A GLIMPSE INTO MSPS

GREETINGS.....

As winter transitions into the Spring, so has the Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services. We welcome Ms. Ayana “Sunny” Johnson; she is our newest team member as the Administrative and Support Services Specialist. Ayana joined us on October 28, 2019, from the Department of Facilities Management. We are happy to have Ayana with us. Also, we have a new Director, Mrs. Rochelle Johnson, who was promoted to Director on November 16, 2019. She was formerly in the Associate Director’s position for three years before serving as Interim Director for a year.

Our Student Spotlight for this edition highlights our December 2019 graduate, Ms. Kaniya Williamson. We kicked off a hectic Spring 2020 semester with a new pilot program called SPECTRA Reboot and would like to recognize all of our mentors during Mentor Appreciation month. Make sure you check out our “Save the Date” for MSPS other events like the ExCel Awards and our Multicultural Graduation Celebrations.

Remember to follow us on Facebook and Instagram @cofc_msp to stay up to date. Our e-newsletter will be posted on our website and social media accounts. We are excited about all of the wonderful things to come; Spring is in the air!  Thanks for reading!

Sincerely,
The Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services

MEET THE TEAM

Rochelle Johnson
Director

Lynda Keller
Assistant Director

Ayana Johnson
Administrative/Support Services Specialist
Kaniya Williamson arrived on campus from Darlington, South Carolina as a freshman in fall 2015. The College of Charleston was not on her list of colleges, but her uncle encouraged her to apply and thought it might be a good fit for her. During her first few semesters, she learned to navigate the campus on her own since she did not participate in SPECTRA. It was challenging for her to be away from home and family.

It didn’t take Kaniya long to find her place at the College, and she eventually served as a SPECTRA LEADER and later a SPECTRA Assistant Head LEADER. She says that her favorite part of all her experiences has been “branching out and finding things in myself that were outside of my comfort zone.” Kaniya also took on a position in MSPS as the Coordinating Assistant for the Mentoring Matters component of SPECTRA. She assisted with planning and executing mentor/mentee activities, created event flyers, and assisted in matching students with mentors.

Experiences in MSPS gave Kaniya an opportunity to blossom, and she says that “they just didn’t look at GPA alone and don’t let that define you as a person.”

Kaniya has a few words of advice for first-year students that may be beginning their careers at CofC. She says, “get out of your room and connect with others because sitting alone in your room promotes negative thinking and feelings.” Going on to say, “you have to do your part to make college a positive experience.” In December, as her last semester at CofC was coming to an end, Kaniya was focusing on finishing all her classes and applying to graduate schools. Her dream is to someday work in the field of child, maternal, and family health.

Kaniya says she likes to read inspirational quotes to help motivate her. She wanted to share her favorite: “Good, better, best. Never let it rest til your good is better and your better is best!”
The beginning of the spring 2020 semester saw the launch of the SPECTRA Reboot Pilot Program. Reboot’s primary goal is to promote student success through leadership development. We had 14 SPECTRA 2019 participants join us on January 6th and 7th for two days of professional and academic development activities. Students in attendance were treated to presentations from our campus partners from the Career Center, the Center for Student Learning, the Higdon Leadership Center, and Professor Lancie Affonso. Topics covered time management, creating a LinkedIn profile, learning Handshake, how to secure internships, developing critical reading skills, and leadership development skills.

Over the course of the spring semester, Reboot students will attend more leadership activities like ROPES training and activities with the Higdon Leadership Center and the Career Center. By the end of the semester, students will have put together a Career Readiness Portfolio.

A MESSAGE FROM MENTORING MATTERS

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR INSPIRING AND ENCOURAGING OUR STUDENTS AS THEY NAVIGATE THE FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE.

YOU SHARE THEIR SUCCESSES AND LIFT THEM UP DURING DIFFICULT TIMES. YOUR SUPPORT AND ADVICE MAKES AN IMMEASURABLE DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES.

With Thanks,
MULTICULTURAL STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Mentoring Matters Presents: Sweet Treats
02.14.20 • 9AM TO 4PM
THE MULTICULTURAL CENTER
207 CALHOUN STREET
FOLLOW US: 
FACEBOOK
INSTAGRAM
YOUTUBE
WEBSITE
MSPS & CAB SUPERBOWL EVENT
UPCOMING EVENTS

The ExCel Awards
MARCH 25, 2020 | 4:00 P.M.
STERN CENTER BALLROOM
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Join us as we honor members of the College and community who have distinguished themselves by their efforts to promote excellence and enhance diversity on our campus.

SAVE THE DATES

2020 MULTICULTURAL GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS

LGBTQQAIP & ALLY LAVENDER CELEBRATION
Wednesday, May 6, 5:00 p.m.

HISPANIC LATINX GRADUATION CELEBRATION
Friday, May 1, 6:00 p.m.

ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER UNITY CELEBRATION
Monday, May 4, 5:00 p.m.

NIA RITE OF PASSAGE
Thursday, May 7, 4:00 p.m.

COMING SOON!
TRILL OR NOT TRILL

Wednesday February 26, 2020
6 pm
Stern Center Ballroom

PAINT & PUNCH

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020
6 - 8 PM
STERN CENTER BALLROOM

PLEASE RSVP YOUR ATTENDANCE TO MSPS (MSPS@COFC.EDU) BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020