



Fund for Leadership, Equity, Access and Diversity Announces Release of the LEAD Fund Author Publication for 2018

Written by the Fund's LEAD Fund Author Alicia Quiñones, University of Wisconsin La Crosse '18, this paper presents the results of a survey on students' views regarding hate speech on campus

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WASHINGTON, DC - The Fund for Leadership, Equity, Access and Diversity (LEAD Fund), an affiliate of the American Association for Access Equity and Diversity (AAAED), announced the release of the 2018 LEAD Fund Author Paper, *"Tongue-Tied: Hate Speech and the First Amendment on the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Campus."* The LEAD Fund is a "Think and Do" tank. Its mission is to provide thought leadership in promoting inclusive organizations and institutions through research and education on issues related to diversity, social responsibility, human and civil rights.

The LEAD Fund Authors Program emphasizes "Diversity in Action" and is committed to promoting undergraduate and graduate research that advances new understandings and tested strategies aimed at expanding organizational or institutional knowledge of access, equity, and diversity.

The 2018 LEAD Fund Author, Alicia Quiñones, is currently a graduate student at the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy studying social policy. As an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse (UW-L) she received a Bachelor of Science in political science and public administration where she participated in the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. The McNair Program and her mentor Nizam Arain, Director of Equity and Affirmative Action and Title IX Coordinator at UW-L, helped fund and conduct this research concerning hate speech and the First Amendment on the UW-L campus. After graduation, Alicia interned with AAAED where she was given the opportunity to be a LEAD Fund author.

Through the use of survey questions presented to the student body at the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse, Ms. Quiñones' study examined the student body's practical knowledge about the nature of hate speech and the First Amendment. This research project also analyzed the written language used by the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UW-L) to determine whether its rhetoric either helped curb the recurrence of subsequent hate speech incidents or had the opposite result. Ms. Quiñones also conducted a literature review to gain a theoretical background on both sides of the issue regarding support for or against the regulation of hate speech.

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Ms. Quiñones' research is an integral part of the LEAD Fund's "Campus Civility Project." As part of the project the Fund recently released a Toolkit, Report and Survey on Campus Hate and Bias. The purpose of these documents is to address the surge of incidents of incivility, hate, and bias on campuses since 2016. "The statistics on campus hate demand that colleges and universities pay greater attention to prevention, crisis management and post-crisis assessment, including cultural change, diversity and inclusion," stated Shirley J. Wilcher, President and CEO of the LEAD Fund. "We thank Ms. Quiñones for her scholarship in the effort to lend support to our nation's colleges and universities who are faced with the increasing challenge of incivility, hate and bias," she added.

- To obtain a copy of the LEAD Fund paper, "*Tongue-Tied: Hate Speech and the First Amendment on the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Campus*," go to: https://www.aaed.org/aaed/LEAD_Fund_Authors_of_2018.asp
- To obtain a copy of the Toolkit, Report and Survey on Campus Hate and Bias go to https://www.aaed.org/aaed/LEAD_Fund_Project_on_Campus_Civility.asp
- For more information about the LEAD Fund and its programs, or to apply to the LEAD Fund Authors' Program, visit the Fund's webpage at https://www.aaed.org/aaed/LEAD_Fund.asp or email the LEAD Fund at leadfund@aaed.org.

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