Office of Black Student Affairs

OBSA
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The Claremont Colleges Services

Overview

The Office of Black Student Affairs (OBSA) is a cultural center and service unit providing support, resources, and space for students of African descent to feel safe, valued, informed and connected at The Claremont Colleges. OBSA offers a range of programming on behalf of TCC students of African descent, faculty, staff, and allies. Our key service areas include identity-based workshops, skill-building activities, mentoring, cultural and social enrichment activities, student organizational support, professional/career development workshops, the sharing of TCC resources and referrals, heritage-month programming and other celebrations, and collaborative partnerships with TCC, departments, and organizations.

OBSA Services

- **Mentorship:** OBSA offers two mentoring programs, one for incoming 5C students matched with upper class peers, and another matching The Claremont Colleges students with The Claremont Colleges alumni.
- **Identity Based Support:** Since 2017, we have offered the annual Black Intersections Conference exploring an array of issues and themes in an engaging and supportive environment. We provide grant awards to student organizations or individuals to develop collaborative projects or attend national conferences. We offer advising to student organizations and individuals, connections to academic and professional resources and skill-building and wellness programming.
- **Signature Cultural Celebrations:** In January, OBSA provides a consortium-wide Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative program followed by our February celebration of Black History. We close each year with a Black Alumni Open House in April, followed by the Dr. Agnes Moreland Jackson Service Awards and Black Graduation event each May.
- **Service and Outreach:** OBSA's annual open house is one of our main outreach programs to connect to multiple campus communities. In spring, OBSA provides an immersive 5C Alternabreak service opportunity in partnership with Draper Center. Throughout the year, we coordinate high school visitations and tours of the center as well as presentations and trainings on behalf of The Claremont Colleges orientation and sponsor programs.

Student Experience

- Students can subscribe to receive OBSA emails at any time by visiting our website and completing our subscription survey.
- We offer a range of workshops, social events, special outings and have dozens of active partnerships across the colleges
- Students can register for card swipe access to use the facilities after hours. Common spaces include the main house, garden, and back house/bungalow.
- During business hours, OBSA's conference rooms, bungalow, and garden can be used freely for meetings, relaxation, or study.
- Each year OBSA publishes the Black Book resource guide to help students identify key people, events, resources, and organizations that can support their college journey.
- OBSA's space can be reserved by anyone in the Claremont Colleges for approved events for free.
- Students can schedule appointments with our staff to discuss sensitive issues, obtain advising or counseling, or engage in dialogue.
- Students can apply for grants to support unique projects and conference travel.
- The annual Black Intersections Conference is free to all TCC students and provides a vibrant intellectual and cultural experience featuring the scholarship of students, as well as faculty, staff, and alumni.

Connect with Us

Please visit our website for more information and upcoming events:
services.claremont.edu/obsa/

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At a Glance

- OBSA was founded in 1969 as a result of student protests and negotiations with campus leadership, leading to the creation of what would eventually become The Office of Black Student Affairs, Chicano Latino Student Affairs and Black and Chicana/o-Latina/o Studies.
- OBSA's central services have evolved over the years to be more inclusive and affirming of students of African descent at various intersections, including but not limited to socioeconomic status, religious affiliation, nationality, sexual identity, gender identity, and expression and biracial and multiracial identities.
- OBSA is dedicated to supporting and centering Black student experiences at TCC and has designed outreach, support, and engagement on behalf of all undergraduate and graduate student communities.
- We welcome allies to subscribe to our online newsletters, attend our public events, partner on initiatives, and visit and use the space.

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