

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE

Madelaine Deardeuff

SIUE Marketing & Communications

Office: (618) 650-3600

mgerard@siue.edu



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SIUE's Cobb, Weinberg Share Excitement for New Carnegie Classification

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville offers a powerful array of programs that help strengthen its impact on the region and beyond.

On this week's episode of Segue, co-host Randy Pembrook, PhD, SIUE chancellor, interviews Denise Cobb, PhD, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, and Jerry Weinberg, PhD, associate provost for research and dean of the Graduate School.

This episode will air at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 17, on WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound and siue.edu/wsie.

“SIUE received some exciting news recently from the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education,” Pembroke says. “SIUE has been promoted to the category of doctoral/professional university.

“What is this classification and what does it mean to our University?”

“It is a way to categorize universities on the types of programs offered, their enrollment, their research expenditures and activities,” Cobb explains. “It becomes an objective calculation for the rating system other than assessments of subjective criteria of quality or other activities.

“For a while, SIUE was listed as a master’s-large institution, and we always thought of ourselves as a master’s-comprehensive institution. It’s nice to be able to talk about SIUE, reflecting upon the array of doctoral and professional programs and activities in which our faculty, staff and students are engaged.”

As associate provost of research and dean of the Graduate School, Weinberg is thrilled by the reclassification.

“This is an exciting recognition of our work as scholars and researchers, and this classification reflects the level of work that we are immersed in,” Weinberg says.

“The previous categorization based SIUE as a teaching institution, this also brings recognition to our faculty’s scholarship and research,” Weinberg continues. “They bring that research into the classroom, mentor students, and assist with undergraduate and graduate students’ research. We have been doing this for a while, and now, we have recognition for that.”

When faculty members turn proposals into federal or state agencies, they are responsible for listing the category of institution in which SIUE belongs. While these proposals are reviewed on merit, it certainly helps that there are students in master’s and doctoral-level programs to assist faculty with critical research.

“Do you see this new categorization as an aid for enrollment, recruitment, and visibility for both students and faculty in the future?” Pembroke asks.

“Absolutely!” Weinberg replies. “We hope to bring in new faculty members who are interested in teaching, research and scholarship. To be able to have that recognition, to have a student body that is engaged in scholarship willing to work with our faculty is going to be a great draw to bring new faculty, and it will bring new grants to SIUE.”

According to Carnegie, the Doctoral Universities categories were reshaped to better accommodate “Doctor’s degree – professional practice” within the Carnegie methodology. These degrees were formerly categorized as “first professional degrees,” and included such degrees as the MD, JD, PharmD, and DMD, which were not previously considered as part of the basic classification methodology.

“As provost, do you think that doctoral-level education is continually growing at our University? What do you see happening in our future?” Pembroke asks.

“Doctoral education occurs variously on our campus,” Cobb says. “For a long time, we’ve had a doctoral-serving mission through our School of Dental Medicine, our PharmD program, cooperative PhD programs with our sister institution, the EdD research doctorate or the Doctor of Nursing Practice.

“We have a longstanding tradition of doctoral practice, but it gets lost in the moniker of the Carnegie classification of ‘master’s large.’ When you think about universities, there probably are not many institutions that have the robust array of undergraduate, graduate and professional doctorate programs that SIUE offers.”

Cobb mentions that SIUE has great pride in the opportunities it affords for interdisciplinary collaboration and interprofessional education. She thinks this classification should serve as the institution’s next evolutionary step toward adding new doctorates of practice and first-professional degrees or research doctorates.

“Jerry, I hear that as we move into this new category, we are already going to be ranked very highly as it relates to research productivity,” Pembroke says.

“It is a great recognition for our work, and we have a lot of exciting possibilities moving forward,” Weinberg says. “The National Science Foundation conducts a Higher Education and Research Development Survey, which looks at the research expenditures for institutions that receive federal funding or expenditures above \$150,000. They publish those each year.

“Looking at our research expenditures, we ranked the third highest in our Carnegie Classification, which is very exciting! It shows how much we are accomplishing as a research institution, and it shows the possibilities that we have in moving our research forward, that we are capable of growing in that area.”

To listen to Pembroke, Cobb and Weinberg’s conversation in its entirety, tune into Segue at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 17 on WISE 88.7 FM The Sound and siue.edu/wsie.