UWRF DIVERSITY 5:05 P.M. 11/09/17 N. LUKASAVITZ

Inner-city high school students of color are considering the possibility of coming to UW-River Falls upon graduating from high school, potentially adding more diversity to the student body on campus.

Nathan Lukasavitz (LUKE-us-av-its) has the story.

MP3 RUNS: 1:20 Q: “…LUKASAVITZ.”

NATHAN LUKASAVITZ: UW-RIVER FALLS MULTICULTURAL OUTREACH COORDINATOR, PEDRO RENTA (RAIN-tuh) IS VISITIING INNER-CITY HIGH SCHOOLS TO RECRUIT STUDENTS AND INFORM THEM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES THAT CAN BE AVAILABLE TO THEM IF THEY CHOOSE TO ATTEND UWRF.

PEDRO RENTA: ALL OF THE SCHOOLS THAT I WILL VISIT IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS HERE ARE PREDOMINANTLY STUDENTS OF COLOR. A LOT OF FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS, STUDENTS OF COLOR, LOW-INCOME STUDENTS.

NATHAN LUKASAVITZ: ACCORDING TO RENTA, STUDENTS OF COLOR CURRENTLY MAKE-UP 10 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT ON CAMPUS, WHICH HE CONSIDERS A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT FROM FIVE YEARS AGO WHEN THEY ONLY MADE-UP SEVEN TO EIGHT PERCENT. FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR AHIJAH (a-HIGH-jah) ADAMS, BEING A STUDENT OF COLOR IS SOMETHING THAT IS A SIGNIFICANT CONCERN FOR HIM AS HE EXPLORES THE POSSIBILITY OF ATTENDING UWRF.

AHIJAH ADAMS: SOMEBODY MIGHT LOOK AT ME DIFFERENT JUST BECAUSE I GOT ACCEPTED INTO COLLEGE, LIKE IT’S A SURPRISE OR SOMETHING. THEY MIGHT SEEM LIKE THEY’RE NICE, BUT THEN AGAIN THEY MIGHT TRY TO PICK ON YOU JUST BECAUSE OF YOUR SKIN TONE.

NATHAN LUKASAVITZ: DESPITE HIS HESITATIONS ABOUT UWRF, ADAMS IS NOT ONLY AWARE, BUT INTRIGUED BY SOME OF THE PERKS TO BEING A FALCON.

AHIJAH ADAMS: I LIKE HOW WE DON’T HAVE TO PAY FOR THE BOOKS. YOU GUYS CAN CHECK THEM OUT INSTEAD OF BUYING THEM. IT’S EASIER, IT’S LESS TO WORRY ABOUT. THEY MAKE IT SO ALL I HAVE TO DO IS CHECK IT OUT AND CHECK IT BACK IN. IT’S LIKE A REGULAR LIBRARY.

NATHAN LUKASAVITZ: ADAMS BELIEVES HE WILL SOON GET TO MAKE A CAMPUS VISIT TO UWRF WITH SOME PEERS IN HIS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS, A TRIP THAT HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO. FOR THE FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M NATHN LUKASAVITZ.

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