



Tuesday, March 9, 2004

# OU to host sixth annual Diverse Voices Conference

By **Dawn Pauli**, contributing writer

More than 350 college students from throughout Michigan are expected to attend the sixth annual Diverse Voices Conference scheduled for Saturday, March 20, on OU's campus.

Diverse Voices is a statewide organization that provides a supportive forum for higher education students to speak out in support of valuing all aspects of human diversity.

Student participants from Oakland University, Marygrove College, Davenport University and the University of Detroit-Mercy will each present a three to five minute paper in support of this year's theme, "Diversity Matters."

"We want to educate students about the importance of diversity," said Alieu Nyassi, president of the OU student chapter of Diverse Voices. "We want to show the importance of diversity on college campuses and the impact and influence a diverse U.S. could make throughout the world. Everyone has various talents, regardless of their ethnicity or gender and other differences."

The keynote speaker is Monica Emerson, executive director of the Corporate Diversity Office at DaimlerChrysler Corporation. An OU alumna, Emerson is a respected strategist on diversity and inclusion in the workplace and a highly sought-after speaker on diversity, addressing audiences across the globe.

Other speakers from Oakland University include Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil, Dean of the School of Education and Human Services Mary Otto, and Assistant Professor of Rhetoric Margaret Willard-Traub, who will each share their perspectives on this year's theme.

The conference is free and will be held in the Dodge Hall Auditorium, Room 201, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Entertainment includes the OU Steel Drum Band and Randy Scott, a renowned saxophonist, composer and producer. Refreshments will be served.

The conference is sponsored by DaimlerChrysler Corporation and the Diversity Programming Fund at Oakland University.

For more information about the conference, contact Chaunda Scott, assistant professor of human resource development in OU's School of Education and Human Services, at (248) 370-4171 or [cscott@oakland.edu](mailto:cscott@oakland.edu). Scott is the founder and president of the OU Diverse Voices Initiative, which premiered in 1999.

## SUMMARY

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