



University Housing Services
15th Annual Kwanzaa Observance
Assessment Report

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Choose One: Learning Outcome Assessment

Date of Assessment Implementation: December 2015

Date of Report: June 2016

Purpose of Assessment

The purpose of assessing the 15th Annual Kwanzaa Observance program was to see what Cal Poly Pomona students were learning from this program so that it could be revised by adding and taking away components within the program. Kwanzaa is an African American holiday celebrated from December 26 through January 1. It was created in 1966 in Los Angeles by Ron Maulana Karenga as an alternative celebration to Christmas and Hanukkah. The event was facilitated by Tashiana Bryant who is the African American Student Center Coordinator and Dr. Toni-Mokjaetji Humber who is a professor in Ethnic and Women's Studies department. Moreover, this event was a celebration of family, community, and culture. In addition, it was in collaboration with University Housing services as I serve as a liaison for UHS and worked with Ms. Bryant.

The event was given December 3, 2015 in the multipurpose building. The seven principles of Kwanzaa (Unity, Self-Determination, Collective Work & Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith) were explained to the students. Also, the symbols of Kwanzaa were presented. Lastly, the seven candles and what they symbolize (Black represents African people, Red represents the struggle, and Green represents the future and hope that comes from struggle) were all covered in Dr. Humber's presentation. During the event students asked questions about the Kwanzaa holiday and we all sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing". Many students expressed how their own unique struggles and experiences related to observing this holiday. We observed the passing of some tragic African American youth. At the end of the program I gathered all the students' emails and informed that they would receive a survey so they could inform us how to improve the program for this coming year.

Division Learning Outcome Diversity & Global Consciousness

Targeted Learning Outcome

The learning outcomes for this event were to bring forth an awareness, appreciation, and celebration of this African-American holiday in order to build community among all students on the Cal Poly Pomona campus. All students were welcome with the hope of expanding the knowledge and importance of this holiday.

Assessment Methodology

I used the quantitative research method of doing an online survey which was given to thirty-two students that attended the Kwanzaa Observance celebration.

Results

The results of the online survey found that 75% of the students that attended the event enjoyed the speaker and the presentation. When asked what was the most valuable thing the students learned answers ranged from what each candle represented, what Kwanzaa really means, where it came from, and it's place in society today. Additionally, when asked what the students least liked about the event only 25% stated that the time it was held wasn't ideal for their schedule.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the event was an overall success. The students learned more about the significance and meaning of Kwanzaa. The event brought students from different cultures and backgrounds together to learn more about this African-American holiday. Some improvements for next year would be to consider a different venue. Students that live in the halls had to walk a long distance to get to the multipurpose building. Also, having it at a different time of day would be more convenient for students. Finally, more food that is specifically meaningful for the holiday is highly recommended according to the survey results.

Implications for Practice

- Continue to have the Kwanzaa Observance program but send out a survey before the event to see what time would work best for most students.
- Have students that are familiar with the Kwanzaa holiday share how they have celebrated this holiday and its significance to the African-American community.
- Create a handout with questions about everything that is covered at the event and have the students complete it at the end to see how much they really learned and retained.