

2013-2014 Academic Year Administrative Assessment Report

Holocaust Resource Center and Diversity Council

HRC Mission Statement: The Holocaust Resource Center is a joint initiative between the University and the Holocaust Resource Foundation, a private philanthropic organization. The Center collects academic and instructional material to strengthen and commemorate education about the Holocaust, other genocides and issues of diversity and prejudice. The Holocaust Resource Center partners with educators, community organizations and scholars to offer programming and disseminate information. This programming provides educators with continuous learning to fulfill the state mandate to teach about the Holocaust. It also supports the intellectual and personal growth of educators and University students.

HRC Vision Statement: The Holocaust Resource Center aspires to be a regional leader in services provided to educators in area schools. We endeavor to support community members and educators in their aim to strengthen the conditions for a just and humane life. The Holocaust Resource Center strives to be the foremost repository of Holocaust survivor testimonies, scholarly books and educational audio-visual materials and to make these materials accessible to educators in the region.

DC Mission:

The Diversity Council is a partnership of member districts, both public and private, and the Kean University College of Education, dedicated to the active pursuit of human dignity, harmony, understanding and mutual support through diversity and multiculturalism. The mission of the Diversity Council of Kean University is to promote the development of just and caring individuals in a diverse democratic society. The Council provides professional development and resources for educators from the member districts and representatives from the College of Education addressing social justice issues such as racism, sexism, concepts of identity, issues of bullying, being a bystander, and human rights. Activities for students tackle these same issues while striving to prepare them to think critically and globally.

DC Vision:

The Diversity Council seeks to raise the consciousness of students and educators about what it means to be just and caring individuals in a diverse and democratic society by supporting them to become change agents in their schools and communities. The Diversity Council of Kean University works to help school administrators, teachers, and students experience success in living and working together as we all endeavor to create a harmonious and effective American society.

Goals and Objectives

- A) **2013-2020 Strategic Plan Goal 1:** To locate Kean University as a focal point of ongoing and transformational educational engagement for all by offering undergraduate and graduate (including doctoral) programs that are responsive to local and national needs while building upon our strengths, and utilizing best practice in the disciplines/ professions

1.1 Grow strategically Kean programs that have or have the potential for regional and national distinction, including the development of national centers of excellence that highlight Kean University's unique strengths

2013-2014

- 1) The HRC will continue to partner with national and international organizations such as The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, The American Gathering's Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Teachers' Program in accordance with their programming opportunities. Already one of 15 centers nationally recognized as a Center of Excellence by The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, we will maintain positive relationship by attending seminars, indentifying and sponsoring outstanding teachers for their programs. Stacy Schiller will utilize the input of the EMSE course instructors to identify educators for particular programs by early April 2014.

Four NJ teachers who have completed the tuition-free graduate courses and Advanced Seminar courses have been selected to attend The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous Seminars. Sponsored by the HRC, one teacher attended the NY Summer Institute in June 2013; one attended the Advanced Seminar in January 2014, and 2 attended the Summer Institute in June 2014. All have participated in other Holocaust and Genocide Education programs, and were selected by the former HRC director, with input from the EMSE course instructors.

- 2) The HRC will expand the relationship between the University and the American Society for Yad Vashem's Education Department by co-sponsoring programming here at the University. Stacy Schiller will develop and analyze the effectiveness of the programming based on educator feedback and attendance.

The HRC continues to sponsor programming with guest lecturers, as part of Murray Pantirer Distinguished Scholar Lecture Series. These annual lectures have been free and open to the general public – one was held on October 2013, with approx. 200 persons in attendance. The former director has initiated plans for the next scholar's lecture in December 2014, in consultation with the Holocaust Resource Foundation which supports these programs.

Educators taking the graduate courses have attended these lectures as a

course requirement.

