

# THE WESTERN CENTER FOR SOCIAL IMPACT AND INNOVATION

ANNUAL REPORT

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

THE WESTERN CENTER  
For Social Impact  
and Innovation

# Mission

The Western Center for Social Impact and Innovation is Miami's interdisciplinary hub for student engagement with issues of social impact & justice within the context of global change. This initiative honors the rich history of social activism on the Western campus by energizing today's students with a spirit of social responsibility.

# Highlights

Over the course of the year, the Western Center boasted a **33% increase** in program participation: 4,251 participants over all events, and **45 special events**.

**201 hours** of volunteer service reported by Social Impact and Justice Scholars.

**\$20,000 grant** for DEI programming at a local nature preschool, written by WST 341 service-learning students.

**\$1,090 raised** for local Talawanda Oxford Pantry and Social Services, with the Writer's Harvest Event.

*Follow Western Center's socials.*



YouTube



# Western College Legacy Seminar

## Biennial Theme: Reparations as Restorative Justice

Rebecca Nagle: Tribal Sovereignty 101

Award-winning podcaster, writer, advocate, and citizen of the Cherokee Nation, Rebecca Nagle gave this year's Western College Legacy Seminar. Nagle discussed what a federally recognized tribe is, how US policy impacts the rights of tribes, and how these rights deeply impact the lived experiences of tribal citizens. The annual seminar is generously supported by the Western College Alumni Association.



Rebecca Nagle



Co-Sponsored By:



MYAAMIA CENTER

# Themed Programming Highlights

***Steal the Street*** author and Miami Alum, Dr. Mark Mussman (Western '01), discussed his collection of short articles about gentrification, public space, racial injustice, and community voice in Cincinnati. He is currently the Education Director at the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition.



Mark Mussman

Miami Alum of 2019 and 18 of the last 9 honoree of '21, H.A. Clarke gave a reading of their sophomore YA novel, ***The Scratch Daughters***, the sequel to ***The Scapegracers***. The trilogy has been described as a queer Craft, for you 90's film lovers, and is well-received by critics.



H.A. Clarke

# Other Programming Highlights

## Pumpkin Carving and Contest

Every Halloween, the Western Center, the Zero Waste Oxford student group, and the Honors College take over Western Lodge for this festive gathering where student design, carve, and present their pumpkin to win!



## West Fest

The Western Center hosts a spring celebration called West Fest. There are plenty of different games, arts and crafts, activities, and live music for students and staff to enjoy as the semester wraps. Its roots go 100 years back to the Tree Day celebrations of the Western College for Women.



# Building Western Community

Every week, Western Center student workers host weekly programs inside and outside the physical space. Events are marketed to Western Center friends, Western Program students, WEST LLC members, and Peabody Hall residents via email in the form of a newsletter every Monday.



*Presenting the  
Weekly Happenings  
of Peabody 022  
Weekly Newsletter*

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*Billy Simms,  
Center Coordinator*  
[simmsws@miamioh.edu](mailto:simmsws@miamioh.edu)

Weekly Peabody resident-focused programming:



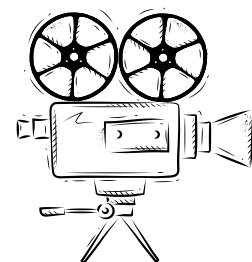
Dungeons and Dragons  
roleplaying game



Mindful Meditation



Tea & Conversations with  
Western students and faculty



Classic Film Series

The WEST Living Learning Community (LLC) welcomed its annual cohort of first-year students to life in Peabody Hall. WEST students took a one credit hour class that helped them to better define their academic, personal, and professional goals at Miami, and received priority access to some Western Center programming.

# Experience-based Education

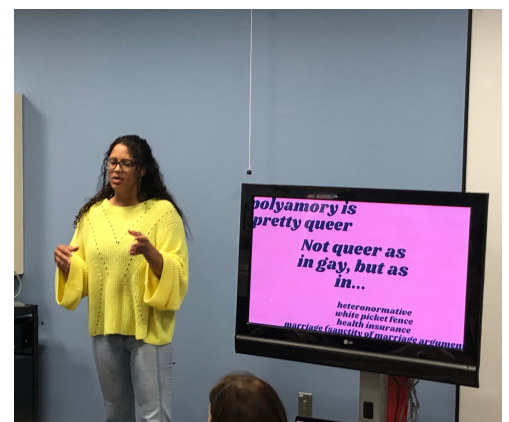
Western Center believes that students learn best when provided opportunities for deep, hands-on learning that are centered on their passions and interests.

Brian Vogt's found-art sculpture, *The Student Body*, took almost two years and is made entirely of trash he found on campus. His work was first supported by a Western Center summer research fellowship. After Vogt had collected enough trash, he started building the final sculpture using the critiques he'd received on his earlier prototypes. He exhibited it on and off-campus at the Oxford Community Arts Center, then used what he learned about found-art to teach after-school classes at the local Hamilton Lane Library.



Brian Vogt

Inspired by this summer research and her tailored coursework in Western and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Aiyana developed a series of sexuality education workshops that she taught in the Western Center.



Aiyana White

# Partners & Acknowledgments

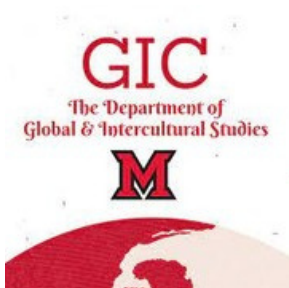
We would like to take the time to recognize and thank the following campus and community partners that have made our events possible:



Edge of the Farm Conservatory



Little Schoolhouse  
In The Woods



Western College  
Alumnae Association



Special thanks also to our partners at the Miami Valley Immigrant Coalition and the Creative Writing Program. The Western Center is grateful for the generous support provided by the Western College Alumnae Association and the Western Alumni Association of Miami University.