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The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion has seen many new and exciting changes in 2018-2019. Perhaps the most significant achievements were SIUE’s Inaugural Diversity Day in October 2018—a tremendous success that led to SIUE receiving the Human Rights Day Award from the Illinois Department of Human Rights—and the completion of the SIUE 2018-2025 Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan. To celebrate and document our annual progress, this report is deliberately organized by Goals 1 through 4 of the Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan.

In an effort to have a collective, collaborative and institutional perspective on an inclusive excellence campus, a vision of mine was to create a new Diversity and Inclusion Institutional Leadership Team and reorganize the University Diversity Council to address the needs of the campus diversity and inclusion initiatives. Drs. Jessica Harris, Courtney Boddie and myself created an organizational model that will be implemented beginning July 1, 2019.

The Diversity and Inclusion Institutional Leadership Team will include the Associate Chancellor and Chief Diversity Officer, who brings the institutional perspective; the interim Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs, who brings the academic perspective; the Director of Counseling Services, who brings the student affairs division perspective; and the Director of the Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion, who brings the student, alumni, and community perspective. The main goal of the new leadership team is to ensure that the entire university is working together to achieve the goals and objectives of SIUE’s Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan.

This report really speaks to our commitment to a diverse and inclusive campus community. It is my sincere hope that you will find a way to get involved with diversity and inclusion on campus. We are creating a new tomorrow at SIUE by what we are doing today. We are “shaping a changing world” and I believe we are a beacon of hope for the region.

Congratulations and thank you to my graduate assistants, TJ Barber and Chanel Newsome, for their commitment to the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, and their assistance with this report.

Enjoy,

Venessa A. Brown, MSW, Ph.D.
Associate Chancellor and Chief Diversity Officer
Campus Ethics Representative
Professor of Social Work
SIUE
LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Friends,

Diversity and Inclusion are core values that continue to propel SIUE forward. We are pleased to update you on so many wonderful activities occurring at our university in this, our second annual Diversity Report summary.

In the report, you will see both new and ongoing activities. These actions reflect our ongoing commitment as well as the creativity that sparks new and significant cutting-edge programming for our students, faculty, and staff. In the last year, the following are just a few of the points of pride which were evident at SIUE:

- Initial stages of implementing the Diversity Strategic Plan (DSP). Through campus discussions and unfolding initiatives, SIUE continues to realize the goals reflected in our DSP;
- The 5th annual Phenomenal Women’s Luncheon recognizing the important contributions made by women at our campuses and in our communities;
- Visits and presentations to our campus by national figures including Dr. Cornel West who visited our East St. Louis campus in May of 2018 for WestFest and Dr. Christine Taylor who served as our keynote speaker at SIUE’s 36th annual Martin Luther King lunch;
- The reshaping and renaming of Disability Support Services into Accessible Campus Community and Equitable Student Support (ACCESS). In addition to improvements in facilities and programming, the new name reflects our continuous commitment to making SIUE an inviting experience for all who come to campus;
- Our efforts to increase retention and graduation rates. One highlight was the opening of a new Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion space with strong staff support in September of 2018;
- Diversity Day. Perhaps the most visible indicator of our commitment to Diversity and Inclusion occurred on October 16, 2018 with the first annual University-wide Diversity Day. This occasion provides an opportunity for us to reflect on accomplishments, ongoing challenges, and goals for the future. We know that the event will grow each year moving forward;
- And one way of aggregating the many things happening at SIUE, or perhaps summarizing the magnitude of what is occurring here, is the honor of being recognized for the 5th year in a row for the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award. Few institutions nationally can point to such an accomplishment.

We are proud of the leadership at SIUE that challenges our campus to embrace our values. If you have comments or questions about the contents of this report, please contact me or Dr. Venessa Brown, Associate Chancellor for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. Congratulations to all who have worked so diligently to create access and success for all who study and work at SIUE.

