

# All People, All Voices, All Matter

Building a Sustainable Community Committed to Peace and Justice



Valencia Community  
College

March 2009

## The History of the Initiative

The Peace and Justice Initiative began with a small group of faculty, staff, students and administrators from across the college asking two simple questions: How might we develop a culture of peace, justice and non-violence at Valencia and what positive effect will this have at the college?

The Initiative aims to speak to the Strategic Plan (Building Pathways, Learning Assured, Invest in Each Other, and Partner with the Community) of the college as well as explore the Core Competency: Value. Currently two goals have been identified: a collegewide peace studies curriculum, with PAX 1000 and PAX 2000 level courses, as well as courses offered with a peace theme, and an ongoing conversation about values at the college. We are meeting these goals by sponsoring World Cafes (see below), reading circles, and faculty and staff development/training opportunities.

The Initiative has adopted the slogan, "All People, All

## Possibilities



## Meeting

Our next "Possibilities Meeting," for those interested in being a member of a core group of supporters in this initiative, will be hosted by Jane Renfroe in her home in Oviedo on Saturday March 21st from 6:00-9:00 PM. In addition to continuing to develop community by breaking bread together over a delicious meal, we will use the time to debrief the recent retreat, unveil a working "Vision Statement" that was developed at the retreat and expand our conversation about possibilities of this initiative for the college. Please contact Jane Renfroe

([Jrenfroe@valenciacc.edu](mailto:Jrenfroe@valenciacc.edu)) if you are interested in attending. All are welcome!

**Seminars and Training  
Opportunities for Faculty and Staff**

Voices, All Matter," as a constant reminder of the inclusive nature of our work and the value we place on every individual at all levels of the college. Thank you for your participation and support.



### **Retreat held on February 13th -15th at Canterbury Retreat Center in Oviedo**

Elaine Sullivan from the Center for Wholeness and Renewal in Higher Education facilitated a retreat based on Peter Block's book *Community: The Structure of Belonging*. Sixteen faculty and community members attended the two day retreat. Together we explored the possibilities for this Initiative, as well as created a working "Vision Statement" for our work.

"Individuals seeking to transform the isolation and self-interest within our communities into connectedness and caring for the whole.....It is shaped by the idea that only when we are connected and care for the wellbeing of the whole that a civil and democratic society is created."

~Peter Block

*Community: The Structure of Belonging*

### **Peace Inquiry**



#### **Day**

*April 3, 2009*

Valencia has been invited to attend **The Kroc Institute of International Peace Studies** "Peace Inquiry Day" hosted at Notre Dame. The seminar offers a unique opportunity to join colleagues in thinking collectively about the establishment and development of peace studies programs at select colleges and universities. Three representatives from the college, David Sutton, Interim Dean of Humanities, Celine Kavalec-Miller, Faculty Development professional, and Rachel Waite, Professor of Humanities will attend the seminar on April 3rd at Notre Dame.

### **Service Learning and Civic Engagement**



#### **Workshops**

*April 3,*

*2009*

There will be two workshops offered starting at 1:30pm. The first is Service Learning 101 (1 hour) and the second is



Subhas Tiwari and Elaine Sullivan



### **World Cafe**

A World Cafe was hosted at Learning Day on Feb 20th. [The World Cafe](#) is a model adopted for

Civic Engagement (2 hours). Contact Linda Anthon ([Lanthon@valenciacc.edu](mailto:Lanthon@valenciacc.edu)) for more details and room assignments.

### **Global Peace and Security in Community Colleges and the Communities They**



### **Serve**

*June 3-June 7, 2009*

We encourage faculty and staff to consider attending the following workshop hosted by the US Institute of Peace, Washington DC: [Global Peace and Security in Community Colleges and the Communities They Serve](#)

<http://www.usip.org/etc/domestic/seminars/index.html>

### **Travel, Meals, and Housing:**

Each participant will be provided with an incidental expenses and travel allotment (for travel from their home to Washington, D.C.). All lodging and some meals will be provided by the U.S. Institute of Peace.

### **How to Apply:**

The application deadline for this program March 20, 2009. The application must be postmarked on or before this date.

Applications submitted online will not be accepted.

beginning meaningful conversations within a community. Thirty-one people gathered to participate in a conversation about peace and justice at Valencia. As pictured below, the group discusses the question, "What have you heard about peace and justice today that might affect the lives of students, staff, faculty and administrators at Valencia Community College?"

Thank you to the participants representing staff, faculty, administrators and students who joined one another from across the college for this in-depth discussion.

Look for more World Cafes to be hosted on all campuses. The college-wide conversation continues.



World Cafe conversation

### **Looking to the Future**

On February 18th Rachel Waite met with members of the grants office to discuss funding possibilities for the future of the Peace and Justice Initiative including faculty and staff training/development and retreats.

### **Our Thanks...**

## **Summer Peacebuilding Institute at the Eastern Mennonite**

**University**



*May 14-22*

Join Valencia Faculty at the [Summer Peacebuilding Institute at the Eastern Mennonite University](#), Harrisonburg VA

Any full-time faculty member could use their 1000.00 SPD tuition money towards registration for the Summer Peacebuilding Institute at the Mennonite University.

Contact Penny Villegas

([Pvillegas@valenciacc.edu](mailto:Pvillegas@valenciacc.edu))

for more details.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **Peace Flix**

Wednesday March 18th at 6:30 in East 3-113. The movie is "Peaceful Warrior." Film, discussion and pizza. RSVP to [Pvillegas@valenciacc.edu](mailto:Pvillegas@valenciacc.edu).

#### **World Peace Event**

Sponsored by the Valencia Future Educators, Muslim Student Association, and Amnesty International

Thursday, April 2nd from 1:00-2:30pm in the Mall area of East Campus

Friday, April 3rd from 5:30 – 7:00pm in East 5-112

Current funding for the Peace and Justice Initiative comes from private donors through the Valencia Foundation. Thank you to these individuals for financially supporting this valuable conversation throughout the college.