2013-2016

- 3) Our ongoing goal to provide increased access and accessibility to educational resources regarding the Holocaust, genocide, and diversity to educators and students will be further developed through a 3 year plan which will include establishing a relationship with the USC Shoah Foundation. While continuing to upload our Oral History collection to the Kean University website, we will explore an opportunity to partner with the USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive to house our collection with them. This will give the Kean University collection international standing and recognition. Stacy Schiller will be responsible for establishing the relationship, coordinating technology requirements, and gathering the support of the Holocaust Resource Foundation, which may be asked to provide financial backing for the project.
- 4) The HRC is in development with faculty members from the Master of Holocaust and Genocide Studies program to utilize Distinguished Lecture Series as basis for book to focus on Distinguished Lecture Series. The book will highlight the contributions of the Holocaust Resource Foundation in bringing leaders in the field of Holocaust education to the University to share their contributions. The faculty members will introduce the lecture series academics and provide analysis of their contribution. The HRC will provide access to the lectures and work with academics as the project develops.

1.1.2 Re-shape masters' and post baccalaureate programs to address regional and national needs.

2013-2014

- 1) The HRC will conduct analysis of student evaluation from the EMSE courses Teaching the Holocaust and Teaching Prejudice Reduction, and Advanced Seminars classes to identify areas to strengthen the course offerings. Instructors will reflect on their syllabus and examine new approaches to their materials in a June 2014 meeting. Professional development will be provided to course instructors as needed.

About 90 educators from Council member districts have taken the courses on site in Bloomfield, Cranford, East Windsor, South Orange-Maplewood, and one section on the Kean campus. All have gone on the October all-day bus trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., as one of the requirements of the first course.

The course instructors will meet with the new HRC director in the Fall, to review the course syllabus, identify areas for improvement, where necessary, and strengthen course offerings as needed.

2013-2016

- 2) The HRC will consider further development of the program to establish a network of Holocaust Educators with the HRC as a focal point to keep educators connected to the

HRC and Diversity Council. Members of the Diversity Council Executive Committee and the EMSE instructors will actively recruit top educators from Kean's graduate programs and Diversity Council districts. Stacy Schiller will seek the support of and sponsorship by the Holocaust Resource Foundation for additional programming needs.

1.2 Increase the number and type of academic programs that can offer relevant and responsive certificate programs, lifelong learning, and continuing education.

2013-2014

- 1)** The Diversity Council will partner with the College of Education to offer an Educator Conference to New Jersey teachers and COE students and faculty in January 2014. This conference will provide professional development and networking opportunities with educators in the areas of student identity and harassment, intimidation, and bullying. An evaluation of this conference should help determine the needs of New Jersey educators and inform future conference and professional development programming.

The Council sponsored a teacher education workshop in January 2014 for approx. 85 NJ educators from member districts of the Council, College of Education faculty and students, and invited guests. In conjunction with the COE, the workshop focused on identity safety, and breakout sessions on different aspects of the theme were facilitated by 5 guest speakers, including the keynote address on Identity Safe Classrooms, the Common Core, and Character Education.

Evaluations were received from approx. 48 attendees, most of whom indicated that the conference was informative, interactive, engaging, enlightening, met or exceeded their expectations; handouts and instructional materials provided by guest speakers were appropriate for educators to use in their classrooms.

The Executive Committee of the Council was apprised of the results from this conference and will use these to plan for future educator workshops and student conferences.

- 2)** Stacy Schiller, Joy Prescott and HRC Graduate Assistants will continue to develop and maintain the websites for both organizations by providing links to resources for students and educators, including updated information about scholarly research in each subject area.

The new director, Joy Prescott, and the Grad. Asst. will continue to update the HRC and DC websites, informing educators on activities of the Center and the Council, and providing links to other relevant resources.

2013-2016

- 3) The Diversity Council will utilize the analysis of the needs of the Diversity Council members on an on-going basis to continue to offer relevant continuing education opportunities.

