Student Subcultures at CMU: Group Identification and Perceptions of a Dominant Campus Subculture by Lower-Division Students

By Dr. Adele Cummings Professor of Sociology

Research begun in the 1970s identified four distinct student subcultures on university campuses: 1) the collegiate subculture, which focuses on having fun and socializing; 2) the academic subculture, which values knowledge for its own sake and identifies with the concerns of the faculty; 3) the vocational subculture, which views college primarily as a means of improving career prospects; and 4) nonconformists, generally hostile to the college environment and interested in ideas not directly related to academic studies.

Students enrolled in a General Education class over a three-year period were administered a simple survey about student subcultures at Colorado Mesa. Results about 1) the subcultures with which they most identify, and 2) their perceptions about which, if any, of the four subcultures is predominant are presented. Implications for meeting the needs of different students at CMU given rapid enrollment growth and limited resources are explored.

Please come with your lunch, bring your faculty and staff colleagues, and enjoy the fifth and last presentation of the spring Colloquium series.