To celebrate National First Generation Week, the Center for Student Access and Success will be hosting several events, with a keynote presentation and Q&A with Alton Fitzgerald White, the only African American to play a leading role in six Broadway shows, including the role of King Mufasa in the Lion King for a record-breaking 4,308 performances. White discusses the barriers that exist within our culture to people of color, and draws on his own experience as a first-generation college student to relate to student audiences. Join us Thursday November 5 at 7 PM.

Click here to register for this event.
In a June message to the Lehigh University community, President John Simon ’19P and Board Chair Kevin Clayton ’84 ’13P affirmed the goal of making Lehigh an actively anti-racist institution. In accepting responsibility to make the changes that are needed, university leaders acknowledge that they cannot do this job alone; Lehigh’s success in achieving this transformative goal must include the active participation of the entire campus community.

As we continue to pursue important work across the university to become a more equitable institution, we are soliciting proposals from across the campus community that will contribute to our efforts: “Creative Ideas to Transform Lehigh into an Anti-Racist Institution.” We welcome proposals from all members of our community. Dr. Henry Odi, ’98G ’23P, deputy vice president and associate provost for academic diversity, has been charged with leading this initiative, and he has assembled a dedicated group of students, faculty, and staff to assist him.

If you have a thought, an opinion, an idea about something Lehigh can and should do to truly and permanently become anti-racist, now is the time to make your voice heard. Submitted proposals will be divided into three categories:

**Category #1:** students (undergraduate and graduate). A total of $5,000 will be awarded to the best ideas in this category. Proposals can be submitted by individuals or by small teams of up to five people. All teams must consist fully of undergraduate or graduate students.

**Category #2:** faculty (tenured and non-tenured/PoPs/adjuncts). A total of $5,000 will be awarded to the best ideas in this category. Proposals can be submitted by individuals or by small teams of up to five people. All teams must consist fully of tenured faculty or non-tenured/PoS/adjunct faculty.

**Category #3:** staff (exempt and non-exempt). A total of $5,000 will be awarded to the best ideas in this category. All teams must consist fully of exempt staff or non-exempt staff.

Proposals will be accepted in written form (maximum of 750 words) or as a video (maximum of 5 minutes in length). Your proposal should identify the problem or situation you are focusing on, give example(s) of how it is experienced and reasons why it needs to change, and offer a potential solution or alternative. No idea is too far-fetched or ambitious; we want to hear your thoughts on how to make Lehigh a more equitable community for all its members.

The deadline for submissions has been extended to November 15, 2020. Assessment teams comprised of staff, faculty, and undergraduate and graduate students will judge the proposals. We want to stress that all good ideas will be presented to the administration for consideration. So even if your proposal does not earn a cash award, it can still impact Lehigh in a meaningful way. And that’s what we seek — impactful change that is sustainable and lasting.

To learn more about this initiative or to submit, please follow this link.

Lehigh has once again been recognized as one of 2020’s Best of the Best LGBTQ-Friendly Colleges and Universities by Campus Pride! In order to be in the "Best of the Best" listing, an institution had to score the highest percentages in the LGBTQ-friendly benchmarks for policies, programs and practices. This year, Lehigh is one of only 40 campuses nationwide to receive this honor. Though we are proud to celebrate this accomplishment, we also recognize that there is more work to be done, and we are committed to that work. Read more about the Campus Pride Best of the Best list here.
Lehigh is joining a three-year institutional change effort to develop inclusive faculty recruitment, hiring and retention practices. The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) co-leads the effort, known as Aspire: The National Alliance for Inclusive & Diverse STEM Faculty, along with the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (IORTL). Lehigh is one of 19 universities to join the new cohort.

Aimed at ensuring all STEM faculty use inclusive teaching practices and that institutions increase the diversity of their STEM professoriate, participating universities begin their work with a self-assessment of current practices and assets. The institutions will then develop and implement campus action plans to drive change and scale such efforts across all their STEM programs. Read full story here.

Check out what Diversity, Inclusion & Equity is offering this month! In addition to First Gen Celebration Week, we have programs discussing the 2020 Election and celebrations centered on Native American Heritage Month.