We are thrilled to welcome you to the inaugural installment of our AIDE newsletter! The Wellness, Service and Research Diversity Task Force subcommittee of the College of Graduate Studies has been working hard behind the scenes to bring you the latest in resources & encouragement to promote Midwestern’s growing culture of community & support. We would like to take the opportunity to invite other committees on campus to contribute to this newsletter in the future & share important updates & events in this section. We hope to use this newsletter as a tool to unify our campus towards a common goal of inclusion & acceptance. We are tomorrow’s healthcare team & today’s diversity allies!

A Letter to the Immigrant Father: Thank You.

By Maria Valdez, MPH/MBS I Glendale

To the immigrant fathers. Thank You.

“...you brought us to the land of the free and brave, so thank you dad, gracias papa. Being alone the first few years in a country where the language was foreign, and culture was unknown...Where some days felt longer than a week, some days food was scarce, work became a burden and loneliness became a regular feeling.

To Americans these feelings are non-existent. These feelings of nostalgia and happiness put together all because we were brought into a land, they were born into are unknown of. Some may even call us ridiculous, dramatic, or even “intruders.” Our dads are not intruders, they do not want to steal your land, they want to give us the opportunity we do not have on the other side of the border – Mexico. They want us to have the opportunities you were born with...”

By Alex Miller, MBS II Glendale

The first book review is on a book entitled, “Between the World and Me”, by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Written as a letter to his teenage son, Coates delineates the realities of growing up as a Black man in America. This book was so powerful to me; being raised by a single mother, she was tasked with preparing me for this reality while also providing the nurturament and care one would typically turn to their mother for as a child. Coates describes his journey in arriving at the truth of his reality in this country by viscerally and eloquently sharing his life experiences, doing so in a fashion that moved me emotionally numerous times while reading the book. Having hardly had a father around to share his subjective experiences with me as I grew up, this book not only allowed me to relate to someone who looks like me through our respective experiences, but also to feel slightly less isolated as I navigate adulthood primarily around individuals who look differently from me. Whether you can directly relate to Coates’ life experiences or not, this book provides raw and emotional insight into what it’s like being a Black man in America.

Other books by Ta-Nehisi Coates:
The Water Dancer
We were Eight Years in Power
The Beautiful Struggle: A Memoir
The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission was created by Congress to coordinate the nationwide commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which was officially signed into the U.S. Constitution on August 26, 1920. The amendment prohibits the United States or any state from denying the right to vote based on sex, protecting women's access to the ballot in the Constitution. Led by a bipartisan group of 14 women leaders, the WSCC has a nonpartisan mission to ensure that Americans across the country find inspiration in this important but often overlooked history.

If you would like to nominate a faculty/staff member, share your story, book review or blog post, please email: cdecker68@midwestern.edu or agross@midwestern.edu

Check out Midwestern’s Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion website: http://www.midwestern.edu/about/diversity-equity-and-inclusion.xml