

Things to know about being an SOCC Advisor....

29th Annual Student of Color Conference

WE ARE: Empowered by our Past, Forging our Future

Yakima, WA

April 18th – 20th, 2019

Where will the Students of Color Conference take place?

Due to our increasing numbers, we are scheduling workshops in the Red Lion Hotel Conference rooms as well as the Yakima Convention Center.

Yakima Convention Center: 10 N 8th St., Yakima, WA 98901, (509) 575-6062

Red Lion Conference Rooms: 607 E. Yakima Avenue, Yakima, WA 98901, 509-454-2455

Checking in:

As noted in our advisor packet, **ONE** advisor per school should check in at the Yakima Convention Center at the registration table and pick up the nametags and registration materials. Ask students to wait patiently for you to collect all of their items as it will be easier for you and them to distribute materials.

What is my role as an advisor?

- You are attending the conference to support, mentor, and guide the students from our college as well as other conference attendees. You are free to participate in any workshops, but please be aware that room space is very limited due to the increasing size of the conference. If there is a workshop you particularly wish to see, you might consider volunteering as a room monitor in order to make sure you have a space in that session.
- We anticipate approximately 850 students attending the conference, and rooms will be very full (60-70 participants in most workshops, more on Saturday morning). If you are present in a workshop, please be prepared to assist the presenter by helping facilitate the distribution of materials, forming of groups, etc.
- If you are the Room Monitor, you will have the additional responsibilities:
 - Make sure the amount of participants does not exceed the number of chairs placed in the room (fire and safety code)
 - Close the door once all chairs are full
 - Distribute and collect evaluations,
 - Assist the presenter where needed. If technical assistance is needed, please contact conference staff immediately at Conference Room 2 – Conference Check-in Area they can send IT assistance if necessary.
- You may also be asked to volunteer as door monitor during the meals, dance, and documentary film. This includes checking name badges as participants walk in and out of these activities and insuring ease of access through doorways. Each advisor will be asked to monitor doors for the featured film, one or two meals, OR for a 2-hour period during the dance.
- Be aware that for many students, it may be the first time they are engaging in meaningful dialog about racism, privilege, power, and oppression and how it relates to their lives. This can be uncomfortable and sometimes traumatic for some students.

Please assist students who are having a hard time by assisting them to the degree you feel you are equipped and comfortable, but please be aware that professionals who are experienced in multicultural competence and behavioral issues are on hand to support all students.

The SOCC Planning Committee has secured the services of a Counselor, name TBA, who will be available Thursday from 5pm and all day/evening on Friday and Saturday

You can help workshops feel productive and safe by directing individuals who become excessively argumentative or angry to a planning committee member.

- It is great to be involved as a participant in the workshop sessions. In our experience, please be aware that students may defer to your leadership in small groups, which may shut down dialog for the student participants. When engaging with students, you may find it productive to think of yourself more as a scribe for group processing, a facilitator who encourages participation from all, particularly the more reticent students, a mentor who models authentic contributions without “taking over,” interrupts bias, and helps keep the conversation on track.
- Please interrupt disrespectful behavior when you see it, and report inappropriate behavior to the conference committee.
- We do ask all advisors to help by volunteering for at least one supervisory-type duty. These duties are generally low-key and are a nice way to interact with students and engage in the conference.

Coaching tips for our students:

At our pre-conference workshop, we went over expectations and strategies for dealing with some of the information presented, as well as strategies for dealing with conflict.

The below scripts might be helpful to students in working through conflict toward greater understanding:

- People are in all stages of identity development. Be prepared to experience the entire range; instead of judging a person in a different stage than yourself, try to describe their behavior and understand where they are coming from.
- This is your conference. Participate!
- Listen. If you do not like a speaker’s message—just listen. Be okay with being uncomfortable.
- If you hear something you do not agree with, it is fine for you to say so...respectfully. Try these “Creative Resistance” strategies from the New Wilderness Project:
 - Ask a question
 - Listen.
 - Speak your truth.
- It is difficult to change a person’s mind in one day; don’t feel responsible for doing so (or “failing to”). We are all on a journey and your interaction with the person planted a seed for change which will take time to grow.
- If you unintentionally offended someone—and they tell you about it:
 - Don’t get defensive
 - Say, “I’m sorry.”
 - Listen to what the impact of your words/actions have been.
 - Tell them—briefly—how you will make amends (pay it forward, educate yourself, educate others)
 - Say thank you and move on. They may or may not want to continue to process with you.
- Remember that no one “has it right.” Some people have more experience with these topics than others, but no one has all the right answers—everyone is here to learn.