Sincerely,

Randall G. Pembrook, Chancellor
SIUE
Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion Accomplishments

The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion is responsible for promoting a diverse and inclusive campus and community culture. We strive to do so through programs, events, conferences, discussions, trainings, and resources available to the campus and surrounding communities. As an institution-wide office, our goal is to see our work inform all areas of SIUE. We are committed to making the SIUE Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan an integral part of inclusive excellence at SIUE. Throughout this annual report you will see headers that list Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, or Goal 4. The initiatives listed under each Goal exhibit examples of how we are fulfilling the objectives and strategies in each Goal.

SIUE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Goal 1 • Enhance recruitment for students of underrepresented groups for both undergraduate and graduate programs, and improve retention and graduation rates for underrepresented groups attending SIUE.

Goal 2 • Increase and retain the number of faculty, staff and administrators from underrepresented groups.

Goal 3 • Build a community that fosters learning, scholarship, and creative activities that reflect understanding of global diversity and a commitment to inclusion and social justice.

Goal 4 • Develop and maintain a campus climate that acknowledges, embraces, and celebrates diversity and inclusion as a core value of the SIUE community.
The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion (IDI) is responsible for providing institutional leadership by facilitating, creating and sustaining a campus climate that embraces and promotes diversity and inclusion in their broadest meanings. This leadership requires establishing priorities, policies and programs that support our mission as a leading public master’s university.

IDI works with the administrative leadership team of the university to ensure that we recruit, develop, retain and engage a diverse group of students, faculty and staff with differing backgrounds, perspectives, interests and talents who will contribute to our mission, vision, and live our values.

The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion also works with campus leaders to ensure our core values of diversity, equity and inclusion are embedded in equal opportunity and non-discrimination practices. A strong partnership with all units on campus ensures we have campus-wide support for carrying out our institutional diversity and inclusion goals.

IDI oversaw SIUE’s first Multicultural Center from 2014-2018, which worked to enhance a campus climate committed to diversity and inclusion. With inclusion and citizenship at its core, SIUE prepares students to be agents of change in a global world.

MISSION
The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion will facilitate a campus climate where we embrace, appreciate, support and celebrate the diversity among the faculty, staff and students at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

VISION
The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion will be Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s leader in advancing a culture of inclusive excellence that will be exemplified by:

- Creating a learning environment that supports a diverse and inclusive culture.
- Inspiring mutual respect among all members in its community.
- Committing to academic excellence in an open and respectful campus environment.
- Recruiting individuals with diverse backgrounds, varying perspectives, and encouraging intellectual pursuits.
The University Diversity Council serves as an advisory and working group for the coordination of the University's efforts in regard to diversity and inclusion. The Council meets monthly and is chaired by the Associate Chancellor and Chief Diversity Officer. The University Diversity Council advises the Associate Chancellor and Chief Diversity Officer in regard to diversity, inclusion, cultural competency, and the creation and coordination of strategies for diversity, equity and inclusion of activities and outreach. The Council is the lead developer of the SIUE Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan.

UNIVERSITY DIVERSITY COUNCIL PREPARES SIUE FOR CAMPUS COMMUNITY CLIMATE SURVEY

At SIUE, we seek to provide a diverse and inclusive environment where all students and employees can be fully engaged, feel safe and respected, and thrive. Every three years, SIUE conducts a diversity climate survey among students, faculty, and staff.

This year we contracted Viewfinder Campus Climate Surveys (CCS) to administer the survey process. CCS is a sister company to Potomac Publishing, Inc., publisher of INSIGHT into Diversity, the largest and most highly regarded diversity and inclusion magazine in higher education today.

Understanding our campus climate is an important step toward ensuring our institution’s future success, and the success of our students and employees. The survey was online and made accessible for those who needed accommodations. The survey process ran through May 15, 2019 and results will be available during the upcoming school year.

