

A Day in My Life and My POV at Ohio University

Our two videos highlight departments on the Ohio University Athens Campus that we believe are foundational and important for student success. We chose to highlight the resources in the Alden Library and the physical spaces connected to the identity centers within the Division of Diversity and Inclusion. Below we will explain why we chose these departments and what we hope to achieve through the videos we created.

Ohio University is committed to diversity through inclusive practices, policies, curricula, and programs that lead to a welcoming, respectful, supportive, and affirming environment; especially for those who have been marginalized within higher education settings. There are four offices within the division of diversity and inclusion at Ohio University: The LGBT Center, Multicultural Center, OMSAR, and the Women's Center. All the centers continuously envision and work to institutionalize multi-faceted strategies that welcome and uplift all members of the campus community. Our group promotes the three drop-in style centers: the Women's Center, The Multicultural Center, and the LGBT center for the reasons discussed below.

The Women's Center promotes inclusion, honors difference, and works with faculty, staff, students, and the larger Athens community, to promote academic achievement, active global citizenship, and substantive leadership positions for women in all professional fields, as well as building confidence within women's personal lives, by using an intersectional, though gendered, lens. The Ohio University Women's Center acts as a catalyst that promotes awareness, education, and advocacy about women, gender, and diversity, among faculty, staff, and students at Ohio University and its surrounding communities. The Center provides students, faculty, and staff with information, services, and programs that address matters of particular concern to women - while exploring the connections among gender, race, economic status, sexual orientation, culture, religion, political views, and other significant elements in relation to women's individuality and collective identity.

The Multicultural Center serves as a place where cultural teaching and learning are the focus of all programs and activities. It provides an environment where members of the university community, representing a variety of backgrounds, participate in cultural programs and activities. Committed to supporting and promoting multicultural awareness, the staff develops programs that increase understanding and appreciation of cultural differences by familiarizing the campus community with the contributions and histories of African American, Hispanic/Latino American, Asian American, and Native American cultures.

Ohio University and the Athens community have built a strong rainbow foundation for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) communities. It is one of the oldest LGBT Centers in the state of Ohio and have been a pioneer in LGBTQ-inclusive policies and practices such as gender-inclusive housing, preferred name/pronoun policy, and trans healthcare benefits. The center works to create a community environment (on and off campus) that is safe and celebrates people of all genders, orientations, and expressions of identity.

The Ohio University Alden Library was constructed between 1966 and 1969. The library is a 3000-seat library facility serving the entire Athens community. The library is named after the

15th president of Ohio University, Vernon R. Alden, who served as president from 1962 and 1969 due to the significant increase in research activities and expansion of academic programs under his leadership. It is one of the 100 largest academic libraries in the United States.

The group promotes the Alden Library because it serves the entire Athens community. It houses world-class collections such as the Hwa-Wei Lee Center for International collections, Harris Fine Arts Library, and Mahn Center for Archives and Special Collections. In the library, we have an Academic Achievement Center (AAC) that helps students become independent and successful learners. The AAC does that by assisting students to achieve their academic goals, providing free online and in-person tutoring, and providing writing assistance. In addition, there is a cafe in the library where students relax and enjoy different types of coffee. The library also offers easy access to computers, printers, study spaces for groups and individuals, and quality support from librarians.

Our video structures were chosen based on the currently popular social media app “TikTok” and trends that we have seen happening on that app. By choosing popular trends, we hope to engage students and create content that they are interested in. The first video is a Point-of-View or POV video, in which the scenario being highlighted is the decision to visit each of the three identity/diversity centers at Ohio University. The three centers are homes to various programming, but also have physical spaces where students can simply “pop-in” to chat with someone or just do homework. We wanted to use the POV style video to highlight the casualty of a visit to one of these centers. We wanted this video to show students how comfortable and welcoming the centers are, because a student who has never visited one of these spaces may not know what to expect when they visit. Hopefully, by showing these spaces, students will feel encouraged to visit and also like it is safe for them to do so.

The second video highlights the Alden Library by taking the viewer on a visit to the library in the form of a “Day in My Life” video. These kinds of videos welcome a viewer into the person's everyday life and allowed us to highlight multiple key features of the Alden Library, including printing services, connections to OhioLink, and the Academic Achievement Center (AAC). By highlighting these resources we hope to bring visibility to the resources and the ease with which they can be utilized. We hope that by showing a “Day in My Life” in Alden Library, students will see that doing something like visiting a writing tutor at the AAC is a normal thing. This will encourage them to visit without worrying about being stigmatized.