Parent & Family Programs Innovation and Engagement Fund:
Social Justice Allies Dinner Assessment Report
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Introduction

The Social Justice Allies Dinner brought together students affiliated with a wide-range of organizations at UC San Diego for a dinner and dialogue on community and allyship. With this event, the Campus Community Centers, in partnership with the International Center, Office for Students with Disabilities, the Center for Ethics and Spirituality, and other campus diversity-focused organizations, created a community-building opportunity that brought together diverse constituents from our various communities. This event sought to build community among participants, provide an opportunity for participants to envision ongoing opportunities for cross-community building initiatives through a collaborative of social justice allies, and to improve the well-being of our communities by providing a space for dialogue and connection around social justice issues. Feedback from the event affirmed that this space for dialogue and community building is much appreciated and that there is energy and desire to see more events like this at UC San Diego. What follows is a summary of the event, learning outcomes, data collected from assessment, and next steps.

Event Summary

We began the event with an activity to encourage participants to meet new people from different organizations and begin to develop new community connections.
Next, participants gathered in small, pre-determined groups (in order to encourage the establishment of new connections) for dinner and dialogue. Participants were asked to reflect and discuss the following questions:

- What does community mean to you?
- Why do we ally with others?
- How can we together create coalitions at UC San Diego?

Following the small group discussion, groups were asked to share out with the large group. We then had an opportunity for final reflections, discussion of how to continue the dialogue from the evening, and evaluations.

**Assessment**

Below are the measures that we used to assess the event:

- Survey demographic data of participants (to see who is in the room, what organizations they are affiliated with)
• Content from table discussions that speak to specific learning outcomes (for example, ideas for engaging as social justice allies post-event)
• Post event survey (will be able to assess if new connections were made)
• Post event focus groups in June (to assess what new involvement, projects, relationships developed from event)

What follows is information that we gathered from the event using the measures above.

**Demographic Data/Campus Affiliation**

Participants at the beginning of the dinner were asked to complete a registration card so that we could have a sense of who attended and what groups they were affiliated with. There were affiliates of over 30 campus organizations and departments in the room. These included the following:

* Women's Center * Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Resource Center * Hillel * Food Co-op
* Student Sustainability Collective * Out of State/International Student Outreach * Asian Pacific Islander Student Association * HR-EO/SAA + Access * Villagers in Programming * Office of Graduate Studies * UCSD Alumni * Cognitive Science * Graduate Student Association * Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Issues * Visual Arts * CADRE * Ethnic Studies * MEChA * Queer People of Color * United Jewish Observance
* Office for Students with Disabilities* Cross-Cultural Center * Math * Mixed Student Union * International House * Center for Ethics and Spirituality * Student Affairs * Muslim Student Association * Communication * Center for Research on Gender in the Professions* Keshet

**Post-Event Survey**

Immediately following the event participants completed a short survey. Below are key themes in the responses to each question:

1. **What is one change we should make to this event?**

   Overall, participants expressed strong appreciation for the opportunity to dialogue about community and meet new people, and many of the responses to this question reflected this. Some ideas for changes included having more faculty involved, inviting people from outside of UCSD to participate, and having a joint action project that participants can engage in.

2. **What is one positive thing from the event?**

   The overwhelming response to this question was that meeting new people was what people most appreciated from this event. Respondents commented on appreciating the diversity of participants, learning about new organizations through the connections that were made, and engaging in dialogue about important topics.
3. Who did you meet?

Every respondent indicated meeting at least one new person with most participants stating that they met many people from a variety of different spaces.

4. What were some new ideas that were discussed at your table?

Participants shared a variety of new ideas discussed in their small groups. The majority of new ideas that people shared involved new understandings of allyship. One participant reflected on a new idea that they had about allyship, stating “Working together should be like putting a puzzle together rather than playing chess. Focus less on competition and comparison and more on each of us being part of the whole. We all come from a different place.” One of our learning outcomes for the event was for participants to have an understanding of social justice allyship. The responses to this question indicate that participants’ understandings of allyship evolved during the event and that more conversations on the topics of community and allyship are desired.

5. What is one action that you can take to continue to build community at UCSD?

The most common response to this question involved participants stating that they plan to take an active role in continuing these conversations, reaching out to new people, and learning about the experiences of others.

*Small group reflecting on what community means to them*
Conclusion and Next Steps

In conclusion, participants valued the opportunity to meet new people different from themselves, dialogue about community and allyship, and think about ways to continue to engage beyond the event. We had originally planned a focus group for June. Given the end of the academic quarter and participants’ schedules, we have decided to postpone this until Fall. We believe that reaching out to participants in the Fall will allow us to re-connect with the energy present during the event and build on the desire for continued conversation and community building. We plan to engage participants in the Fall to continue to explore next steps and ways to expand on the conversations that happened during the event. There was a strong sense that participants would like to see this event continue as an annual event and we plan to explore this suggestion and look forward to continuing the dialogue.

Table doodles from the Social Justice Allies Dinner

Thank you to the Parent & Family Programs Innovation and Engagement Fund for making this event possible!