All responses remained anonymous. No personal identifying information was collected. The survey results will be used to identify strengths and opportunities related to diversity, equity and inclusion for students, faculty, staff, and administrators. (Letter from the Chancellor)

UNIVERSITY-WIDE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STRATEGIC PLAN DISCUSSIONS

The overall goal of these sessions was to engage the campus community and get buy-in to ensure expected outcomes on our new 7-year Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan. Presenters from the various areas responsible for implementing those sections of the Plan were present to discuss, answer questions, and note campus community member concerns. All 4 goals were discussed during these meetings.
The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion’s programs and events aim to foster learning, mutual respect, generative dialogue, and cross-campus collaboration. In this section we highlight this year’s initiatives, events, and our continued work to facilitate a campus climate where we embrace, appreciate, support and celebrate diversity.

WEBINAR: MENTORING WOMEN OF COLOR
In honor of Women’s History Month, Daviree L. Velázquez Phillip from Northwestern University and Devita Bishundat from Georgetown University, led a webinar to equip campus faculty and staff to design programs and interventions to increase institutional commitment and sense of belonging for women of color at SIUE. The webinar covered the following topic areas:

- Building mentoring relationships to help build trust and accountability
- Identifying the unique challenges women of color experience in higher education
- Building the capacity to better mentor across racial and ethnic lines
- Facilitating critical conversations with key stakeholders on campus to make resources available to assist women of color

(PaperClip Communications)

GOAL 3

BLUE RIBBON CAMPAIGN
Students, faculty, and staff engaged available resources and wore blue ribbons to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect.

ONLINE LEARNING COMMUNITY
Our Online Learning Community continues to grow and be an avenue for discussions, trainings, and various resources for our campus.
GOAL 4

INAUGURAL DIVERSITY DAY: FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION, SIUE SHAPING A CHANGING WORLD

Hundreds of students, faculty, staff and community members of varying ethnicities, ideologies, gender identification and sexual orientation took part in Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Inaugural Diversity Day 2018 on the University’s Edwardsville, East St. Louis and Alton campuses.

The Diversity Day theme was “From Awareness to Action, SIUE Shaping a Changing World.” The kickoff event for community stakeholders featured Olympic legend and gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersee as the guest speaker. The daylong event was educational, motivational, challenging and fun. It was jam-packed with speakers from the Metro East, dance, art, presentations, posters and cuisine representing varying ethnic roots.

The Diversity Day Committee also presented SIUE’s Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan.

Notably, the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) Fairness and Equality Campaign endorsed SIUE Diversity Day. In a letter to Edwardsville Mayor Hal Patton, IDHR Director Janice Glenn wrote, “Thank you for submitting your event to be part of IDHR’s yearlong celebration. As we recognize our 200th year of statehood, the City of Edwardsville’s participation will go a long way in helping us celebrate and reaffirm Illinois’ rich history of valuing diversity, inclusion and non-discrimination.”

“I hope that Diversity Day offered people the opportunity to gain new knowledge, have open dialogue, meet someone new and embrace the concept of what diversity and inclusion means for us at SIUE,” said Venessa A. Brown, PhD, associate chancellor for diversity and inclusion and chief diversity officer, who led the SIUE Diversity Day Committee. “Diversity and inclusion are important values at SIUE. We are creating a new tomorrow, by what we are doing today.”

SIUE Diversity Day brought together many people and provided abundant opportunities to celebrate our institution’s past, present and future as it relates to advances in cultural-responsiveness and inclusion. (SIUE News Archive: October 2018)
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS PANEL
The day began with a breakfast and a panel sponsored by the SIUE School of Business. “There is nothing like diversity and inclusion in the work place... Diversity and inclusion will give your business a competitive advantage and impact your bottom line,” said Laura Morrison, senior manager of Global Human Resources Operations at Pfizer. (SIUE News Archive: October 2018)

ACCESSIBILITY EXHIBIT
This exhibit was designed to encourage participants to think critically about their privilege when it comes to ability. This interactive exhibit helped individuals understand the social justice implications behind universal inclusion and challenged the community to do its part to make society more welcoming for all. (SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2018)

