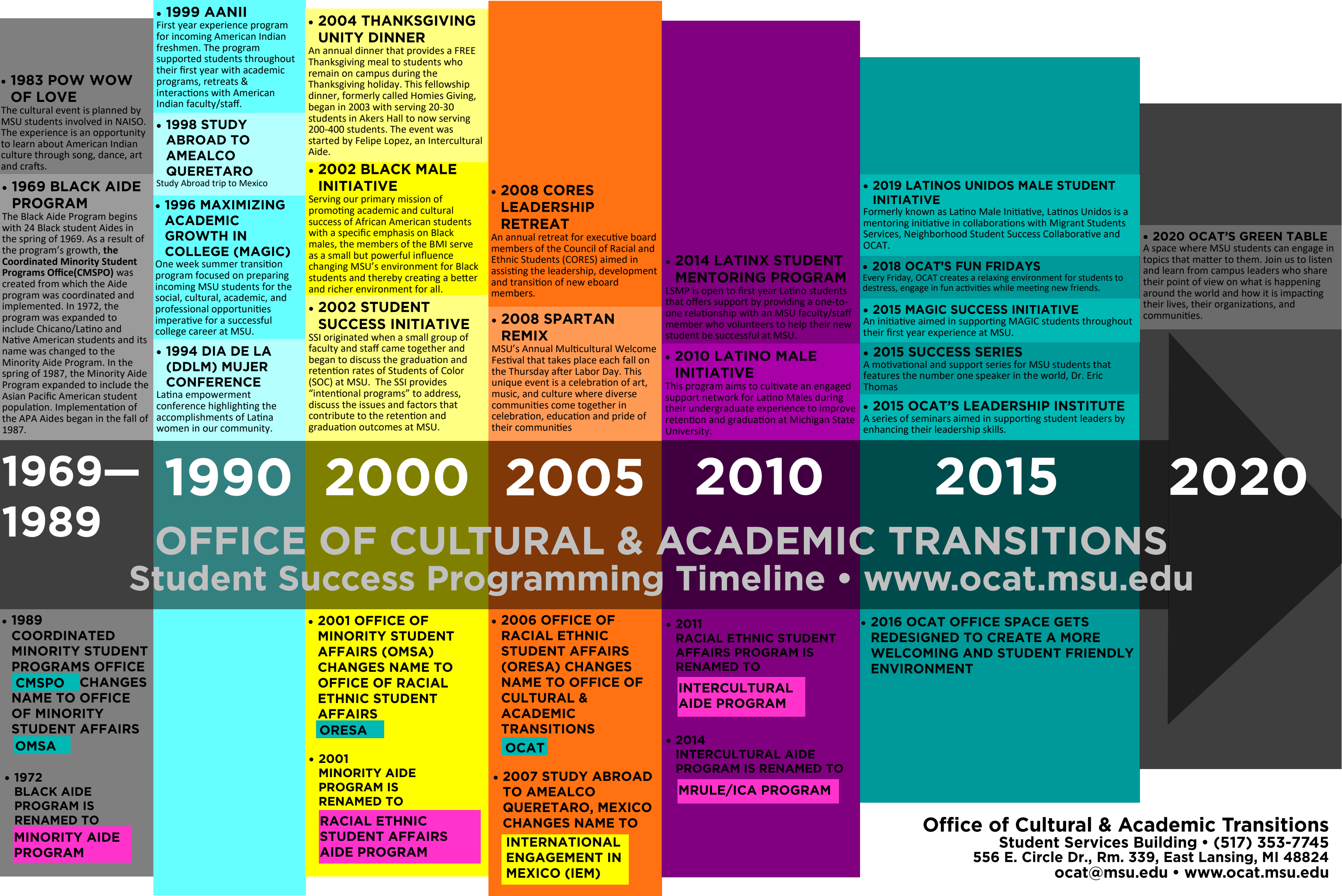


PROGRAMS

NAME CHANGES



OFFICE OF CULTURAL & ACADEMIC TRANSITIONS

Student Success Initiatives Descriptions • www.ocat.msu.edu

1983 POW WOW OF LOVE

The cultural event is planned by MSU students involved in NAISO. The experience is an opportunity to learn about American Indian culture through song, dance, art and crafts.

1969 BLACK AIDE PROGRAM

The Black Aide Program begins with 24 Black student Aides in the spring of 1969. As a result of the program’s growth, **the Coordinated Minority Student Programs Office (CMSPO)** was created from which the Aide program was coordinated and implemented. In 1972, the program was expanded to include Chicano/Latino and Native American students and its name was changed to the Minority Aide Program. In the spring of 1987, the Minority Aide Program expanded to include the Asian Pacific American student population. Implementation of the APA Aides began in the fall of 1987.

