor-mentee pairs in this year’s cycle. Earlier this month (February 2009), the organizing committee produced an Executive Report highlighting the program’s accomplishments since its inception in 2004, and distributed the report to the Chancellor, Vice Chancellors, other campus leaders, and the chairs of other staff organizations (report attached).

BSA Program: “Change Berkeley Staff Can Believe In”

Wednesday morning, January 21, 2009 (the day after the inauguration!), BSA hosted this program featuring Dr. Sidalia (Sid) Reel, Director of Staff Diversity Initiatives, and Gibor Basri, Vice Chancellor for Equity and Inclusion. Sid shared her observations in this first year in her newly created position, focusing on staff diversity throughout the campus at all levels of employment and how to foster an inclusive workplace environment with a welcoming climate.

Campus Climate Survey

Sid Reel’s office has extended the deadline for a survey of all staff designed to gather data about the overall “climate” of the campus in order to ensure as complete a sample as possible. To date 52% of the Berkeley staff have already participated, including several staff in service units who previously did not have access to computers through a new “computer kiosk” program.

Special Town Hall Meeting Scheduled During Disabilities Awareness Week (March 9-13)

A special two-hour town hall meeting focusing on “Disabilities and Diversity” will be held Monday, March 9, the first in a three-part series organized by the Disabled Staff Resources Network, an outgrowth of a project funded last year by the Berkeley Initiative for Leadership on Diversity (BILD). The second will focus on “Hidden Disabilities” (e.g., diabetes, psychological conditions), with a strong emphasis on the participation of allies and friends, to help prevent the stigmatization of those who attend the forum.

Upcoming Events

(1) BSA Spring Luncheon; (2) Planned Programs by the CUCSA Delegates to the Berkeley Staff, the Staff Ombuds Office, the Staff Advisors to the Regents, and a forum on transportation and sustainability; and (3) a special event featuring campus staff who attended the presidential inauguration in Washington DC.

Prepared by Paul Riofski, riofski@berkeley.edu, 415-517-4647.