COMMUNITY DIVERSITY VENDORS
Organizations from the community promoted cultural diversity through connection and education at the Diversity Fair. These organizations included Impact CIL, Edwardsville Unity, National Museum of African Americans on Stamps, NAACP, and SIUE PEACe. (SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2018)

ART HIVE
This was a community art studio about inclusion, respect and learning. This activity welcomed everyone as an artist and provided a welcoming place to talk, make art, build communities, and respond in creative ways to things that matter. (SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2018)
CULTURAL LITERACY ON THE MOVE
Mobile Little Free Library was the SIUE community service project for Diversity Day. This introduced a culturally diverse world, celebrated differences, promoted social justice and reinforced a love of reading through diverse children’s books that now reside on the Goshen Market’s mobile Beet Box.
(SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2018)

DEROGATORY TERMS: ROADBLOCK TO INSTITUTIONAL INCLUSION
This interactive discussion-based session explored the institutional culture of ranking commonly used derogatory terms that may be counterproductive to inclusion efforts. The presenter used PollEverywhere to engage learners on their understanding of derogatory terms and their origins.
(SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2018)

LUNCHEON
The Diversity Day luncheon was marked by a host of events including an appearance by FredBird (the official mascot for the St. Louis Cardinals), songs from preschoolers at the SIUE Helen Davis Head Start/Early Head Start Center, and reveal of the Diversity Dashboard.
(SIUE News Archive: October 2018)

STUDENT PANEL DISCUSSION
This panel on intersectionality shed light on the stories and experiences the panel members have faced, and educated all attendants on the significance of intersectionality and discrimination.
(SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2018)
WHAT’S HAIR GOT TO DO WITH IT?
This workshop engaged participants in examining the experiences of how hairstyling choices have influenced the personal, career and social interactions of Black women, specifically in higher education.
(SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2018)

MOVEMENT IN SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION
This workshop debunked myths of sexual violence in diverse communities by providing scenarios, worksheets and role play topics to cover the likelihood of sexual violence, the “Me, Too” movement and challenges of people faced with sexual violence.
(SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2018)

THE MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES
This lecture addressed the events and leaders, past and present, that have helped inform the current #BlackLivesMatter movement.
(SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2018)

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION
The Fall Book Club read White American Youth: My Descent into America’s Most Violent Hate Movement-and How I Got Out, by Christian Picciolini, and The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, by Michelle Alexander.
(SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2018)
Diversity Day was celebrated across all of SIUE’s campuses, including SIU School of Dental Medicine in Alton, IL.

SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

SIUE CAHOKIA HEAD START

Parents, staff, and children at SIUE Cahokia Head Start enjoyed refreshments, diversity activities, and resources in all classes.

For more information on the numerous educational sessions and events held throughout Diversity Day 2018, please enjoy the Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2018 on our website at www.siue.edu/diversity. You can also see photos from Diversity Day 2018 on our Facebook page.
ADDITIONAL INAUGURAL DIVERSITY DAY PHOTOS: SIUE CAHOKIA & HELEN DAVIS HEAD START CENTERS
GOAL 4

PHENOMENAL WOMEN’S LUNCHEON

In April, the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion hosted its fifth annual Phenomenal Women’s Luncheon. Out of the 44 women nominated from SIUE and the surrounding community, 15 were chosen to receive the 2019 Phenomenal Woman award, which honors and celebrates women from all walks of life who have made contributions to diversity and inclusion at SIUE, the region, the nation, and the world.

Award recipients included Stephanie Bargiel, Eboni Buckels, Christina Chapman, Christy Ferguson, Jessica Friz, Chaya Gopalan, Jeanne Gyuriseck, Dalia Hassan, Edith Laktzian, Alexis Lambert, Sharon Locke, Patricia Merritt, Tricia Oberweis, Kimberly Simpkins, and Wendy Weber (SIUE News Archive: April 2019)
GOAL 4

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION SPRING SUMMIT
IMPLICIT BIAS AND INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE: WHO AM I AT SIUE?

