

Simulation to show effects of poverty

Written by Jennifer Novoseletsky, Daily Vidette Staff Writer
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Diversity Advocacy is hosting the third annual poverty simulation event for those interested in learning about the daily struggles of poverty stricken families and individuals.

Diane Zosky, interim director and associate professor of the School of Social Work, will lecture at the poverty simulation.

“Part of Diversity Advocacy’s mission is to raise cultural awareness to students, faculty, and staff. The poverty simulation focuses on the social class component of diversity,” Ashley Taylor, specialist for the Dean of Students Office, said.

“The event will create an experiential learning opportunity where participants can immerse themselves through a simulation that depicts the life of a low-income family trying to do more with less money,” Taylor added.

The event will be held like a workshop. People will be divided into groups and given a list of general tasks to complete with a specific low-income budget. Simple tasks such as buying groceries, prescriptions, clothing, and paying rent will all fit into these tasks.

“When participants are assigned tasks, they will need to visit booths surrounding the room to complete those tasks. The participants are forced to prioritize and make sacrifices throughout the month,” Taylor said.

“Discussion over dinner will follow the workshop,” Taylor added.

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According to Taylor, people will learn to understand financial pressures, choices that need to be made, becoming self-sufficient on a limited income, and understand the impact of the social service system on people with limited resources, whether it be positive or negative.

“If participants can take a moment to reflect on this experience and be able to challenge their perceptions by imagining themselves in the shoes of someone else and apply that perspective to their life, we’ve accomplished something,” Taylor said.

Registration for this event is required and is open until Feb. 28. Due to the number of attendees exceeding the number of seats provided, participants will be selected the week of the event, Taylor explained.