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KALAMAZOO COLLEGE

NEWS

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KNIGHT GRANT RESULTS IN ADVANCEMENT OF MINORITY AFFAIRS AT KALAMAZOO COLLEGE

In March 1989, Kalamazoo College announced the receipt of a grant from the Knight Foundation to promote ethnic diversity. Since then, several initiatives have taken place; more are yet to come.

The funding supports the appointment of Dr. Sandra Greene to fill the new position of associate provost for minority recruitment. "For the first time," Greene notes, "there is someone in the provost's office who can coordinate all our efforts in student life, faculty hiring, admissions, and curriculum development."

An additional consequence of the grant was the hiring of Minority Affairs Director Dr. Jeanne Baraka-Love. Baraka-Love has initiated a variety of activities that give greater attention to the interest and needs of minority students and also encourage faculty and students to be more understanding and empathetic with the minority experience.

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New faculty positions include minority visiting scholar appointments in the English department and a minority appointment in the theatre department. Greene says, "The appointment of Dr. Enid Valle, originally from Puerto Rico, in Romance languages is another spinoff of the thinking and activity that went into designing and obtaining the Knight grant."

And as an indirect outgrowth, Greene cites the rethinking of the American studies concentration. "We may alter how we define what America is, and that may lead to new major in American studies with that new definition," she says.

Minority student enrollment will be increased through scholarships and by enhancing the climate on campus through activities associated with students services. "We hope that this will allow us to increase and retain the number of minority students that will make this college an institution of higher education that truly reflects the diversity that exists within this country," Greene says.

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