American Indian Cultural House – Since 2003

The American Indian Cultural House (AICH) is a co-ed community open to all incoming first-year and PSEO students. AICH is coordinated through the Circle of Indigenous Nations (COIN) and is co-sponsored by the Department of American Indian Studies, Housing and Residential Life, the Office of Admissions and the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence.

Participants may include students across all colleges who are interested in past and contemporary American Indian issues and intercultural learning. Participants will have the opportunity to live and study together and participate in curricular activities together. The house provides opportunities for students to explore their own identity as well as provide opportunities to those students who want to reach beyond their own cultural background and learn about the experiences of others.

Participants live together in one wing of one residence hall with a Community Advisor (CA) who has an interest in and understands American Indian issues. The CA will work with American Indian Studies faculty and staff to plan social events such as dinners with professionals, faculty, and student organizations. In addition, the CA will inform participants of special lectures and seminars that will be offered on campus. Students who remain with the program after the first year may become peer mentors and initiate tutoring networks.

Participants also have the opportunity to work with various American Indian student organizations on campus and assist them in special events such as pow-wows, traditional storytelling evenings, and bringing special speakers to campus. In addition, students have direct access to student support services on campus.

SPEAKERS

Jillian Rowan is an enrolled member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Ojibwe and is the Lead Coordinator of the Circle of Indigenous Nations office. She is also the Coordinator of American Indian Outreach and Special Programs, and has a split appointment with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Jillian is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor’s Degree in American Indian Studies and also has a Master’s Degree in American Indian Studies from UCLA. She has been working at the University of Minnesota since 1999.

Donavan Begay is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and is the Coordinator of American Indian Programs and Services of the Circle of Indigenous Nations office. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor’s Degree in Family Social Science. Donavan is interested in exploring the needs of American Indian/Alaskan Native students in higher education. He guides students, using knowledge from graduate level courses and previous personal experience, to navigate resources and services that assist in college persistence.
Launched in fall of 2012, the Huntley House is a Living Learning Community, open to incoming first year male students. Currently, there are six students participating in the House. The goal of Huntley House is to provide a sense of community and connectedness for African American Males and opportunities for personal and academic growth in a supportive atmosphere to ensure their success in college and beyond. Students will have the opportunity to explore issues of ethnicity, identity and leadership, while receiving vital academic support and actively participating in and contributing to campus student life.

Huntley House is named in honor of Dr. Horace Huntley, a member of the first AA&AS graduating class in 1970, who went on to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh and become a Professor of History at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Huntley was one of the leaders in the Morrill Hall Takeover in the spring of 1969, when a small group of African American students occupied the University of Minnesota’s administration building. This action led to the fall 1969 founding of the University’s AA&AS department, one of the first in the nation. The action also saw the creation of increased scholarship and on-campus student support opportunities for African American students.

The following offices provide support for Huntley House:
The Department of African American and African Studies, College of Liberal Arts, Office for Equity and Diversity, Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence, Office of Admissions and Housing and Residential Life

Selected Programming Offerings
• Grand opening events September 14-15.
  o Meetings with Horace Huntley.
  o Community luncheon at the UROC followed by community service project at the Plymouth Youth Center in North Minneapolis.
  o Dinner with Horace Huntley and attend Gophers football game
• Once per week individual meeting with a peer mentor (approx. 1 hour). Peer mentor monitors the following requirements:
  o House member creates and follows a weekly study plan.
  o House member interacts informally with at least one faculty member other than Prof. Mayes during the semester (e.g., visit office hours).
  o House member participates in at least one formal mentoring/tutoring activity during the semester (e.g., MCAE Academic Success Action Plan).
• Beginning in the middle of the fall semester, the House collectively creates the Spring 2013 programming plan. This process was facilitated by peer mentors and the Advisory Board

SPEAKER
Patrick Troup is currently the director of Retention Initiatives for the Office for Equity and Diversity. Has worked at the University for Minnesota for 10 years and was the previous Director of the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence.
Tsev Hmoob Living and Learning Community – Since 2011

Tsev Hmoob officially launched in Fall of 2011. This co-ed Living and Learning Community is designed to provide opportunities for personal, social, and academic growth in a supportive community for Hmong first year students.

Tsev Hmoob started due to the request from Hmong parents that the university should offer such living and learning community for their children where they feel supported and trusted. Tsev Hmoob members will live together and being assigned with a CA who understands the needs of Hmong students in higher education.

During the academic year, students will have the opportunity to explore the issues of ethnicity, identity and community development while receiving essential academic support from the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence. Tsev Hmoob members will engage and connect with student organizations such as Hmong Minnesota Student Association, Hmong Men’s Circle, and Viincaus, along with the Asian American Studies program, Hmong Language Program, and other Living Learning Communities.

Tsev Hmoob is supported by the following offices/departments:
The Asian American Studies, Housing and Residential Life, Office of Admissions, Office for Equity and Diversity, Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence, Hmong Minnesota Student Association, Hmong Men’s Circle and Viincaus.

Programing and responsibilities:
- Bi-weekly meeting with MCAE staff
- Monthly group meetings
- Participate with Multicultural Academic Success Action Plan program
- Attend academic and career workshop
- Be actively engage with student organizations, especially HMSA, HMC, and Viincaus
- Volunteer to assist HMSA with heritage and other social events
- Connect with Career Services
- Utilize MCAE instructional center for academic help

SPEAKERS
Juavah Lee is currently the Assistant Director of Engagement and Outreach for the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence. Juavah is the co-founders of Hmong Minnesota Student Association, Hmoob Alumni Group, Viincaus formerly known as Hmong Women Support Group, Hmong Men’s Circle, Hmong Language program with Asian Languages and Literatures, and Youth Studies course focusing on Hmong youth. Juavah has worked at the University of Minnesota since 1991.

Pa Lee is the Coordinator for Community-Based Learning in the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence. She is also the advisor for the Viincaus -Hmong Women’s Group on campus. In summer of 2011, she received her B.S., double majoring in Business and Marketing Education, and Human Resource Development. During her undergraduate years, she was an active member of the Hmong Minnesota Student Association and the Hmong Women’s Group. As a student, she participated in many programs in the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence, and now as a staff, she enjoys working with student’s through their academic, personal, professional, and leadership development.