

**College of Communication and Information Program**  
**Diversity & Inclusion Week: Empowering and Celebrating Yourself and Others**  
**September 19 – 22, 2011**

**Program Planning Committee:** Alice Bowling Wirth (Chair), Beth Cole, Asia Farmer, John Haas, Catherine Luther, Bharat Mehra, Margie Morrison, Chelsea Sanz, Kiah Simmons, Erin Whiteside, Mike Wirth, Courtney Wright

**Diversity Festival Committee:** Alice Bowling Wirth (Chair), Vanderbilt Brabson, Jondra Darden, Shiela Hawkins, Jacquelyn Mabry, Caitlin Newman, Eva Posner, Lauren Washington, Julian Wright, Victoria Wright, Jim Young

“CCI Diversity and Inclusion Week: Empowering and Celebrating Yourself and Others” is targeted at all members of the CCI community with specific focus on our 1,600 undergraduate majors. The 4-day event offers participants an opportunity to gain diversity skills and knowledge along with a chance to dialogue about diversity and inclusion issues and to share best practices by bringing together leaders and experts from inside and outside the college and university. This year’s Diversity and Inclusion Week theme is “Empowering and Celebrating Yourself and Others” along with daily sub-themes consisting of Exploring Diversity,” “Building Relationships,” “Strengthening Communities on Campus,” and “Expressing Diversity through the Arts.” A keynote speech, a workshop, an open forum, 7 panels and a diversity festival will provide our students, faculty, staff and the UTK community with an inspirational and informative week designed to advance their understanding of and appreciation for diversity and inclusion. The week was made possible through funding from UTK’s Ready for the World Initiative and CCI. The schedule for CCI Diversity and Inclusion Week is as follows.

**Monday, September 19 – Exploring Diversity and Inclusion**

**Morning Session**

Topic: **“Everybody Has a Story”**

Moderator: Courtney Wright, Assistant Professor, School of Communication Studies

Panel: Rita Geier, Senior Fellow, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy and Associate to the Chancellor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Rob Heller, Professor, School of Journalism and Electronic Media

Lieutenant Colonel Danny M. Kelley II, Battalion Commander & Professor of Military Science

Mustapha Moussa, UTK Undergraduate

Location: Scripps Convergence Lab – COM 402

Time: 10:10 – 11:10 a.m.

**Afternoon Session**

Topic: **“Understanding Diversity”**

Workshop facilitator: Alice Bowling Wirth, Lecturer, School of Communication Studies and Director, CCI Diversity Student Leaders Society (DSLs)

Panel: Jondra Darden, DSLs

Asia Farmer, DSLs

Frank James, III, DSLs

Victoria Kisluk, UTK Undergraduate

Lauren Wilson, DSLS  
Location: CCI Auditorium – COM 321  
Time: 1:25 – 2:25 p.m.

**Diversity & Inclusion Week Keynote**

**Keynote Speaker: Joetta Clark Diggs, 4-Time Olympian; President, Joetta Sports & Beyond, LLC; Executive Director, Joetta Clark Diggs Sports Foundation  
“Determined to Reach Your Destiny”**

Location: McClung Museum Auditorium  
Reception Time: 6:15 – 7:00 p.m.  
Keynote Time: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 20 – Building Relationships**

**Morning Session**

**Topic: “Building Spiritual Communities of Acceptance”**

Moderator: Dr. Christine Shepardson, Associate Professor, UTK Department of Religious Studies

Panel: Jonas Holdeman, member of Rationalists of East Tennessee and Director of Camp Quest of the Smokies

Dr. Jeremy McGinnis, Associate Pastor, Park West Church of God

Deborah Oleshansky, Director, UT Hillel/Jewish Student Center

Nadeem Siddiqi, Member, Muslim Community of Knoxville’s Dawah (Outreach) Committee

Rev. Jill Sizemore, Pastor, Metropolitan Community Church of Knoxville

Location: Scripps Convergence Lab – COM 402  
Time: 9:40 – 10:55 a.m.

**Afternoon Session**

**Topic: “Negotiating Workplace Differences”**

Moderator: John Haas, Director, School of Communication Studies

Panel: Jan Brown, Senior Advisor for Diversity & Labor Relations, Tennessee Valley Authority

Pat Carson, Compliance Coordinator, Knox County Human Resources Department

Linda Cox-Collier, Regional Marketing Manager, Mercy Health Partners

Jennifer Richter, Associate Director, UTK Office of Equity and Diversity

Fernandez West, Associate Director, UTK Thornton Athletics Student Life Center

Location: Scripps Convergence Lab – COM 402  
Time: 2:10-3:25 p.m.

**Evening Session**

**Topic: “Open Forum on Diversity and Inclusion”**

Moderators: Victoria Kisluk, UTK Undergraduate

Julian Wright, CCI Diversity Student Leaders Society (DSLS)

Location: Scripps Convergence Lab – COM 402  
Time: 5:05-6:20 p.m.

## **Wednesday, September 21 – Strengthening Communities on Campus**

### **Morning Session**

Topic: **“On Campus Stories of Empowerment”**

Moderator: Erin Whiteside, Assistant Professor, School of Journalism and Electronic Media

Panel: Bryan Hilbert, Testing Coordinator, UTK Office of Disability Services  
Annazette Houston, Director, UTK Office of Disability Services  
Rick Mula, UTK Undergraduate  
Anton Reece, Director, UTK Student Success Center

Location: Scripps Convergence Lab – COM 402

Time: 9:05-10:05 a.m.

### **Afternoon Session**

Topic: **“Freedom Riders: The Journey Continues”**

Moderator: Theotis Robinson, Vice President, Equity & Diversity, University of Tennessee

Panel: Robert J. Booker, *Knoxville News Sentinel* Opinion Columnist, Author and Historian  
Avon Rollins, Sr., Director and CEO, Beck Cultural Exchange Center  
Jayanni Webster, UTK Undergraduate  
Harry Wiersema, Civil Rights Attorney

Location: Scripps Convergence Lab – COM 402

Time: 2:30-3:30 p.m.

## **Thursday, September 22 – Expressing Diversity through the Arts**

### **Morning Session**

Topic: **“Diversity and Self Expression: The Body as a Canvas”**

Moderator: Asia Farmer, CCI Diversity Student Leaders Society (DSLS)

Panel: Dr. Kelly Baker, Lecturer, UTK Department of Religious Studies  
Derrick Furlow, Jr., Business Entrepreneur and former UT Football Player  
Shiela Hawkins, WUTK-FM

Location: CCI Auditorium – COM 321

Time: 11:10-12:25 p.m.

### **Afternoon Session**

Topic: **“Breaking Boundaries through Music”**

Moderator: Benny Smith, General Manager, WUTK-FM

Panel: Black Atticus, Knoxville Hip Hop artist and slam poet  
Todd Steed, Local musician, WUOT-FM Jazz Program Director and Host of Studio 865 and Flipside

Lane Shuler, Hip Hop artist and slam poet from Townsend, TN

Erin Whiteside, Assistant Professor, School of Journalism and Electronic Media

Location: CCI Auditorium – COM 321

Time: 3:40-4:55 p.m.

### **Evening Festival**

#### **CCI Diversity Festival**

Details: An all-campus barbecue with diverse musical, dance, and dramatic performances;

games, arts and crafts, CCI student club booths/tables, prizes, WUTK remote and more.  
Location: Circle Park  
Time: 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.