1.2.1 Develop standard cross-disciplinary affiliation agreements (MOUs) to support new partnership

2013-2014

- 1) The HRC, in conjunction with the College of Education, will continue to explore opportunities to offer our undergraduate ID1800 “Holocaust, Genocide and Modern Humanity” course in two additional high schools to expand opportunities for Holocaust education and connect high school students to Kean University for Fall 2014 offerings.

In 2013-2014 the undergraduate ID 1800 course was offered in 5 high schools in Hudson, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic and Somerset counties. The previous director coordinated these courses, in conjunction with the COE, reaching out to school district superintendents or high school supervisors.

Arrangements were made to offer this course in 2 more high schools in Essex and Monmouth counties, in Fall 2014. The COE is coordinating this effort, until a new HRC director is hired.

2013-2016

- 2) The HRC will continue to explore further partnerships with high schools. We will also continue to provide professional development for educators by offering educational opportunities and connecting them with University faculty members.

B) 2013-2020 Strategic Plan Goal 2. To attract and retain more full-time, first time undergraduate students, transfer and graduate students.

2013-2016

- 1) Establish a relationship to the University for the students for potential recruitment by supporting interschool projects through the ID1800 high school program. Ideas include a common reading or a program with the International Rescue Committee with culminating activities at Kean.
- 2) The Diversity Council will continue to bring students here for leadership conferences, offering learning opportunities to address their needs and backgrounds in order to establish Kean as a core institution for leadership development for grades 4-12.

C) 2013-2020 Strategic Plan Goal 4. To utilize our diversity and global perspective to further promote a learning environment that is equitable, inclusive, and socially just.

4.1 To continue to cultivate a University community that is diverse and inclusive based on our social principles.

4.4 Further develop a learning environment that reflects and encourages diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

2013-2014

- 1) The HRC will develop and co-sponsor programs with the Counseling Center, Residential Student Services, the Human Rights Institute, Student Organizations and Union County College addressing sexism and violence against women via film screenings and dialogue sessions during Fall 2014.

The HRC co-sponsored programs with:

- **the Human Rights Institute, such as the lecture by John Prendergast to students in the undergraduate Holocaust and Genocide classes in March of 2014;**
- **the HRI, Kean Counseling Center, Student Organization, Women's Studies on the Say NO MORE to Human Trafficking with film screening and panel discussion, in October of 2013.**

More film screenings on human rights issues have been planned for Fall 2014.

2013-2016

- 2) The HRC and Diversity Council will work with the Human Rights Institute and Galleries to bring exhibits related to activism and Holocaust for campus and outside community.
- 3) The Diversity Council will continue to work with the VPSA Office on Issues of Diversity Among College Students to provide both professional development to fellow instructors and resources to students. Stacy Schiller will instruct one section of the course and support the program by providing input on both resources and assessment.

D) 2013-2020 Strategic Plan Goal 5. To provide world-class external opportunities to members of the Kean University community, thereby widening our community beyond the physical campuses, by substantially augmenting our academic, cultural, economic, and community partnerships at three distinct levels: the local; regional and national; and international.

2013-2016

- 1) As indicated above, the HRC will continue to partner with recognized and respected national and international organizations, such as the American Society of Yad Vashem to develop workshops and bring in speakers. Other partners include Echoes and Reflections, the USC Shoah Foundation and Facing History and Ourselves.

5.1. Building the Kean University local extended community of students, parents, alumni, and surrounding residents such that all Kean sites become centers of value-added activities that education, inform, enliven, and entertain.

2013-2016

- 1) The HRC and Diversity Council will utilize the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs to identify grant funding to bring “Windows”, a play about a local Holocaust survivor written by a local playwright to the Wilkins Theater in the Fall of 2014. The goal is to offer the program to both Diversity Council students and teachers, as part of outreach to the local community, and to partner with other local Holocaust Centers.
- 2) As indicated above, the HRC and Diversity Council will work with the Human Rights Institute and Galleries to bring exhibits related to activism and Holocaust for campus and outside community.