DIVERSITY STAMP OF SUPPORT

The Stamp of Support was created to encourage and help promote diversity-related events at FIT. The council provides a “one-stop shop” for publicizing your diversity event to the FIT community. Services include advertising on social media and campus media (email blasts and posting on FIT Newsroom’s calendar and on TV/IT monitors). The printing of materials and facilities reservations are not included. No monetary support is provided.

Take advantage of the Diversity Council’s Stamp of Support and promote diversity at FIT—we’ll help you get the word out to the FIT community.

For information and an application, go to fitnyc.edu/diversitystamp.

DIVERSITY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Each year, the Diversity Council hosts a variety of events and activities, including lectures, workshops, performances, panel discussions, and exhibitions. Throughout the year, the council presents events in observance of:

- Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15–October 15)
- Disability Awareness Week (October)
- LGBTQ/Gay Pride (October)
- Diversity Week (November)
- Black History Month (February)
- Women’s History Month (March)
- Asian/Pacific Islander Month (April)
- Holocaust Commemoration (April)

For information on upcoming events, visit fitnyc.edu/diversityevents.

Diversity Grant Think Tank meetings are held each semester. Topics of discussion include project ideas, collaboration opportunities, budget planning, available resources, outcomes for a successful project, and past grants awarded. Meeting dates and locations are announced to the FIT community by email throughout the year. Review past grants and find application guidelines at fitnyc.edu/diversitygrants.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The council has 30 members, comprising faculty, staff, administrators, students, and alumni. They serve a three-year term, starting in the fall, and meet once a month. To be considered for membership, please submit a letter of interest, along with a brief bio, to co-chairs Ron Milon or Joseph Plutz by email, or send your application on paper to the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. In your letter, please describe: a) how you currently work to further diversity and inclusion; b) your potential for performing the responsibilities of council membership; c) your ideas for the council’s future or for new diversity initiatives on campus; and, if applicable, d) your background or credentials pertaining to diversity.

Direct any questions to Ronald_Milon@fitnyc.edu or Joseph_Plutz@fitnyc.edu.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP ON THE COUNCIL

Student members participate in the council’s discussions and make decisions related to student life at FIT. They serve a one-year term beginning in the fall. We are always recruiting new members, so students who are interested in joining or would like more information should visit fitnyc.edu/studentcall.

Letters of interest are due in May.

DIVERSITY COUNCIL ONLINE RESOURCES

Website: fitnyc.edu/diversity

See the website for:
Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Diversity Council current members
Upcoming events
Guidelines and applications for Diversity Grants
Student applications for council membership
diversity-council-qa-forum.grp@fitnyc.edu
facebook.com/DiversityatFIT
twitter.com/DiversityatFIT
The President’s Diversity Council at the Fashion Institute of Technology was established to promote diversity and inclusiveness on campus and to help to create a respectful, welcoming environment for all members of the FIT community.

The Diversity Council is committed to fostering a climate in which we can all learn from and work with people of different cultures, races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Through a variety of programs and resources, including seminars, workshops, and grants, the council helps to cultivate our capacity for understanding different perspectives and for interacting effectively and sensitively with people of varied backgrounds. A focus on diversity is integral to FIT’s ability to attract the best students and employees and to provide an environment where all can thrive. Join us in promoting and celebrating these values on our campus and in our global society.

The council is here to support FIT faculty, staff, and students in the classroom and in the workplace. Visit us on the web or in person to find out what we have to offer. Let us know how we can help you meet your diversity goals and objectives.

fitnyc.edu/diversity
Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Feldman Center, Room C909
212 217.3070
Ronald_Milon@fitnyc.edu

PRESIDENT BROWN’S MESSAGE ON DIVERSITY

“One of the key goals of the FIT Strategic Plan is to create a campus that is ‘purposefully diverse’—one which, through its students, faculty, and staff, reflects the pluralistic city, nation, and world in which we live. Diversity is a fact of life—a powerful source of enrichment, a vital tool in a competitive marketplace, and a cause for celebration. Indeed, it is a critical element in fulfilling FIT’s mission to prepare students with the kind of global perspective they will need for success. But as a community, we cannot just pay lip service to it. That is why I established the FIT Diversity Council. With its ambitious goals and initiatives—and mission to ‘foster a climate of inclusion within the campus community’—it plays a primary role in our ongoing efforts to ensure diversity in all that we do.”

—Dr. Joyce F. Brown, President

THE DIVERSITY COUNCIL’S MISSION

The mission of the council is to help FIT students, faculty, and staff fulfill their personal and professional potential by creating a climate of inclusion and equality within the FIT community. The council fosters diverse relationships and gives a voice to diversity by cultivating an inclusive learning environment.

HISTORY AND ROLE OF THE COUNCIL

The Diversity Council of FIT is an advisory group, increasing diversity awareness and assisting the president and the chief diversity officer in matters concerning equity, inclusion, and diversity including racial and ethnic identity, age, cultural identity, religious and spiritual identity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical and mental ability, nationality, social and economic status, and political and ideological perspectives.

President Joyce F. Brown established the FIT Diversity Council in 2008. It has 30 members from every area of the campus community, including faculty and staff from all divisions of the college, as well as students and alumni. As an advisory group, the council is tasked with:

- Developing a strategic plan for enhancing diversity and fostering a bias-free environment in the community.
- Reviewing diversity grant proposals, submitting recommendations to the president, and monitoring their implementation and outcomes.
- Supporting institutional programming for the enhancement of FIT’s diversity mission for faculty, students, and staff.
- Maintaining comprehensive records of all on-campus activities dedicated to promoting diversity.
- Fostering a culture of inclusion and collaboration in the FIT community to advance FIT’s diversity mission through formal and informal interactions with stakeholders and constituents both internally and externally.
- Educating the campus community about the importance of equity, inclusion, and diversity, including the educational benefits diversity has for students and the workplace.
- Supporting faculty in incorporating diversity into the curriculum to facilitate inclusive teaching and learning practices.
- Advising the chief diversity officer on ideas, programs, policies, and activities, affirming the values delineated by affirmative action legislation and goals.
- Working with the chief diversity officer to develop programs that encourage/support employees’ professional development related to diversity and affirmative action, as well as promote a bias-free working and learning environment.
- Recommending methods for assessing the diversity climate on campus and making recommendations regarding the findings of these assessments.
- Submitting an end-of-year report to the president that summarizes the council’s academic-year activities, identifies areas of concern, and makes recommendations to achieve the council’s objectives.
- Meeting and consulting with the president on a regular basis.

CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY

The council conducted a college-wide survey in 2012 to determine whether students, faculty, staff, and administrators experience FIT as a campus that promotes diversity, tolerance, and equality. FIT employees and students can see the results of the survey and get more information at fitnyc.edu/climatesurvey.