

**Boost awareness and participation in Dogs United to reach a wider range of students, faculty, staff, and administrators.**

**CURRENT CHALLENGE:**

Fresno State is a wonderfully diverse campus with a wide range of diversity events and programs on our campus. However, what we often see is Asians go to Asian programming, Latinas and Latinos go to Latina/o programming Armenians, African and African American, Muslims, Christians, Jews all go to...you get the point.

So many missed opportunities for priceless learning, growing and coalition building.

What I also know to be true, is that often campus community members are interested in and desire to go to events of groups other than their own. Yet, they are often hesitant or apprehensive about going because they do not know if they will be welcomed, they don't want to intrude, they don't want to go alone and for a plethora of other reasons

A solution exists---Dogs United! Working to increase cross cultural interaction at Fresno State. Dogs United is a program out of the Cross Cultural and Gender Center that is in its third year .“Dogs United” is a movement to encourage, increase, and acknowledge Cross-Cultural interaction on our campus. The program has proven to be successful with students; it just needs an institutional boost to reach a wider range of students, faculty, staff and administrators.

**PROPOSED SOLUTION:**

HOW DOES IT WORK? Individuals attend a multicultural, diversity or cultural event, related to groups other than their own and organized by Fresno State faculty, staff, or student clubs and organizations throughout the school year. They then report their experience on an online or paper form. All individuals and groups who participate will be acknowledged and awarded at the end of the academic year according to their level of involvement. Individual can participate in a number of ways:

**PARTICIPATING AS A GROUP:**

This can include campus departments, units, student or faculty clubs and organizations etc.

\*\*Have at least 3 individuals from your group attend events together. \*\*Take photos and post to social media (not required but encouraged)

\*\*Clubs, organizations, departments or units that attend the most events will be acknowledged. (Last year the Amerasia Club won "The Diversity Cup")

\*\*All clubs, organizations, departments or units that attend 5 or more events will be acknowledged.

**PARTICIPATE AS AN INDIVIDUAL**

\*\*Attend cultural or diversity events of groups other than your own and fill out the simple reporting form!

\*\*Take photos and post to social media (not required but encouraged)

\*\*Individuals who attend the most events will be acknowledged.

\*\*All individuals who attend at least 3 events will be acknowledged.

**HOSTING A CULTURAL OR DIVERSITY EVENT?**

\*\*Include the Dogs United logo and “Everyone is Welcome” on your publicity, and

\*\*Commit to having individuals at the door to greet guests so they feel welcome.

**BENEFITS TO FRESNO STATE:**

Recently I attended a "Shamanism" workshop. I learned so much that will help me as I support students, staff and faculty who practice this spiritual healing practice. In another instance a non-African American male attended a "Natural Hair Night" which was put on for Black History Month. He commented that he came there for his wife (who is African American) and he said "Now I understand my wife and daughter so much better."

The more we know about one another the better we work with and serve one another. Attending cultural events, be they lectures, workshops, performances, or art exhibits is an enjoyable way to learn and increase out cultural competency.

Dogs United is a professional development; it will help increase the cultural competency of our faculty, staff, administrators and students.

Dogs United demonstrates our commitment to diversity to new, continuing and potential member of our campus community.

Dogs United is inclusive--every group counts base our our university definition of diversity.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**