Approximately 100 participants shared personal accounts of prejudices, frank conversations about injustice and inequality, and strategies on how to lessen the effects of biases at the annual Diversity and Inclusion Spring Summit. One of the several videos shown to conference participants provided the following definition and explanation of bias, “Implicit bias exists when we unconsciously hold beliefs toward others or associate stereotypes toward others. Unconscious bias is deep-seated in the brain. Those affected can be racial groups, genders, the LGBTQ community and other marginalized groups. People can be explicitly unbiased while being implicitly biased.”

“It’s good to keep having these conversations, because they are extremely important,” said SIUE Chancellor Randy Pembrook. “In SIUE’s core values, specifically the one relating to inclusion, we are committed to creating an environment that is welcoming, supportive and reflects openness and respect.”

(SIUE News Archive: April 2019)
GOAL 1

MENTORING PROGRAMS

In collaboration with ACCESS, the Faculty and Staff Mentoring Students with Disabilities Program was revamped into BUILD, which stands for Bridging Universal Inclusion & Leadership Development. The program seeks to enhance relationships, connect students to future occupational goals and promote self-advocacy. Additional mentoring programs include Men’s Basketball, Women’s Basketball and Softball. These programs provide networking opportunities, proactive support, and one-on-one interpersonal involvement.

MENTORING STORIES

Mentoring relationships enhance not only the lives of each individual person involved, but also strengthen the institution as a whole through networks of support. Below are mentor/mentee pairs featured in our monthly Embracing Diversity and Inclusion Newsletter.

This is Dr. Susan Hume and Dalyn Wells. Susan, the mentor, is an Assistant Professor and Department Chair in SIUE’s Department of Geography. Dalyn, the mentee, is a member of BUILD.

“Being a mentor is about asking a lot of questions, really listening to what a student has to say, offering encouragement, and sharing advice. I think this relationship makes me a better teacher, mentor, and Department Chair for other students.”
- Dr. Susan Hume
“In my life and professional career, I have had many mentors. They have helped guide me and show me the way to achieving more. By being a mentor, I feel this is a great opportunity to give back to our students and the university community.”

- Todd Burrell

“This is Todd Burrell, Cloe Churchill, and Sydney Bauman. Todd, the mentor, is the current Director of Undergraduate Admissions. Cloe and Sydney, the mentees, are members of the Faculty and Staff Mentoring Student-Athletes Program.

“I wanted to become a mentor as a way to pay it forward. I had amazing faculty mentors when I was an undergraduate and graduate student. I am still in contact with many of them because of the impact they had on my life. I hope to be able to provide the same for students here at SIUE.”

- Dr. Kevin Tucker

“This is Dr. Kevin Tucker and Bobbi Porter. Kevin, the mentor, is an Assistant Professor in SIUE’s Department of Chemistry. Bobbi, the mentee, is a member of BUILD.

“When Dr. Brown started the Men’s Basketball Mentor group here, it was a no-brainer to volunteer. Getting to know each mentee is another important layer that adds the individual uniqueness dimension beyond being a student-athlete.”

- Dr. Janice Joplin

“This is Dr. Janice Joplin and Elochukwu Eze. Janice, the mentor, is the current Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in SIUE’s School of Business. Elochukwu, the mentee, is a member of the Faculty and Staff Mentoring Student-Athletes Program.
“This process has stretched my heart. I want to be a part of my mentees’ success! No matter how busy the day to day madness of your job is, the community efforts you have committed to, your family obligations are, there is always time to offer help and support to someone else.”
- Florence Chears-Lawrence

This is Florence Chears-Lawrence and Dorothy Volansky. Florence, the mentor, is the current Center Coordinator for SIUE Cahokia Head Start Center. Dorothy, the mentee, is a member of BUILD.

“As instructors, our interactions with students often occur in a large classroom. Once you get to know a student, you can serve as a mentor for classroom and non-classroom experiences. It is very satisfying to relate to a student on a more personable level.”
- Dr. Thad Meeks

This is Dr. Thad Meeks and Brianna Mendoza. Thad, the mentor, is an Assistant Professor in SIUE’s Department of Psychology. Brianna, the mentee, is a member of BUILD.

