Rachel Marie-Crane Williams (Opening Keynote)
An artist and teacher currently employed as an Associate Professor at the University of Iowa. She has a joint appointment between the School of Art and Art History (Intermedia) and Gender Women's and Sexuality Studies. Originally from North Carolina (the Eastern Coastal Plain), but she has lived in Iowa since 1998, and taught at The University of Iowa since 1999. Her work as a researcher and creative scholar has always been focused on women’s issues, community, art, and people who are incarcerated. She earned a BFA in Painting and Drawing from East Carolina University and an MFA (Studio Art) and a Ph.D. (Art Education) from Florida State University.

Social Justice Panel
Colleen Clemens, Asst. Professor of Non-Western Literatures
Amanda Morris, Assc. Professor of Indigenous Rhetorics
Kendra O’Donnell, KU Student
Kelly Alderfer, KU Student

Katherine Sternbergh
A second-year MSW candidate at Kutztown University. Her interests include diversity education, geriatrics, and health care.

Diversity Council Panel
Nylopedia Blichar, (Facilitator) Phoenix Group
Oriana Kramer-Almquist, (Facilitator) Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance
Kayla Waters, NAACP
Shirley Marcelin, Afro-Caribbean Collison Dance Group
Maya Wilson, Black Student Union
Samera Roberts, Lady Blossoms
Shakeera Wynne, Lambda Delta Xi Diaternity
Cara Mclain, KU NAMI Chapter
Musfran Rana, Muslim Students’ Association

Leah Cassellia
Is the Director in the Office of Student Involvement. She is a student affairs professional committed to supporting students throughout their college journey through facilitating involvement and leadership opportunities, as well as connecting students with campus and community resources.

Institutional Climate Committee Panel
Jo Cohen, Asst. Professor, Counseling & Student Affairs
Tabetha Bernstein-Danis, Asst. Professor of Special Education
Lauren Moss, Asst. Professor of Counseling & Student Affairs
Amy Pfeiler-Wunder, Assc. Professor of Art Education & Crafts
Mallory Stevens-Carr, KU Graduate Student, Counseling & Student Affairs
Christopher Weiler, Asst. Professor of Elementary Education
Varsha Pandya, Asst. Professor of Social Work

Being Muslim in America Panel
Chris Saidi, an Asst. Professor, History. A Muslim convert since 2002.
Shirinkhon Toshikhajuvaeva, is a KU student from Uzbekistan and began to observe Islamic tradition since she arrived in the US.
Troy Spier, a KU Chambliss award winner and linguistic graduate student at Tulane- he is currently working with Muslim refugees in Eastern Europe.
Dr. Mahfuzul Khondaker, from Bangladesh and was born into a Muslim family.
Musfran Rana, a KU student from Pakistan and she has studied Islamic theology in her home country.

Danielle Notaro
A graduate of NCC, she has been writing, acting, and directing for a zillion years. She’s taught acting and playwriting to all ages. She has published poems in Women Spirit, Gaia, Womankind, Juxtaposition and Love Your Rebellion. She was selected to read her play,
Firing God at W.O.W (Women’s One World Theater Festival, an international women’s theater festival in N.Y.C.) She’s also written a few pieces for Healthy Living (a Rodale Newsletter) She’s read her work in Boston, New York City, Vermont, Philadelphia, N.J. and the Lehigh Valley. This year to celebrate the passing of LGBT Marriage, she was asked to read at Bethlehem’s City Hall and wrote a poem entitled One Day. She published her first book, Limn the Mask in 2013.

Voicing Our Region’s Heritage

Bill Donner, a professor in the anthropology department and has researched and published about Pennsylvania German education and heritage events.

Jen Schlegel, a professor in the Department of Anthropology. She has researched and published about language maintenance and loss among the Pennsylvania Germans.

Patrick Donmoyer, Site Director of the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center. He is the author of several books, including Barns Stars (hex signs) and Powwowing (folk healing) among Pennsylvania Germans.

Amanda Foulds
An advanced year MSW student slated to graduate in May. Her interests include clinical depression, including the causes and effects associated with it, and Autism research with both children and adults. Amanda is currently interning at CONCERN, Inc. and is the graduate assistant for the new Autism Grant program at KU.

Deborah Johnson
An Assistant Professor at Kutztown University, instructing in the College of Education. Her educational passions include introducing innovative strategies to support teachers in urban settings, improving curriculum postures relevant to children of poverty, minority learners, special needs children, and hard to reach students. Her additional interests include multicultural education, issues of diversity, cultural acceptances which prompt her professional practices. Deborah concentrates on teacher dispositional patterns that support the creation of thinking, equable, and vibrant learning environments. Her teaching mantra is to make them think.

Irma I. Aguirre
“I currently have been working in Undergrad Admissions for the past nine years. I obtained a degree in Education/Special Ed from Desales University in 2003. I’m currently working on my Masters here at Kutztown University. Education is my passion and I love to inspire students. Being able to help students grow and learn is my number one priority.”

