

LAUDATIO

On the occasion of “Danubius” University celebration, we have the joy, the honor and the privilege to meet an eminent representative of the American culture and spirit, a distinguished collaborator and supporter of our University, professor Steve O. Michael, Vice Provost for Diversity and Academic Initiatives of Kent State University, Ohio, USA.



We have brought about this privilege in order to bring fervor and give more importance to the international opening of “Danubius” University academic life.

The candidature for Doctor Honoris Causa Degree of this remarkable personality, overwhelming through his solid grounding, through his impressive didactic, administrative and research activity, was suggested to “Danubius” University Board of Trustees by the Teaching Staff of the Faculty of International Relations and European Studies.

Graduate of the Institute for Higher Education of the most prestigious American university – Harvard University – the first in the ranking of world universities, professor Steve O. Michael became a doctor in Higher Education Administration at The University of Alberta, Canada, with a specialization in Financing and Marketing of Higher Education. For his doctoral dissertation he received the Canadian Society Award for the Study of Higher Education and, subsequently, after its publication, the Sheffield Award for the best article published in the Canadian Journal of Higher Education.

Dr. Steve O. Michael had several important fellowships and training courses: he was a British Commonwealth Scholar, an American Council on Education Fellow in 2000-2001 under the President of Carnegie Mellon University. He also served part of his fellowship year under the Vice-Chancellors of the City University of London and the University of Bath in England.

Dr. Steve O. Michael’s research interest includes diversity in higher education, application of business strategies to institutional management, higher education in international background. Professor Steve O. Michael teaches courses in Diversity administration in higher education, Higher education administration, Strategic planning in education, Management, organization and administration of higher education.



His administrative experience includes directorship of the Center for International and Intercultural Education, Associate Deanship of Education . He was a member of the Eastern Educational Research Association and of the Educational Management of South Africa. On the invitation of American Council of Education he became a vice president of NADOHE, that is an association of diversity officers in higher education.

Since 1993 he has been a professor with Kent State University, becoming doctorate director, interim dean and director of Gerald Read Center for Intercultural and International Education. In July 2002 he was appointed Vice Provost for Diversity and Academic Initiatives, supervising the department of international relations, being also the director of university professional development. Professor Steve O. Michael is the director of KSU Florence, director of KSU Italy and director of KSU Geneva, Switzerland, and administrator of Ohio Academic Leadership Academy – an Ohio Inter-University Council program for preparing future academic administrators (deans and academic chairs) for Ohio’s public Universities.

In the field of diversity, Dr. Michael published very important books. We mention: “Multiculturalism in the Higher Education: Beyond the Familiar Area”, published in the Journal for Higher Education

Management, "Models of Multiculturalism; Implications for the 21st Century Leaders", in the European Journal for Intercultural Studies, Multiculturalism in the African Context", "Towards a Multicultural Society: the Role of Teachers", "Humanistic Multiculturalism: Towards a New World Order", "Financing the Higher Education in the 21st Century: an International Perspective" etc.

No matter how impressive it is, this information is seen from the outside, leaving aside what is subjectively essential. It is only by going beyond facts, to the ideas, values and motivations rendering a meaning to the action, that we can distinguish professor Steve O. Michael's remarkable personality. We can outline the meaning that he himself gives to his action, the meaning that he himself gives to his existence in this world.

His philosophical outlook and its axiological system can be outlined starting from his writings, from the confessions contained in the texts of the conferences he participated in all over the world, materialization of the professor's view on society as a whole, considered as a unique family of mankind. For professor Steve O. Michael, university – this citadel of learning – according to Humboldt, has gained new functions in the context of the ceaseless globalization, of knowledge generation, transmission and service to society. It is becoming more and more the image of the global society itself, with differences of culture, gender, race, religion, ideology, life style, but in which identity and uniqueness are supreme values that must be observed. Education, including the higher education, must cultivate diversity and develop openings towards intercultural dialogue, develop the students' ability to become professionals in a multicultural background, maximizing the profit this large intellectual perspective can offer, bringing the beneficiaries high ethical and humanistic values. It is only by rejecting homogeneity, feeling the differences not as sins that should be hidden, but as gifts that should be deciphered and harmonized to the benefit of mankind, that the human genius can fully manifest itself. Such a mission is assumed at an institutional level by Kent State University, which, under its Vice Provost for diversity- Steve O. Michael and its president- Carol A. Cartwright, aims at becoming an institutional model in the service of diversity.

The clear definition of concepts, conceiving an administrative system to apply diversity policies to the university background, both at institutional and national level, identification of characteristics that those responsible with diversity should have, the development of a strategic plan of diversity, promoting an inclusive diversity with a view to showing the talents of the disfavored ones also, promoting academic excellence and freedom, making international contacts are preoccupations and principles of Steve O. Michael -Vice Provost for diversity of Kent State University, Ohio, USA.

He has major contributions to the philosophy of education and diversity, his voice becoming one of the most reliable in the field, in the American cultural background and not only. With his activity and spirit, Professor Steve O. Michael belongs to the family of those who chose to dedicate their existence to the benefit of mankind, the main idea of his work being that education can bring people together and can contribute to a better world and the diversity principle can create a new world order.

Being under the same concrete and ideal sky of our spiritual existence, we consider that your activity, Professor Steve O. Michael, through your assumed ideals, you are a lesson of elevated humanism that we, the servants of "Danubius" University of Galati, Romania, appreciate and honor in the highest way a university can do, awarding you a degree that, going to you, honors us to the same extent – the Degree of Doctor Honoris Causa.

Author: Associate Professor, Anisoara Popa, PhD

Translator: Lecturer, Alina Chesca, PhD

Curriculum vitae



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