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November 16th, 2016. Studio 354, Murphy Hall
This year, ITT have performed to over 2000 students, faculty and staff. The following is a “year in review” of some of our projects and events from Fall 2016-Spring 2017

ITT’s Trip to East High School in Kansas City, September 16th and October 4th

ITT partnered with the Kansas African Studies Center (KASC) and East High School, on an NEH grant funded to document migrations stories from African refugees moving to Kansas. This experience was one of our most important and impactful events to date. Using nothing but I-pads to film and the imagination, bravery and tenacity of East High School’s students, we set out to give these young adults an opportunity to tell their stories and share their talents and ambitions. Students came from Rwanda, Uganda, Congo, Somalia, Mozambique and many other African nations. Many of these students have escaped from poverty and war, leaving their families, friends, and lives behind. These young adults told us heartbreaking stories about the hardships they endured, and how they overcame experiences of oppression and violence both in their home country and in the U.S. For more information about this project, please visit [http://migrationstories.ku.edu/](http://migrationstories.ku.edu/)

ITT as Facilitators in the Fall 2016 Tunnel of Oppression. October 26th-28th

The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) yearly hosts an inspiring piece of museum theatre in their office space known as The Tunnel of Oppression. Audience members are taken on a 30-minute tour of different rooms containing different injustices, including topics of domestic violence, slavery, oppression, white supremacy, trans rights, women’s rights and many others. ITT was invited to add two of our sketches to the roster, one on cultural appropriation during Halloween, and another on gender fluidity. ITT volunteers performed live for the entire event. The OMA a number of resources for faculty and staff to deal with these injustices in and around our campus. For more information on these resources, the OMA and The Tunnel of Oppression, please visit: [https://oma.ku.edu/after-tunnel](https://oma.ku.edu/after-tunnel)
ITT perform for the KU Libraries Faculty and Staff, November 4th

KU Libraries invited ITT to a meeting of faculty and staff to perform sketches on race, gender, and sexual identity discrimination and to facilitate ongoing discussions between staff on methods and tactics that can be used to ensure the libraries are a safe and productive space for all students. ITT provided an opportunity for staff members to improvise in live solutions to the sketches that allowed them to think through how to actively change the outcomes “difficult dialogues.” KU libraries continue to work toward providing solutions by creating opportunities to create dialogues for change. For more information, visit: https://lib.ku.edu/about

ITT visit the School of Social Welfare November 18th

ITT were performed for faculty and staff in the School of Social Welfare in a customized performance that identified best practices in social work scenarios that involve race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and religion. The amazing work the School of Social Welfare does daily draws from four main themes: A focus on the strength of people, an understanding of human diversity, the promotion of social and economic justice and the further development of a critical perspective. For more info on the school’s work, goals and principles, visit: https://socwel.ku.edu/about/glance/mission-and-goals

ITT perform for the American Studies graduate students. December 1st

American Studies graduate students are known across campus to be at the forefront of academic discourse on race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, and disability. ITT joined the AMS grad cohort and lead them in a discussion on systemic inequality. ITT performed sketches on white privilege, wealth and discrimination which lead to a healthy and fruitful discussion between our members and the American Studies students. For more on the American Studies program, please visit: http://americanstudies.ku.edu/
KU’s Annual Diversity Leadership Award

Dr. Nicole Hodges Persley and the Interactive Theatre Troupe win the 1st Annual Diversity Leadership Award in the group category.

On October 3rd, ITT was recognized by KU’s Office of Diversity and Equity and the Office of the Provost for our Theatre for Social Change work across campus.

The award is set up to award groups and individuals who:

“Demonstrate a commitment to an open, diverse and inclusive learning and working environment that nurtures the growth and development of all;

-Promote a diverse and inclusive community of mutual respect; and

-Support an array of values, interests, experiences, and intellectual and cultural viewpoints.”

KU’s Office of Diversity and Equity

ITT are incredibly honored to be among such an illustrious group and are happy to see so many great people striving to make KU are more inclusive space. A massive thank you from all of us at ITT, both past and present members included, for the continuing hard work that the Office of the Provost and the Office of Diversity and Equity do to keep our campus moving forward in assuring safe spaces and continuing to fight for an open, diverse and inclusive environment for all parties at KU.

For more information about the award and for information on the other runner ups and winners, please visit: [http://theatre.ku.edu/nicole-hodges-persley-wins-first-diversity-leadership-award-interactive-theatre-troupe](http://theatre.ku.edu/nicole-hodges-persley-wins-first-diversity-leadership-award-interactive-theatre-troupe)

To learn how to nominate for next year, please visit: [http://diversity.ku.edu/diversity-leadership-award-%E2%80%93-call-nominations](http://diversity.ku.edu/diversity-leadership-award-%E2%80%93-call-nominations)

We would like to extend our gratitude to Blair Yates who has served as the Assistant Director/GTA for ITT for the past 2 years.

Blair has done a great job and we will miss him!

He completes his MA this year. Best of luck Blair!
ITT Talk Series: ‘Freestyling for Social Change’ with guest speaker and local activist Caleb Stephens

Caleb Stephens came to ITT to talk about his work both as a social worker and as an activist. Caleb tells people that they matter and then guides them towards ways to fight back against the inequality and oppression that tells these same people they don’t matter. For more info on Caleb’s work, visit: https://www.facebook.com/IdentiFight/ Information about our next “Freestyling for Social Change” will be available soon. Our dream guest speaker for Fall 2017 is the one and only Dr.J.

New Faculty Staff DEI Short Film Series 2017

Award winning KU director Savannah Rodgers will partner with ITT Director Nicole Hodges Persley to direct a series of DEI videos for staff and faculty. The films are currently in pre-production and are written by Dr. NHP and will be directed by Savannah Rodgers. ITT will have a new webpage on the KU network very soon. Until then, for information, videos, pictures and more please do not hesitate to visit our current site: http://ittkansas.wix.com/awareness

Interactive Theatre Troupe KU ITT  Acting Vice Provost of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Dr. Jennifer Hamer will serve as Executive Producer of the project.

For more information about ITT contact: ittroupe@ku.edu

Nicole Hodges Persley, Ph.D. ITT Director
Blair Lawrence Yates, ITT GTA
Cody Case, Admin Associate