

## Open House

By: Shanta Chambers



The Open House for the grand opening of the new Black/African American office space was held on Friday October 17, 2014. Anyone from students, staff, alumnus, family members, and friends attended this event to enjoy the B/AACC offices new location. As everyone walked through the door, a staff member took a picture of them holding up a frame that stated “LSC Welcome BAACC 2014” with their face in the middle.

These pictures were then posted on the B/AACC’s Instagram: @baacc\_csu so that other individuals could see and stop in.

During the event individuals were also able to listen to upbeat music, dance, eat food (i.e., cake and subs with chips), drink refreshing beverages and play some games (i.e., UNO). The new location of the B/AACC office received numerous compliments on the comfortable atmosphere, which brought positive energy to bless the new space. At the end of the Open House students had an opportunity to put their names in a bowl and receive some giveaways, such as: a B/AACC beanie and a gift card, a water bottle and a gift card, or even a voucher to get a free massage from the student Rec Center. Having a successful Open House was important to the B/AACC staff because this is a place where everyone should be able to walk through the door and have a sense of community. The people who attended this event were able to network with peers as well as others from the campus community. The Open House was a celebration and we thank everyone who attended!



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# Homecoming Pageant

By: Khalil Perkins

The homecoming pageant was truly an amazing experience. The day of the pageant, I didn't know exactly what to expect and how the day would go, but everything seemed to just flow. I think the best part about participating in the Homecoming Pageant was the preparation it took beforehand. Every Monday and Wednesday we had dance practice for the Opening dance. Throughout all of the practices we all built a connection with one another and relationships that initially we did not expect. Getting to know some of the contestants was the most rewarding part of the Homecoming Pageant experience. It was as if it wasn't even a competition anymore, just a group of friends doing what we loved. Varying from all of us goofing around while taking professional photos, or getting into heated discussions over our interview questions, it was all worth it at the end, including the opportunity to better understand one another. With that understanding and mutual respect, throughout the day of the Pageant and during the Pageant, we were all one. Encouraging one another, showing support for one another, advice for some of us that were anxious, it was unbelievable. By the end of the show I truly didn't care who won, because I was surrounded by some of the best young men and women on this campus. How could you go wrong? I just hope that we encouraged others to come out and participate. At the end of the day you don't know what to expect, but that is what makes it that much more rewarding. I could rant all day long, there's a plethora of things I could say about each individual. But all I have to say is that every single one of the contestants are nothing less than extraordinary!



## Laverne Cox

By: Aleya Jones

“Ain’t I A woman?” As Laverne Cox spoke these words, she was not asking a question, she was making a statement.

Laverne Cox is a beautiful woman that many look up to because of her courage and confidence as a transgender woman. She is a public leader of the transgender movement, and as she spoke to the audience of her story, it was made clear why she is such a phenomenal leader.



Laverne Cox and a few CSU students, 2014



When Cox walked into the room there wasn’t a person in the audience that wasn’t in awe of her beauty. As she began to speak, everyone was glued to her, not only because of her gracefulness, but also because of her excellent presentation. Even if one did not identify with LGBTQ community, her story left a piece of motivation within each of us. She brought to light the importance of being okay with who you are and welcoming your true self with a warm embrace.

Cox’s story began with her describing her passion for dance as a young child. Her mother put Cox in jazz and tap dance classes, but not ballet classes because that was “too gay.” Throughout childhood Cox was bullied time and time again because she was so feminine. She would be taunted and called names. One specific memory that resonated within her was one day in middle school when she rode the bus home from school and a group of students starting chasing her. They happened to be in the band, and four of five of them caught her, held her down and began hitting her with their drum sticks. From occurrences such as this and many people deeming her because she was feminine she felt shameful. As a young child Cox strived to be successful regardless of anything else so she pushed her longing to be a girl down. It wasn’t until college in New York that Cox finally came out as transgender.

Sitting in the audience and listening to such a powerful speaker was life changing. Laverne Cox’s drive to be successful regardless of the challenges that she faced all throughout her life was truly inspiring. Witnessing the confidence she had as she spoke on the stage was beautiful and a memory I will never forget. Cox is a beautiful, inspirational, motivated and successful woman. Her drive to continue pushing after continuously being knocked down is motivation for all.

# Real Talk

By: Stephau Gaddis



Real Talk seems to always have very interesting topics that result in even more interesting debates! This past month of Real Talk topics have stirred up a lot of information and education that have left many truly satisfied to hear different voices of campus speak. These topics include “Society’s Mirror: Do We Reflect What Society Thinks of us?” “Black Hair” and “The Black Student of Today.” While these topics are just a small amount of the many topics Real Talk provides, these have arguably been the topics that have created the most interaction amongst students. These topics, all involving how others view black individuals have truly been big because of that fact. Many times black student’s question what people truly see and perceive when interacting with a black male or female and nonetheless the curiosity creates issues. With such curiosity education not dispersed on a big scale, Real Talk comes in handy! Students are able to discuss each and every thing that they felt needed to be discussed. Giving them that opportunity through activities, debates, and other facets of discussion that would get every voice heard. “Society’s Mirror” became

one of the more heated discussions, with a lot of people debating what truly is a stereotype, Is a stereotype Good or bad, and what is considered a good or bad stereotype? This discussion rooted from the original idea that society has already created premeditated perceptions on black people, with that being said these perceptions were seen as stereotypes and then that topic was broken down into a deeper underlying idea that regardless of what a stereotype is, who is labeled or perceived or any form of idea from others is not something that should stop you from achieving your goals in life. Never let anyone tell you who you are, be that leader to change the norm! Become your own trailblazer and strive for greatness! Feel free to speak your mind and let your voice be heard at Real Talk in the BAACC Office on Tuesdays 4pm!

# Rites of Passage Skate Night

By: Chynna Fayne



This month for the Rites of Passage program we had the pleasure and opportunity to go skating!! The night started out with everyone trying to get comfortable on skates as some of us hadn't been skating in a long time, but when the music started playing and everyone got out there on the rink; all you could see were smiles and happy faces. We got to enjoy pizza and nachos during our quick breaks from skating!! It was so nice to see everyone helping each other out, especially with those who don't know how to skate. I was amongst those receiving help and I am truly grateful for that help! Even though a lot of us fell on our skates, there was no better feeling than having someone there to help you get back up and start skating again. It was a good time full of laughs, food, and fun music. I must say that my favorite part of the evening was seeing everyone in the middle of the rink doing the Ch-Cha Slide together! It was so nice to get a break from our intense schedules of college life and have good time together. Overall this was a night to remember and I am so happy that I got the chance to be a part of such a wonderful event!!

# OCTOBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Poetry Slam	2 R.O.P Scavenger Hunt	3 Kick BAACC	4
5	6	7 Real Talk @ 4	8	9	10	11
12 Homecoming Pageant	13	14 Real Talk @ 4	15	16	17 Homecoming Parade/ Open House	18 Black Ram's Parent & Alumni Breakfast
19	20	21 Real Talk @ 4	22	23 Laverne Cox	24	25
26	27	28 Real Talk	29	30	31	

**Office Hours:**  
8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

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