NGP DEI

Outreach and Activism
Task Force

Our mission is to build the NGP’s community by coming together to make a difference in our surrounding community. We believe that at the foundation of community outreach there are the following four pillars of activism that can be addressed: housing inequality, community mentorship, community activism, and environmental sustainability.

Members
Keith Duncan
Faculty Facilitator

Frankie Czesak
Megan Dykstra
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Brandon Toth
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ACTIVITY UPDATE 10/2021

- Science outreach is a hallmark of the NGP, which has a long-running commitment to events such as BrainsRule! and programs such as Girls Who Code and F.E.M.M.E.S. Our students are also active in professional development organizations supporting underrepresented groups, such as SACNAS.

- We have coordinated donations for food-insecurity programs in the community and those specifically for UM students. We also created a community garden with the harvest going to Food Gatherers.

- In 2021, the Task Force embarked on an exciting initiative to furnish a low-income apartment through Avalon Housing and HouseN2Home, to help those in our community transition from homelessness. This combined with donation drives for winter clothing puts NGP into the community to meet local needs and bond with one another in service-work.

- Periodically, the Task Force coordinates River Cleanup de-trashing events.

- We also coordinate peer mentoring connections with UM PREP students interested in neuroscience, pairing these students with faculty and graduate students for support and to help define next steps.

- This Task Force is also investigating ways to form new global exchanges between UM NGP and Latin American universities.