

## ALANA HOUSE PROGRAM

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## Overview

The ALANA House program stands for African-American, Latino, Asian, Native-American, and Ally. The goal of this program is to expose members to other cultures and ethnicities so they can develop a better understanding of what it means to be of a different culture.

The ALANA program will serve as an environment in which individuals gain a strong sense of pride and comfort in their culture. Weekly meetings and working on events as a group will foster a strong sense of unity and community between members. We want members to take what they learn in weekly meetings and apply it to not only the UVM community, but to start to question how are these different races perceived in society today. Being involved in community service and collaborating with other Living and Learning programs, members will learn how to use their cultural differences as tools to be used when working in groups and not something that is a dividing factor. Our ultimate goal is to eliminate discrimination, stereotyping, and stigmas through education.

## Learning Objective 1 (First Semester)

Each member will learn about a culture that is unfamiliar to them.

### Action Steps

- 1) Each member will pick a culture (other than those present in the ALANA acronym) and research it. They will find out about that culture's history, language, popular food, etc.
- 2) Every member will present their chosen culture at a weekly suite meeting.
- 3) Members will connect what they have learned to their life by answering questions such as what did you find interesting about this culture? How has your perspective change about this culture?

## Learning Objective 2 (Second Semester)

Each member will explore their cultural background by sharing research or personal experiences to allow other members to gain a better understanding of the rewards and struggles of being apart of said race.

### Action Steps

1. There will be a creative segment of this learning objective where members can share art, a cultural dish, or anything they feel represents their culture.
2. There will be a social segment where members will describe stigmas, stereotypes, and society's perception of members of their culture in the current day.
3. Each member will describe what their culture means to them.
4. Decorating the suite with cultural designs will help members feel more comfortable being a minority student. (We will need approximately \$150 per suite for decorations such as posters, lounge chairs, and small coffee tables)

## Learning Objective 3(First and Second Semester)

Members will learn the importance of unity amongst diverse individuals.

### Action Steps

1. Each member will help recruit and organize the annual ALANA talent show. (We will need

\$600 for the ALANA Talent Show. This cost will include a DJay, decorations, and speakers if necessary. This cost will also cover miscellaneous items such as costumes)

2. Each member will volunteer at The Black Student Union's annual Soul Food Social.
3. Each member will volunteer at the annual La Noche de Cultura.

#### Community Service

The ALANA House members will spend time throughout the year serving UVM and the greater Burlington community in many ways. In the spring we will volunteer at the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelter and would like to organize an L/L community food drive for the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelter. On campus, members will be able to volunteer for ALANA affiliated events like the Soul Food Social, La Noche de Cultura and Friday Breakfast. Also we would like to collaborate with the Catholic Center and do a Christmas toy drive.

#### Program Advisor

Professor Gregory Ramos, the assistant professor of Theatre and the interim director of ALANA U.S. Ethnic Studies Program, has agreed to be our program advisor. His email address is [Gregory.Ramos@uvm.edu](mailto:Gregory.Ramos@uvm.edu). Professor Ramos is well known within the ALANA Ethnic Studies Program community and encourages students to pursue this subject as a minor. We feel Professor Ramos would be a great program advisor and also would talk to our members and encourage them to attend public events around campus.

#### Program Suites

We would like to request two suites. Size does not matter, but we would like to house thirteen to fifteen members.

#### Plans for interaction with other L/L Programs

We want our members to learn that diversity goes beyond racial and cultural differences, so collaborating with No Boundaries and Spectrum will help expand their definition of lounge open to all of L/L. During black history month and Hispanic heritage month we would like to collaborate with the Caribbean House, Spanish House and Africa house to have a peer discussion to reflect on how far minorities have come over the years and to recognize the leaders who helped us get to where we are. Also, we will hold dinners to celebrate our black history and Hispanic heritage.

#### Program Member Recruitment

There are many ALANA members who enjoyed the program and would like to continue to be a member. In addition there are many other students who are interested in the program. If accepted, we plan to advertise via flyers, emails and word of mouth at the ALANA Student Center, ALANA courses, ALANA affiliated clubs and ALANA events on campus.