Legacy of Africa New Identities

Chris Saidi, an Asst. Professor, History. (Facilitator)

Lynnae Edwards, KU Undergraduate

Fikir Wordofa, KU Undergraduate

Tilaye Zelleke, KU Undergraduate

Olivia Hassler (Closing Keynote)

She is currently a senior at the University of South Carolina, double majoring in Criminal Justice and Criminology and Women and Gender Studies. She is a track and field student athlete, who completes in the javelin. She has excelled on and off the track, earning multiple Southeastern Conference (SEC) Academic Honor Roll awards and the USTFCCCA All-Academic Status. In 2015, the University of South Carolina’s Athletic Department teamed up with Gamecock Productions to produce a documentary style film named Unbroken. Hassler has become an advocate that speaks out against domestic violence after her own vicious episode. The film combined with her advocacy efforts earned Hassler the Wilma Rudolph Student-Athlete Achievement Award, the Gamecock Inspiration Award and was featured several times on the SEC Network.
Session One
Encouraging Students To Speak For Social Justice Beyond The Classroom
▶ This panel will share the work of two professors and their respective students as we share the trials and tribulations of helping students find a voice beyond the classroom.

Keynote: Post Discussion
▶ Continue discussion, questions and answers, with keynote speaker Rachel Marie-Crane Williams.

Diversity Training With College Students
▶ This presentation will be discussing diversity training and its effectiveness with college students. A research study was conducted by the presenter, Katherine Sternbergh, with over 40 undergraduate students to see what slang phrases college students found appropriate and then provided a diversity training providing the historical context of the slang phrases to educate students on linguistic sensitivity. Certain areas of diversity were well-represented in prior awareness to language sensitivity while other areas of diversity were not made aware until the educational component of the presentation. The presenter will be exploring some of the areas of diversity that need more exploration based on the results of the study as well as a discussion on how to educate students on diversity based on prior research.

Session Two
The Intersectionality Of Diversity
▶ The topic presented will be a panel hosted by the newly established Diversity Council, a standing committee of Student Government Board dedicated to addressing issues and concerns of constituents from a variety of communities. The panel discussion will seek to look at why it is important that all communities work together to create a more inclusive environment on campus but also in the greater community. The panel will also discuss issues such as intersectionality, inclusive, and why groups such as the Diversity Council and other organizations are so important in helping to provide a voice to all minority groups.

Hunger And Homelessness In College Students
▶ What does it mean to be food-insecure? Are there really hungry and homeless students in our KU community? Join this session to gain a better understanding of our campus community’s needs, what we are currently doing to assist, and how YOU can help!

Transformative Justice: All Voices Heard
▶ People of color; people with disabilities; GLBTQ and allies; employees by rank and position, women, and others, experience higher levels of harassment than the majority, and higher levels of covert harassment than people at other institutions. By withholding information and excluding others from discussions and decisions, covert harassment maintains power and privilege, encourages marginalized individuals to fear retribution for speaking up, and erodes trust. A new narrative of transformative justice is needed. Breakout sessions will strive for transparent communications about social justice issues considered significant by the group members.

The New “Other:” Being Muslim In America
▶ This panel will discuss life in the USA as a Muslim. Each presenter will present a paper that will examine Islam in America and some of their personal experiences. Chris Saidi will give a brief history of Islam in America.
SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Session Three
Voicing Our Region’s Heritage
► Bill Donner, Jen Schlegel and Patrick Donmoyer will discuss various aspects of Pennsylvania German experience including discrimination, cultural resistance and assimilation, educational programs, language preservation and loss, and the events that give voice to Pennsylvania German culture and heritage.

Gender Differences In Depression Diagnoses
► This paper seeks to determine if there is a true gender difference in the diagnosis of depression. By examining the current literature regarding the ways men and women experience depression, as well as numerous reports about the rate of depression in each gender, it is the hope that this research will bring to light what differences truly exist and why. By discovering when and why a gender divide in depression may exist, this research will start to develop a conversation about how this can be reduced in the future and ensure that treatment is effective for anyone, regardless of gender.

Hear OUR Voices
► A panel of students from Kutztown University representing minority voices on campus and in the communities. Hear OUR voice - not filtered through the media, the pundits, or national talking heads. Hear OUR issues and concerns about the KU campus, the Kutztown Community, our neighborhoods, and the nation.

Session Four
The Impact Of White Privilege From A Black Perspective: A Time For Change
► This interactive session chronicles narratives and experiences from a Black perspective focusing on the impact of global white privilege. The session will demonstrate the influence of white privilege on education, social postures, and personal development for non-whites. The activities will highlight dispositions, practices, values, and beliefs of white privilege and how those values permeate the progress or impedes the lives of others. Discussions and a culminating exercise will focus on the necessity of building culturally responsive practices to support social equity.

Voter Registration And Resources
► Have you always wanted to know more about what it means to be a registered voter? Want to help others become educated about the voting process? Come to this session to learn about becoming an informed voter, engaged in the political process here in the USA.

The Legacy Of Africa: New Identities
► This panel will look at various identities based on Africa. The participants will be diverse: One an African American; one an student born in Africa; and one whose father is African and her mother is from Pa. We will examine the differences and similarities of identity among the different participants. We will also look at the role, positive or negative, education plays in these identities. The presenters will give short papers and then we will have a discussion that will involve the audiences.

How To Build Persistent & Confident Students
► Building relationships with students takes time and effort from both willing participants. One of my goals here at Kutztown University has always been to increase student’s persistence and confidence by creating support systems that will strengthen and motivate them so that they are successful during their college years. Helping all students learn how to navigate through campus, solve every day problems, while building relationships with their peers has its many benefits and these skills can be taken wherever they may go in the near future. Students’ needs will vary throughout their college experiences but one thing that is universal for all is feeling acceptance and love by their peers. Everyone wants to be acknowledged, respected, and appreciated. I will touch on a few strategies that have worked for me while I have been working at a University level.