

## Diversity Champion Spotlight: Kimber Nicoletti, Youth Development and Agricultural Education

Kimber J. Nicoletti is the Program Director of MESA (Multicultural Efforts to end Sexual Assault) in the Department of Youth Development and Agricultural Education. Early in her career, Kimber worked with Dr. Mary Pilat and the CARE (Communities against Rape) project, a multi-million dollar initiative funded by the Indiana State Department of Health, where she served as the outreach coordinator to Hispanic workers statewide. Upon Dr. Pilat's retirement, Kimber successfully obtained state, federal and private funding to continue her efforts on violence prevention among Indiana's migrant farm population.



Kimber has constantly sought new opportunities to expand her violence prevention initiative to other underserved populations. Her program, totally soft-funded, now includes an initiative to reach into and work with Indiana's LGBTQ population.

Kimber's goals are to dismantle pillars of oppression and to create a more inclusive, safe environment and community for everyone; to develop leadership capacity in students, staff and volunteers from multicultural, historically oppressed backgrounds; to educate about social justice issues affecting Latino, Immigrant, Farm Worker and LGBTQ communities; to engage the College of Agriculture community in dialogue around these issues and to empower them to take action for positive social change that creates a safer, more inclusive environment. A few examples of Kimber's accomplishments and impacts in communities across the state:

- Conducted educational sessions and events on issues affecting migrant farm workers in Indiana.
- Started the first LGBTQ outreach efforts in the College of Agriculture.
- Promoted dialogue on inclusion in the College of Agriculture, throughout Indiana, and the United States through participation in community events, conferences and presentations.
- Engaged the College of Agriculture and Extension community in educational and outreach efforts about Indiana farm workers and low wage immigrant workers by hosting multiple drives for clothing, holidays and school supplies.
- Engaging Agriculture staff as volunteers in farm worker outreach efforts.
- Technical assistance for undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff looking to conduct research, engage audiences or create more inclusive environments on culturally specific needs of Latino Immigrants, farm workers and LGBTQ\* individuals and communities.
- Developed the first multicultural-based violence prevention program in the College of Agriculture in 2008.
- Recruit and retain diverse group of staff and students in the MESA program.
- Serving as the President of the Purdue Latino Faculty and Staff Association for 5 years from 2005-2010.
- Co-chaired the CoA DATA MLK Week of events for three years.