

## 2009 EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY

### Classified Staff/Service Professional Award Winner

# Dr. Flecia Thomas

Director, Student Success Center  
University Academic Success Programs

**D**r. Flecia Thomas lives her commitment to cultural diversity. Thomas says, "As a person of color, my involvement and visibility are important. I try to maintain a visible presence on campus so that students have someone to connect with."

As one of three advisors to the Black Student Union, Thomas encourages BSU students to appreciate diversity and coexistence of multiple cultures. She says, "It's healthy for people to discuss diversity. If they don't do that, then they don't allow themselves to be challenged on ideological principles. Some people hold on to old beliefs because they are ingrained, but it's important to make a difference, and to do that you must have exposure."

Thomas says she tries to ask the questions that start people thinking about the importance of inclusion. She says, "To be pro one's culture does



not mean that one has to be anti someone else's." When she participated in a discussion forum presented by Spectrum, she encouraged BSU members to attend an upcoming city-wide African American LGBT event and use the understanding they gained there to increase the numbers of African Americans in the campus club.

Despite her newness to ASU, Thomas is already embedded in the multicultural fabric of West campus. The community has embraced her good-natured enthusiasm. But above all, it is the respectfulness that Thomas extends to all individuals that has endeared her to the campus. When it comes to appreciating diversity at ASU's West campus, Thomas serves as an example.

*~Excerpts from the nomination letter  
written by Kathy Grant and Kimberly Toms*

*The Campus Environment Team works to promote civility, justice, diversity, respect for all individuals, freedom of expression and academic inquiry, and the pursuit of individual goals without interference from discriminatory harassment.*