DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
Diversity at BSC

Birmingham-Southern College is committed to honoring diversity and protecting the dignity of all individuals. We foster an inclusive campus culture so that all can learn and grow together. And we encourage all students to explore their own perspectives and that of others, including world views formed by race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, abilities, and sexual orientation.

The Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion develops intentional experiences in an effort to create global citizens prepared to thrive in diverse environments. The student-led Cross Cultural Committee and other student groups provide direction and support.

By getting involved with the Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion, you can:
- Take educational and recreational trips locally and/or regionally.
- Plan and participate in cultural events on and off campus.
- Experience authentic international foods from across the globe.
- Share your own culture and experience others.
- Get to know students, faculty, staff, and community members from a variety of backgrounds.
- Share your talents and gifts.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Birmingham-Southern College! The Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion is committed to the principles of community and global engagement, compassion, empathy, acceptance, and valuing difference in others. We strive to interweave cultural, ethnic and social justice awareness into the campus experience to ensure our students acquire the necessary skills to function in a diverse society. In support of BSC’s mission: to prepare men and women for lives of significance, programs are designed to facilitate and encourage leadership, fellowship and professional development growth opportunities that enable them to engage diverse and inclusive perspectives in the wider world.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion at BSC, please contact me at (205) 226-4733 or e-mail me at kmwilli1@bsc.edu.

Sincerely,

Kristie M. Williams, Ph.D.
Director of Student Diversity and Inclusion
Organizations focused on diversity and inclusion

Cross Cultural Committee (C3)
C3 promotes awareness, advocacy and an appreciation for both diversity and inclusion represented at BSC by engaging the campus in a variety of sociocultural activities, experiences and educational events. The organization has seven standing committees led by a C3 General Board member; students may sign up for the committees starting at the Resource fair during Fall Orientation. Each spring, students are invited to apply to open board positions.

The seven standing committees and some of their initiatives are:
- Hispanic Heritage Cultural Events Committee (Cinco De Mayo)
- Asian Cultural Events Committee (Chinese New Year, Diwali)
- International Student Programs (International Bazaar)
- African-American Cultural Events Committee (Black History Month)
- LGBTQ History and Cultural Committee (LGBTQ History Month)
- Women’s History and Cultural Events Committee (Women’s Leadership Panel)
- DREAM Affiliates (Disability Rights, Education, Activism, and Mentoring, Accessibility Awareness)

C3 works in close collaboration with a wide range of student groups to create programming, including but not limited to:
- International Film Club members
- Hillel: Jewish Student Association
- Love Asia
- Middle Eastern Central Asian Alliance
- Muslim Student Association
- Spectrum (Gay+Straight Alliance)
One-A-Chord Gospel Choir
Since its founding 18 years ago, the One-A-Chord Gospel Choir has distinguished itself as an icon of spirit and diversity on campus. This 20-member group brings inspiration, spiritual and cultural renewal, unity, and fellowship everywhere it performs. The ensemble gives vibrancy and voice to a variety of song forms drawn from the African American religious tradition, including traditional and contemporary gospel, anthems, and spirituals. The choir’s membership is open to all students regardless of their faith. Under the leadership of Richard Taylor and accompanied by student musicians, the choir is devoted to using its art to do more than entertain.

The Union
This on-campus townhouse offers a dedicated community space for the Black Student Union (BSU) and the international student community, providing opportunities to host programs, celebrations, and knowledge sharing. The house is equipped with offices on the top floor, a kitchen and lounge area on the main floor, and meeting space in the basement. Non-members may access the building during special events or for BSU or International Student Association (ISA) meetings. The organizations of The Union include the BSU, ISA, Black Women’s Union (BWU), and Black Men’s Union (BMU).
**Black Student Union**
The BSU promotes activities of common interest, as well as cultural and educational benefits for the African and African-American student body. The group seeks to increase awareness of political, economic, and social forces affecting them and to inspire an appreciation of African and African-American heritage. The BSU is made up of six standing committees that are headed by a chair. There is a membership fee of $20 per semester.

**Black Men’s Union**
The BMU promotes excellence and a sense of community service and philanthropy among African and African-American males and encourages them to become impactful members of the campus community. Meetings are held bi-weekly; there is an annual membership fee of $50.

**Black Women’s Union**
The BWU gives African and African-American women access to professional resources and creates a space for these women to unify themselves in pushing each other toward success. The group also provides leadership opportunities and peer tutoring and mentoring. Meetings are held bi-monthly and there is no annual fee.

**International Student Association**
The ISA works to foster greater unity within the international student community through a social network based upon the common experience of studying abroad in the United States. The group also serves as a student advisory board to the Office of Multicultural Affairs. There is no fee for membership.

“The Union House is a special place where African American and international students come to hang out, share meals, cry, laugh, but most importantly, spend time together. Having a place to call home like the Union and being a part of the BSU has given me a family away from home.”

– Robyn Gulley ’20
President, Black Student Union
SCHOLARSHIPS

• The BSC Student of Color Scholarship recognizes the value of inclusion and diversity that is essential to the mission of the college and awards scholarships to newly admitted students of color. Student must complete an application; finalists will be interviewed by the selection committee. For more info, contact Camerin White in the Office of Admission at cjwhite@bsc.edu.

• The BSU Scholarship Award also supports the mission of BSC. A $1,500 scholarship is awarded to a rising senior who demonstrates academic excellence and leadership and involvement with the Black Student Union and with BSC in general. Applications are available during spring term; the award is announced and presented at the annual Honors Day Convocation.

“Promoting diversity in the classroom is, as a professor, one of my top priorities. This effort aligns with BSC’s mission of preparing students to lead ‘lives of significance’ because doing so involves engaging a diverse set of perspectives to know better how to meaningfully contribute to one’s community.”

– Dr. Desireé Melonas
Assistant professor of political science
Here at BSC, you are encouraged to be yourself, to develop your views and express them, and to listen to the views of others. As educators, we strive to prepare you for the intellectual rigor of the classroom and for the world beyond the Hilltop by exposing you to new ideas, diverse opinions, and varied experiences. We encourage you to leave your comfort zone – doing so is how you learn, grow, and become stronger. We are here to help you develop and explore your beliefs, and to help you to develop tools to defend those beliefs. Through critical thinking, thoughtful discussion, and a mission of inclusivity, BSC provides a space where all students can grow intellectually and become engaged citizens.”

– Daniel Coleman
President
“As a member of the Cross Cultural Committee at BSC, I’ve had the opportunity to bring events and discussions that celebrate diversity and inclusion. It has been great working my fellow peers, faculty, and staff to create a safe space on campus for all students.”  
– Tania Alvarez Hernandez  
President, Cross Cultural Committee

“It brings me great joy to be able to work with students through the on-campus living experience as they navigate how to live and work with others who are different from them while also learning more about themselves.”  
– Brandon Brown  
Assistant Director of Residence Life

“You can be yourself at BSC. We believe that all people deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.”  
– Michael Lebeau  
Director of Career Services and Coordinator of the Ally Training Program

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“How your generation’s networks are both local and global, and at BSC, we offer you many opportunities for academic study of and experiences in the global world. In particular, multicultural and human rights studies help you to understand components of individual and diverse cultures as you simultaneously strive as humans to connect universally—a vitally important project for the 21st century and beyond.”  
– Dr. Sandra Sprayberry  
Robert E. Luckie Jr. Professor of English  
Human Rights and Conflict Studies Program coordinator

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