

UA RECOGNIZED FOR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY BY ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO MINORITY REPRESENTATION IN THE SCIENCES

Akron, Ohio, September 18, 2009 – The University of Akron’s commitment to inclusive excellence and diversity was honored recently by Minority Access, Inc., one of the country’s most active and prestigious educational organizations at a national conference in Washington, D.C.

Pat Millhoff, associate professor and director of the Women’s Studies Program at UA, accepted the award on the university’s behalf. The award was presented to UA and 42 other American colleges and universities during Minority Access’ Tenth National Role Model Conference, HOPE for a Healthy, Diverse and Just Environment, September 11-13 at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel. The conference was held with support from and in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

“I am very proud that our work at The University of Akron is being honored with such an esteemed award,” said Lee A. Gill, associate vice president for inclusion and equity/chief diversity officer at UA. “Our efforts in incorporating inclusive excellence at UA is about celebrating our differences and going beyond race, as traditional diversity efforts might have done.”

UA’s efforts to broaden its diversity initiatives – through the concept of “inclusive excellence” – are making tremendous strides, Gill says.

“It’s much broader than typical diversity initiatives,” he said. “It creates a framework for excellence that incorporates diversity at its core while linking the quality of the educational experience. We consider inclusive excellence in what we teach and how we teach. It creates an environment that recognizes and appreciates the talents, skills and perspectives of every individual who uses those skills to reach their educational objectives.”

Minority Access, Inc., is a nonprofit organization that supports individuals, academic institutions, federal, state and local government agencies, and various corporations to diversify campuses and work sites by improving the recruitment, retention and enhancement of minorities. The organization focuses heavily on maintaining a minority presence in the biomedical sciences and health-related academic and research fields.

The university is also celebrating Diversity Week from September 21-26. For more information on events surrounding the celebration, visit

<http://www.uakron.edu/dotAsset/688627.pdf>.