Diversity Facts about MARIST COLLEGE

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The Center for Multicultural Affairs was created in September 2008. The mission of the center is to empower students at Marist College by providing academic services that lead students to successfully complete a college degree and become active contributing members of the global society of the future, and engaging the Marist College community at large to ensure the academic, professional and social success of all students by creating a climate of justice, promoting access and equity, and maintaining an educational environment that cultivates the rich contributions of all cultures.

The Marist College Professional Women’s Mentor Program was founded in November 2008. The program seeks to develop a system of mentorship opportunities in which more experienced professionals provide guidance, wisdom, and inspiration to female administrators for the purpose of ongoing professional development.

The Marist College Diversity Website was created in February 2008. The purpose of this website is to summarize diversity efforts going on at Marist and to provide a portal that links to information about diversity – related activities and resources both on and off campus.

There are at least 27 languages spoken at Marist College. They are Farsi, German, Polish, Dutch, French, Spanish, Chinese, Gaelic, Arabic, Turkish, Italian, Hebrew, Yiddish, Latin, Russian, Portuguese, Swedish, Samoan, Hungarian, Japanese, Hindi, Punjabi, Mandarin Chinese, Urdu, Telugu, Cantonese and Malay.

Every year, President Dennis Murray hosts a Hispanic Heritage Month and African American Heritage Leadership luncheon for students, faculty and staff. Students are identified by staff and faculty for their potential to assume leadership roles at the institution. An alumnus in most cases provides words of wisdom for the attendees. The Hispanic Heritage Month luncheon was initiated in 2006 and the African American Heritage Leadership luncheon was created in 2003.

The Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP) is funded by the New York State Education Department and has been sponsored by Marist College since 1990. The goal of LPP is to provide services to students that motivate them to graduate from high school and enter post-secondary education or the workforce as highly competent and compassionate adults.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Scholarship was created in 1967 to attract minority students to Marist.
Marist College has sponsored the Holocaust Memorial Remembrance Program in recognition of Yom HaShoah for the past 20 years.

For 41 years, the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) has helped to increase the numbers of under-represented students that attend Marist. In fall 1969, Marist became one of the original 24 institutions to sponsor H.E.O.P and began with 18 freshman students. More than half of these students came from New York City and the remainder were Dutchess County residents. Approximately 50% of those original students graduated.

An American With Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator position was created in 1997 to ensure compliance with federal regulations and to educate Marist on issues of accessibility.

Marist College created the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee in 1997.

The Marist Upward Bound Program was founded in 1966. It is a federally funded college preparatory program designed to generate in participants the skills and motivation necessary to persist in completing their secondary education and enter and complete a program of postsecondary education.

Marist College has eight (8) student clubs that represent racial and gender groups which are funded by the Office of College Activities. They are: A.R.C.O. (Appreciating Races Creating Opportunities); Asian Alliance; Black Student Union (BSU); Gaelic Society; Gender Equality; International Students; Italian American Society; and LGSA (Lesbian Gay Straight Alliance).