Staff Council Member Feature: Aron DiBacco

Beginning in November 2012, the Staff Development Committee will feature a different Staff Council member in the staff newsletter. If you have a nomination for a member doing outstanding work or with a story to tell, please contact Caitie Deranek at cderanek@iupui.edu.

Aron DiBacco, Chair of the Staff Council Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (SCCDEI), displays a passion for her work on the Council that is unparalleled. Aron is wrapping up her first term on the Council and has served on the SCCDEI as well as the Executive Committee.

Aron’s view of the role of Staff Council is as a “clear way for staff members to participate in how the University is run and what it aims to become.” She emphasizes the importance of the Council as the voice of staff and a way for administration to understand the needs of staff. When asked her favorite part of service on the Council, Aron cites working with staff from every area around campus and making the community better for all staff. She also mentions that Staff Council has helped build her leadership by giving her the opportunity to work on a subject she loves without having to be hired for a particular job. Aron felt that she had been preparing for the leadership of the SCCDEI for some time, and was allowed to participate in important conversations that could make a difference.

Aron contributes to the campus community in many different ways, including her position as a Social Science Research Specialist for the School of Liberal Arts and through occasionally teaching, which she greatly enjoys. She has also been involved in the planning for IUPUI 2025 over the past few months and several other campus-wide committees. Aron received her Masters in Communication Studies at IUPUI, which she describes as “challenging and rewarding in all the ways that sort of experience can be.”

Aron recommends that all Staff Council members reach out to those around them and ask what interests them to learn more. She also thinks that owning your own path and giving others an opportunity to shine can make work and life rewarding. She describes an extensive network developed through time and genuine conversation which allows her to pursue equity and inclusion on a large scale. Aron states that this network, along with her position, allows her to work on her “main passions – the fostering of a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community, and conflict resolution through dialogue and mediation.” She also cites an understanding boss, who allows her to spend perhaps “too much time in the campus Starbucks in pursuit of this work.”

Aron shares that there are many resources available for staff on campus who might be interested in “confronting similar challenges for support and... learn[ing] how to navigate the terrain.” She recommends the Faculty Staff Affinity groups, which can be found on the IUPUI website or by attending SCCDEI’s Diversity Fair on April 9th. More information will come soon on the event.

Aron grew up in many different places and lists Ohio, Michigan, California and Massachusetts. She shares that she is married with no kids, “unless you count the kind with four feet.” She has been involved with the School of Liberal Arts as a student and staff since 2006 and enjoys crocheting and weaving items out of plastic bags such as purses, luggage tags, and Christmas tree ornaments. When asked what office supply she would be, Aron stated, “a paperclip – they are reusable, flexible, and keep things together.” Aron’s work on the Council and vision for IUPUI are huge assets for the campus, and we thank her for her outstanding service.

“One thing people ask me sometimes is why I am so committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion... The short answer is that diversity includes me, and everyone reading this. The longer answer is that the world is better for all of us when it is fair for all of us.”

–Aron DiBacco

-Written by Caitie Deranek