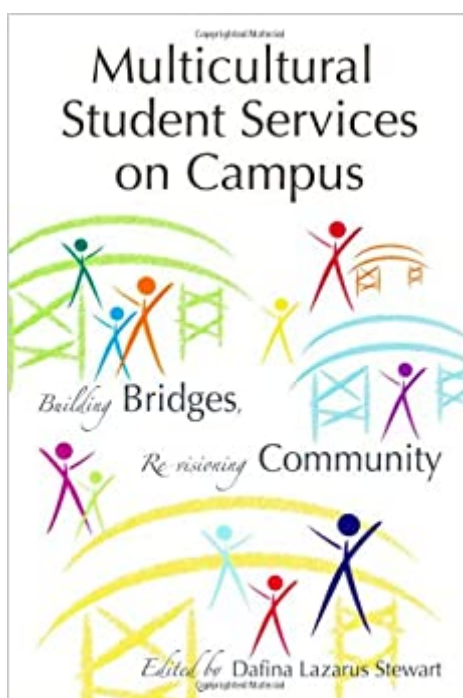


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Multicultural Student Services On Campus: Building Bridges, Re-visioning Community (ACPA Books Co-published With Stylus Publishing)



Synopsis

For new professionals in multicultural student services (MSS), this book constitutes a thorough introduction to the structure, organization, and scope of the services and educational mission of these units. For senior practitioners it offers insights for re-evaluating their strategies, and inspiration to explore new possibilities. The book discusses the history and philosophy of MSS units; describes their operation; asserts the need for integration and coherence across the multiple facets of their work and how their role is influenced by the character and type of their institutions; and considers the challenges and opportunities ahead. The theme Building Bridges, Re-Visioning Community reflects the dual role of MSS. They “build bridges” between underrepresented student populations and the broader institutional environment, between different groups of student populations, and across differences in cultural values and traditions. At a time of increasing diversity on campus, their role is also to champion the “re-visioning” or redefinition of what constitutes community in higher education – in other words to reach beyond serving their traditional constituencies to educate for multicultural competence, and advocate for social justice across the campus commons. This book is organized in four sections moving the reader from the past to the present to the future, and from a service mission to an educational one. Part One reviews the purposes for which MSS were created, and the evolution of their vision, concluding an overview of how units perceive their needs and challenges today. Part Two addresses a range of issues – such as race/ethnicity, sexual orientation / gender identity, and religion/faith diversity – commonly addressed by MSS, and, in recognizing the tensions inherent in serving such disparate constituencies, advances ideas for bringing greater integration and coherence to their work. Part Three considers how institutional context influences the structure and organization of MSS, and addresses such questions as: Who are they serving? What kind of support services and educational programming can they provide? How broadly or narrowly should they define their role, and can they extend their influence through alliances with other campus units? The book concludes by looking at how MSS can re-vision community to ensure their continued relevance to the college or university community. An ACPA Publication

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Customer Reviews

Dafina Lazarus Stewart is Associate Professor of Higher Education and Student Affairs at Bowling Green State University. Prior to her faculty career, Dr. Stewart served briefly at Kenyon College in multicultural affairs, collaborating with other multicultural affairs professionals at other small, private colleges across the state. Her research and writing about issues of diversity, multiculturalism, and the identity and experiences of African American college students has appeared in the field's most prestigious publication outlets, including the Journal of Higher Education, the Journal of College Student Development, and About Campus.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I will incorporate content in staff development activities as it expands opportunities for supporting students of diverse backgrounds.

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