The Multicultural Student Services Center is a department within the Office of Student Affairs at the University of Rhode Island. The center offers many different programs a year – cultural and intercultural celebrations, heritage and awareness events, dialogues, workshops, tutoring help, study tables, student leadership and cohort meetings, prejudice – reduction trainings, wellness initiatives and social justice engagement and dialogue – all focused on teaching students personal and interpersonal skills necessary to be most effective in a diverse world.

Since hiring our new Assistant Director this year, we have been instrumental in contributing to the vibrancy of The Multicultural Student Services Center and the university as a whole. From September 2019 to May 2019, we met with more than 38 student organizations. We used this time to identify the needs and progress of our diverse student population.

During the months of September 2019 through January 2019, we designed, implemented and evaluated various marketing tools for the center. We designed all marketing materials for the Annual Diversity Week Program, Annual MLK Week of Peace and Non-Violence, and the Annual M.L.K. Luncheon. Further contributing to the success of the week, our office collaborated with the U.R.I. Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies to host a student meet and greet with Dr. Omekongo Dibinga, a distinguished scholar from American University.
During the month of February, we supported the development and implementation of several programs including Super Bowl LIII, Black History Movie Night and Discussion, Black History Soul Fool Dinner, and Poetry Open Mic Night. The center was instrumental in the planning and coordination of the 2019 Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Awards. We also hosted the Royal Blue and Gold Cords ceremony, recognizing and honoring the class of 2019.

Both the Assistant Director and I attended several professional development conferences in 2018 and 2019 including the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, Annual National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in America, and the Annual Association for Black Cultural Centers Director Conference.

The center also worked to enhance branding, marketing, and communication through our website, and social media. The M.S.S.C. team redesigned the center’s website, developed a center logo, and updated various webpages. The team have used the center’s website to highlight our programs and share student stories. It is my goal to continue enhancing the center and its impact on the URI community.

The center has developed relationships and strategies with various campus constituencies to develop programs and initiatives for diverse students. In efforts to improve our programs and services, we launched to ASK Me Program. If students have a question, or need help with their student experience, the M.S.S.C. Ask Me Team can help! The M.S.S.C. Ask Me Program consist of faculty, staff, and student workers dedicated to student success. The Ask Me members can be identified by their lanyards and buttons.