

## WHAT IS 3D?

### Overview

3D is an annual, college-wide examination of important social issues that focuses, challenges, and advances the thinking of all members of the College of DuPage community. 3D is a grassroots initiative through which faculty, staff, administrators, students, and service organizations are encouraged to voluntarily and creatively collaborate on ways to discover, develop, and do (take action!) with regard to the issue or focus for the academic year. Activities may include workshops, class assignments, essay contests, speakers, artwork, debates, field trips, book studies, forums, campaigns, etc., and are advertised via the web site, [www.cod.edu/3D](http://www.cod.edu/3D); a blog, <http://cn3d.wordpress.com/>; media outlets; and posters. The 3D co-chairs and the 3D Visionary Force, comprised of volunteers from all constituencies, help support these activities.

The focus for 2008-2009 was **Nurture|Nature** — Exploring the Relationship between Humans and Their Physical Environment. There was a “green” emphasis, including a sustainability conference, an Earth Day celebration, and a teach-in on global warming.

The focus for 2009-2010 is **Nurture|Nature** — Enriching our College Community through Shared Ethical Values. The focus shifts to the inner environment or human nature. We will explore the values cited in our Institutional Priorities: Integrity, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility. **3D wants to support your activities addressing this focus.** Please contact us through our web site, [www.cod.edu/3D](http://www.cod.edu/3D).

### Background

- 3D uses as its model *Critical Encounters* ([www.colum.edu/criticalencounters](http://www.colum.edu/criticalencounters)), the campus-wide, civic engagement initiative created by Columbia College.
- The concept was presented to faculty, staff, administration, and student leaders as a means for addressing C.O.D. concerns: How can we create a unified college community? How can we encourage positive, thoughtful communication?
- Primary premise: Through 3D, the college can address controversial social topics in such a manner that creative thinking is encouraged and all constituencies are engaged.
- Through 3D, C.O.D. can interface with the community in a dynamic, meaningful way.
- 3D launch committee, 2007-2008: Cynthia Johnson, Community Development Specialist; Steve Gustis, Service Learning Coordinator; Linda Elaine, English Professor; Meryl Sussman, AVP Community Affairs and Economics; Chris Picard, VP Academic Affairs

### Challenges for C.O.D.

- C.O.D. is a very large, commuter campus, so community is difficult to achieve.
- Many students do not interact or engage outside of class. Instead they “float away.”
- Need to find ways to foster communication across diverse ethnicities, departments, and management levels.
- Need to develop engagement at multiple levels.
- Need to create/renew atmosphere of excitement and heighten expectations.

### Goals of 3D

- Create a sense of community
- Promote conversation across ethnic, religious, socio-economic, and organizational boundaries
- Invite collaboration
- Promote civic engagement in critical social issues
- Provide coordination of and support for civic engagement activities