1972 RENAMED TO MINORITY AIDE PROGRAM

2001 RENAMED TO RACIAL ETHNIC STUDENT AFFAIRS AIDE PROGRAM

2011 RENAMED TO INTERCULTURAL AIDE PROGRAM

2014 RENAMED TO MRULE/ICA PROGRAM

1999 AANII MENTORING PROGRAM

First year experience program for incoming American Indian freshmen. The program supported students throughout their first year with academic programs, retreats & interactions with American Indian faculty/staff.

1996 MAXIMIZING ACADEMIC GROWTH IN COLLEGE (MAGIC)

Incoming Michigan State University students often underestimate the many challenges students face when making the transition from high school to college. Regardless of how successful a student has been in high school, “college” is a new experience. Therefore, helping students learn how to effectively “navigate” through a big university like MSU is critical to a student’s college success. MAGIC (Maximizing Academic Growth in College) is coordinated by the Office of Cultural & Academic Transitions (OCAT) and is designed to be a one-week experience for admitted incoming MSU students who have already completed their *NSO (New Student Orientation) experience*. *MAGIC gives students a chance to begin the process of becoming a successful Spartan during the summer, before classes begin in August.*

1994 DIA DE LA (DDLML) MUJER CONFERENCE

DDLML is a statewide leadership and empowerment conference dedicated to the advancement of Latinas. The Día de la Mujer Conference is celebrating 27 years of existence on April 4, 2020. DDLML has become a hub in the Midwest region for the empowerment of thousands of Latinas that have attended. The success of this community initiative is due to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and sponsors each year. The goal of the conference is to empower, motivate, inspire, train, and work collectively to expand opportunities for Latinas and all women. Each year DDLML disseminates information & evidence based strategies to attendees through a series of informative workshops, keynote speakers, and exhibitions. Last year we offered 34 workshops that focused on business, finance, education, health, community development, inter-personal growth, self-empowerment, and leadership

2004 THANKSGIVING UNITY DINNER

The Annual Thanksgiving fellowship dinner at Michigan State University is an annual dinner that provides a FREE Thanksgiving meal to students who remain on campus during the Thanksgiving holiday. The Dining Halls in the Residence Halls are closed for the holiday and many students are left without a place to eat for the day. This fellowship dinner began in 2003 with serving 20-30 students in Akers Hall to now serving 200-400 students. The event was started by Felipe Lopez an Intercultural Aide who noticed that many students could not afford to eat during the holiday break. Last year we served a total of 274 students from various backgrounds and cultures. Fresh Turkey dinners and a variety of delicious food are served and several students, faculty, and staff volunteer to serve with their family. This event brings together MSU students from diverse racial, ethnic, international, and domestic backgrounds to share a warm meal in fellowship. Over the last few years we have noticed an increase in attendance by international, migrant, and many other of our diverse student body that might otherwise have spent the holiday isolated in their rooms.

2002 BLACK MALE INITIATIVE

The BMI provides opportunities for Black males to openly discuss the issues and factors that contribute to the disappointing retention and graduation outcomes for Black men at MSU. In addition to illuminating the problems and concerns students face, the BMI identifies and promotes the use of successful strategies for avoiding pitfalls when possible and overcoming them when they are not avoided. The BMI actively promotes the use of student identified success strategies, and both highlights the availability of, and encourages the use of supportive services that are readily available for students at Michigan State University. Additionally, the BMI seeks to develop and implement new intervention activities for the MSU’s student community with a specific emphasis on targeting Black males.

2002 STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE

SSI originated when a small group of faculty and staff came together and began to discuss the graduation and retention rates of Students of Color (SOC) at MSU. The SSI provides “intentional programs” to address, discuss the issues and factors that contribute to the retention and graduation outcomes at MSU. In addition to illuminating the problems and concerns students face, the SSI identifies and promotes the use of successful strategies for avoiding pitfalls when possible and overcoming them when they are not avoided. The SSI actively promotes the use of student success strategies, and both highlights the availability of, and encourages the use of supportive services that are readily available for students at Michigan State University. Additionally, the SSI seeks to develop and implement new intervention activities for the MSU’s student community with a specific emphasis on targeting SOC (Black, Latino, & Native American Indian).

2008 CORES LEADERSHIP RETREAT

An annual retreat for executive board members of the Council of Racial and Ethnic Students (CORES) aimed in assisting the leadership, development and transition of new eboard members.

2008 SPARTAN REMIX

Spartan Remix is MSU’s Annual Multicultural Welcome Festival that takes place each fall on the Thursday after Labor Day. This unique event is a celebration of art, music, and culture where diverse communities come together in celebration, education and pride of their communities. The Office of Cultural & Academic Transitions coordinates the event with a diverse group of students who volunteer to be part of the Spartan Remix Planning Committee.