“I am always interested in sharing my personal college experience in hopes to encourage current college students to make these years their best and how they can do it!”
- Ashlei White

This is Ashlei White and Mikala Hall. Ashlei, the mentor, is an Admissions Counselor and Recruitment Coordinator. Mikala, the mentee, is a member of the Faculty and Staff Mentoring Student-Athletes Program.
IDHR HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AWARD
The Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) recognized SIUE among six recipients of its Human Rights Day Award at Harold Washington College in Chicago. Honorees were selected based upon their organizational work helping to affirm the values of fairness, equality and non-discrimination. SIUE was selected for its inaugural Diversity Day event, which was organized by Dr. Venessa A. Brown, associate chancellor for diversity and inclusion, and chief diversity officer.

“This award recognizes SIUE’s exemplary support for the IDHR Fairness and Equality Campaign through its extraordinary efforts in promoting inclusion, equality, and respect by issuing a municipal proclamation, engaging the public through social media, and joining forces with the City of Edwardsville to host a successful first-ever Diversity Day celebration,” said IDHR Director Janice Glenn. “It is our hope that you and the other honorees will be inspired to continue to work together to tackle and resolve pressing issues related to inequality through additional partnerships and creative solutions.”

(SIU News Archive: October 2018)

2018 HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AWARD
SIUE received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity award for the fifth consecutive year, awarded by INSIGHT Into Diversity, the largest and oldest diversity publication in higher education. SIUE joins a select group of 30 institutions that have earned the distinction for five consecutive years.

SIUE was selected based on its exemplary diversity and inclusion initiatives, and the ability to embrace a broad definition of diversity on campus, including gender, race, ethnicity, veterans, people with disabilities, members of the LGBT community and others.

“SIUE values and appreciates a diverse and inclusive campus community,” said Dr. Venessa A. Brown, associate chancellor and chief diversity officer. “We are intentional about discussing various issues in our state, region, nation and world that impact our campus culture. Our strong commitment to diverse programming, and our diversity and inclusion online learning community position SIUE as a model for the region.” (SIUE News Archive: September 2018)

BROWN RECOGNIZED AS 2019 CAMPUS ADVISOR OF THE YEAR
Each year Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and the Kimmel Student Involvement Center recognizes the accomplishments and efforts of fraternities and sororities and their members. The Campus Advisor of the Year is awarded to one SIUE faculty or staff member who has gone above and beyond to provide support to the members of the chapter to whom they advise. The SIUE Fraternity and Sorority Community honored Dr. Venessa Brown, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc as the 2019 Campus Advisor of the Year.

Dr. Brown was described by the nominators as “someone who makes sure we have everything we need to be successful. She consistently offers service opportunities for members to take advantage of in the area or on campus. We view her as a beloved mentor and mother-figure.” (Kimmel Student Involvement Center)
SIUE’S HUPP HONORED WITH CHAMPION FOR DIVERSITY AWARD

SIUE’s Stephen Hupp, PhD, was the recipient of the institution’s 2018 Champion for Diversity Award in honor of his exemplary level of dedication to SIUE’s mission of fostering equal opportunity, and his outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

As the social-emotional consultant for SIUE’s Head Start/Early Head Start programs, he helps children prepare for success in school and life. He and his team of SIUE students implement the Second Step and other social-emotional curricula, which support the development of emotion regulation, violence prevention and academic readiness skills. These services aim to close achievement gaps and increase opportunity for children in lower-income communities.

“As an instructor of courses such as Child Psychology, Applied Behavior Analysis, and Seminar in Developmental Psychology, and as a frequent presenter to parents and teachers, Dr. Hupp is an advocate for children with disabilities and disadvantages,” said Paul Rose, PhD, interim dean in the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior. “The work of Dr. Hupp and his students helps children and families, and also demonstrates SIUE’s value in the region.”

