

# PROFILE

## THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT COUNCIL FOR UNITY (CFU) CHAPTER

### “CELEBRATE COMMUNITY AND HONOR DIVERSITY”

<b>Chapter Established</b>	2004  The University of Vermont’s Council for Unity Chapter is the first sustainable Collegiate Chapter in the country and paves the way for future college chapters while expanding and engaging Council alumni.
<b>Founder</b>	DaVaughn M. Vincent-Bryan, Senior at The University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont (Major: Public Communication; Minor: Psychology)  DaVaughn M. Vincent-Bryan, a leader in his CFU Chapter at Christopher Columbus High School in the Bronx, New York, developed a profound respect for the ideals upon which Council was formed. He took these ideals and his enthusiasm for the Council’s potential with him as he made the transition from high school to college.
<b>President</b>	Cherise I. Brown Varela, Senior at the University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, and, President of Council For Unity Vermont Chapter 2007-2008 (Major: Public Communication; Minor: Community & International Development)
<b>Vision</b>	To be valued by the citizens of Vermont, by the University and by our peers.  To empower our members with the skills necessary to develop interdependent growth and the needed foresight to lead.  To serve our community and University by means of self example and to share the importance of culture and diversity with all.
<b>Mission</b>	The Chapter’s mission is the same as the Council for Unity –  “to empower individuals and groups with the skills necessary to promote unity, safety, and achievement throughout the University and within communities.”  The mission is achieved by engaging youth to take ownership of the problems of bias that confront them, while aiding in the development of strong independent thought and leadership they themselves play a major role in developing the solutions to improve the environments in which they function.

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<b>Mission</b> (continued)	This is accomplished through our commitment to developing quality services and continuous improvement while respecting diversity, legal rights, human dignity, productivity and integrity.
<b>Organization</b>	<u>Executive Board</u> : Founder/Legacy Officer, President, Vice President, Chief of Staff, director of Services, Chief of Communication <u>Working Committees</u> : Marketing, Community Outreach, Networking, and Social Life
<b>Today</b>	Today, The University of Vermont’s Council Chapter has empowered an estimated 30 inducted members who have become mentors to high school students. The Chapter networks with eight other campus organizations developing agendas and projects which make the campus more unified. These projects also empower students with organizational and communication skills that lead to enriching relationships, attaining fulfilling careers and contributing to the world around them.
<b>Program Description</b>	<p>The Chapter sponsors University programs both on and off campus in leadership development, mentoring, and career research.</p> <p>Proposed Spring 2008 Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Developing a Campus Summit of organizations to address racial and ethnic tensions</li><li>• Creating ‘bulletins’ for Dorm Residential Advisors</li><li>• Sponsoring second annual ‘Black and White Ball’ in conjunction with the Black Student Union during Black History Month</li><li>• Election and training of new members/officers for the new year</li><li>• Reaching out to the Burlington High School</li><li>• Participating in the ALANA annual talent show as a group.</li><li>• Attending CFU’s Annual Induction Ceremony in New York City</li><li>• Hosting a second group of CFU New York students for a college weekend retreat</li><li>• Working on new recruitment.</li><li>• Hosting multicultural breakfast for UVM’s multicultural center</li></ul>

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#### Past

#### Achievements

##### **Hosted the Affirmative Action Lecture Series**

Created by Council's Vice President Andrew Kehl and hosted by Council President DaVaughn Bryan – an open forum created to provide information to students, staff and faculty as to the history, usefulness and controversy surrounding the subject of affirmative action (Project Served 86 ppl).

##### **Sponsored “Do You Know Gandhi?”**

A cultural program intended to broaden student knowledge of the life, work and times of Mahatma Gandhi, also Indian food, cultural practices, and music (Project Served 245 ppl).

##### **Hosted Unity Retreat**

A two-day program in which students participated in workshops led by faculty on the subjects of conflict resolution, cultural diversity, social justice issues, and in-depth view of UVM Diversity and Equity Unit. (Project Served 25 ppl)

##### **Leading Participant in the ‘Have a Heart’ Campaign**

Coordinated by the Office of Conflict Resolution, the ‘Have a Heart’ Campaign is an annual program aimed at raising awareness of walk-by-noise and its effects on the Burlington Community. Its goal is to solidify UVM connections with our surrounding community. (attendance 7 council members)

##### **Active Participants in UVM's Diversity Day**

Creating displays and hosting information booth on different African cultures.

##### **Billings Bedlam**

Council members volunteered to staff this yearly event at which students meet, socialize, dance, eat and play games; Council's volunteer staff was one of the largest volunteer groups working at this event. (attendance 10 council members)

##### **Bears of Peace, Bears of Hope**

A fundraiser developed by President Bryan and Vice President Kehl, coordinated by Greg Rehult; Council members sold soft stuffed teddy bears, each symbolizing the virtues of Hope or Peace. Fifty percent of the proceeds were sent into Council's Spectrum Partnership Program.

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#### Past

#### Achievements

(continued)

#### CFU UVM Police Ride-Along

One of Council’s mandates is to work with and to solidify relationships with Law enforcement agencies. As such, Council members coordinated and participated in ‘police ride-along’ as UVM officers patrolled the campus and surrounding areas. While ‘riding along’ police officers shared their experiences and insights into their jobs and at the same time hear from a student’s perspective areas where the department excels and areas that could be improved.

#### Key Participant at the “N word Conference”

This was a two day conference – guest speakers from around the country were invited to present their findings, research and thoughts on the word Neger. There were also several workshops that highlighted the use of the word in public media – namely TV, comedy and music. Over 50 UVM students attended.

#### Awards

The Council for Unity became a *recognized Student Government organization* at The University of Vermont in the fall of 2004.

Nominated as **Organization of the Year – 2005**.

Founder, DaVaughn M. Vincent-Bryan, awarded the *Vision and Leadership Award* for the work he did with the Council for Unity.

#### Contact Information

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