

Anti-Racism Working Group
Final Report 2020-2021
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The Anti-Racism Working Group (ARWG) first would like to thank the Office you again for your support during the 2020-2021 academic year. We focused our efforts on three areas: workshops/dialogue; policy and procedural advocacy; scholarship and community engagement.

Workshops: ARWG hosted over 10 events across WCU’s campuses educating, engaging, and encouraging approximately 200 individuals to take anti-racist action. Most workshops were held during closed class synchronous class sessions with a few also open to the WCU community. Topics included anti-racism 101; labor-based grading; anti-racist trauma-informed educational practice; race, ethnicity, and Afro-Latinx identities; immigration; and affinity groups.

We also hosted a second cohort of over 40 new members who completed the train the trainer multi-day workshop in January 2021, and we met monthly as a team to continue our own anti-racist action and plan for sustainability of the program.

Policy and Procedures Advocacy: We focused much of our efforts on equity in access to programming and services for students at the Philadelphia location. We coordinated meetings between current students, alumni, faculty, staff, and administrators to discuss pressing issues and collaboratively identify solutions. Based on changes that have been enacted or will be enacted this summer, Philadelphia students will no longer need to travel to the West Chester location to access services like financial aid, the library, and human resources. We also successfully assisted with efforts to remove the criminal record question from undergraduate and graduate student applications at WCU and PASSHE. Additionally, we created a 2-page brief on proposed legislation to allow undocumented students to pay in-state tuition at public secondary institutions in Pennsylvania in collaboration with state senators who sponsored the legislation.

Scholarship & Community Engagement: ARWG had a manuscript accepted for publication in Social Work Advances and had two national conference proposals accepted on our cross-campus, interdisciplinary anti-racist working group. We also partnered with all sections of undergraduate social work research providing opportunities to develop proposals on how to conduct research on race relations and the efficacy of anti-racist training.

ARWG members also completed work in the communities surrounding WCU including hosting circle groups as well as dialogues with police, school boards, health care organizations, and youth group organizations.

Thank you again for the opportunity to partner in this important work. We look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in the coming year.