2014 LATINX STUDENT MENTORING PROGRAM

The Latino Student Mentoring Program (LSMP) offers support to first year Latino students from a variety of backgrounds. LSMP offers this support by providing a one-to-one relationship with an MSU faculty/staff member who volunteers to help their new student be successful at MSU. Mentors draw upon their own experiences to provide friendship, suggestions and guidance on everything from classes, study strategies, campus organizations and resources, to good eating spots around campus.

2010 LATINO MALE INITIATIVE

Latinos Unidos is a mentoring initiative in collaborations with Migrant Students Services, Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative and the Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions. This program aims to cultivate an engaged support network for Latino Males during their undergraduate experience to improve retention and graduation at Michigan State University. Latinos Unidos has a strong focus on mentoring, leadership development, community engagement, and collective impact, all of which serve to address the goal of enhancing the overall academic success and retention of Latino male students. The primary goal of Latinos Unidos is to provide Latino Male students support and guidance on issues related to both academic and personal development, and to provide a means of knowing when a student needs assistance.

2019 LATINOS UNIDOS MALE STUDENT INITIATIVE

Formerly known as Latino Male Initiative, Latinos Unidos is a mentoring initiative in collaborations with Migrant Students Services, Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative and OCAT. Latinos Unidos is a mentoring initiative in collaborations with Migrant Students Services, Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative and the Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions. This program aims to cultivate an engaged support network for Latino Males during their undergraduate experience to improve retention and graduation at Michigan State University. Latinos Unidos has a strong focus on mentoring, leadership development, community engagement, and collective impact, all of which serve to address the goal of enhancing the overall academic success and retention of Latino male students. The primary goal of Latinos Unidos is to provide Latino Male students support and guidance on issues related to both academic and personal development, and to provide a means of knowing when a student needs assistance.

2018 OCAT’S FUN FRIDAYS

Every Friday, OCAT creates a relaxing environment for students to destress, engage in fun activities while meeting new friends.

2015 MAGIC SUCCESS INITIATIVE

The MAGIC Success Initiative assists 1st year MAGIC participants by promoting their transition and retention by connecting them to Neighborhood Engagement Centers, campus resources and faculty & staff members that can help them to navigate and negotiate the campus.

2015 SUCCESS SERIES

A motivational and support series for MSU students that features the number one speaker in the world, Dr. Eric Thomas (aka the Hip-Hop Preacher). These sessions are every Monday (during MSU’s academic year) at 7:00PM and feature a powerful message by ET on topics such as “refocusing,” “who’s on my team?” “self-esteem,” and much much more! Each session also features a Q&A portion with ET.

2015 OCAT’S LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

OCAT’s Leadership Institute is designed to provide support, knowledge, and tools for emerging student leaders. Participants must commit to attending all seminars pre-scheduled set of days & times to receive a certificate of completion. These sessions focus on a variety of topics which are, but not limited to: interview and resume skills, group facilitation, utilizing resources and networking, and intercultural competency. The Leadership Institute is particularly useful for leaders that want to develop their leadership skills and apply the tools given to them for their academic and paraprofessional career.

2020 OCAT’S GREEN TABLE

OCAT’s GREEN TABLE: Real Discussion. Real Students. is inspired by Jada Pinkett Smith’s Red Table Talk that “tackle[s] current social and cultural issues with an inter-generational perspective.” Similarly, OCAT’s Green Table is a space where MSU students can engage in topics that matter to them. Join us to listen and learn from campus leaders who share their point of view on what is happening around the world and how it is impacting their lives, their organizations, and communities.

STUDENT SUCCESS EFFORTS BEYOND PROGRAMMING:

The following is a list of OCAT’s outreach efforts that promote student success by creating a sense of belonging and community building, beyond our programming initiatives.

Advising:

- Student Organizations (CORES/Council of Racial and Ethnic Students’ Advisors)
- Individual Student Consultations
- Supporting student programming ideas
- Exploration of cultural identity
- Developing confidence
- Guidance, Consultation, Advice
- Committee, conference/program planning

Celebrating Leadership and Academic Achievement

- Academic Achievement Award Celebrations
- Graduation Celebrations

Celebrating Spartan Pride

- Provide Spartan athletic tickets to students

Collaborations:

- Writing Center, Peace Corps, ALSAME, Migrant Student Services, Ethnic Studies Programs, Admissions Spartan Club, Pre-College Programs, Spartan Career Network, Center for Engaged Learners, LBGTRC, CAPS, NSSC, RHS, ASMSU, etc.

Consulting & Trainings:

- Facilitate workshops and seminars (DEI)
- Hosting Campus Visits, recruitment

Creating Opportunities:

- Job Opportunities for students
- Internships for students, practicas for graduate students
- Volunteer Opportunities

Student Success Environment:

- Relaxing, student friendly environment
- Space for students to gather/meet friends
- Individual or group study space
- Meeting spaces, conference/program planning space
- Self-expression through arts and crafts
- Self-care and mental health activities
- Supporting programming initiatives (e.g. Voter Registration Drive)

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