(SIU News Archive: December 2018)

Embracing Diversity and Inclusion Newsletters
Fall 2018-Spring 2019

Our monthly Embracing Diversity and Inclusion newsletter aims to showcase the diverse campus and diversity and inclusion initiatives in our community. It features everything from national data on diversity to coverage of campus sponsored events and activities.

Please take a moment to stop by our website at www.siue.edu/diversity, where you can find all editions of our Embracing Diversity and Inclusion newsletter, trainings and media available for checkout by faculty and staff, photos and information from our Educational Culture Tours, and much more!
ON TO THE NEXT JOURNEY

Graduate assistantship opportunities provide financial support to graduate students who engage in teaching, research and/or general work (SIUE Graduate School). Working as graduate assistants for the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion has been nothing short of a great experience. Dr. Brown constantly challenged us to step out of our comfort zones and build our confidence.

During our two years, we worked alongside Dr. Brown to help facilitate, create, and sustain a campus climate that embraces and promotes diversity and inclusion. We helped coordinate and plan important conferences, luncheons, summits, trainings, and the Inaugural Diversity Day. Some days were long and stressful but always worth it at the end.

Our positions also allowed us to collaborate with offices, departments, and student organizations across campus. We helped program mentoring workshops, connecting with faculty, staff and students while watching them build a relationship. Overall, this position helped us become well-rounded individuals while increasing our skills to work with a diverse population.

As minority students, we shared opportunities to network with other minority graduate students and professionals in our fields at SIUE and its surrounding communities. Although our graduate assistantship experience came to an end, it has inspired us to encourage other students at SIUE to seek out early opportunities for professional development. The work may seem intimidating but the support is available and the opportunity begins with a conversation. (SIUE Diversity and Inclusion Graduate Assistants 2019)
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville was honored to be recognized as a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award recipient in 2018 for the fifth consecutive year. INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education, bestows this honor on select U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

According to Dr. Venessa A. Brown who submits the HEED Award application each year on behalf of the university, diversity and inclusion are embedded in the University’s mission, vision and values. SIUE joins a select group of 30 institutions that have earned the distinction for five consecutive years. Our goal moving forward is to be recognized as one of INSIGHT Into Diversity’s Diversity Champion schools, which are selected from the top tier of HEED Award recipients.
2018 DATA SUMMARY
STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

11,402 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

2,394 GRADUATE STUDENTS

53% Female
47% Male

40% Female
60% Male

5% IDENTIFIES AS A VETERAN

4% IDENTIFIES AS HAVING A DISABILITY
Breakdown by race/ethnicity of full-time undergraduate enrollment

- Unknown/Other: 2%
- International: 2%
- Multiracial: 3%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 1%
- Asian American: 2%
- Native American: 1%
- Hispanic/Latino: 4%
- African American/Black: 13%
- White/Caucasian: 72%

ADMINISTRATOR, FACULTY, AND STAFF DEMOGRAPHICS

Administrative Leadership

- Unknown/Other: 0%
- International: 0%
- Multiracial: 1%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 0%
- Asian American: 3%
- Native American: 0%
- Hispanic/Latino: 1%
- African American/Black: 4%
- White/Caucasian: 91%
Governing Board

- Unknown/Other: 0%
- International: 0%
- Multiracial: 0%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 0%
- Asian American: 0%
- Native American: 0%
- Hispanic/Latino: 0%
- African American/Black: 12.5%
- White/Caucasian: 87%

Full-time Tenured and Tenure-track Faculty

- Unknown/Other: 0%
- International: 2%
- Multiracial: 1%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 1%
- Asian American: 14%
- Native American: 0%
- Hispanic/Latino: 3%
- African American/Black: 6%
- White/Caucasian: 73%

Full-time Non-tenure-track Faculty

- Unknown/Other: 1%
- International: 1%
- Multiracial: 3%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 0%
- Asian American: 3%
- Native American: 1%
- Hispanic/Latino: 2%
- African American/Black: 8%
- White/Caucasian: 81%
What are your six-year graduation rates for undergraduate full-time students in the following groups?

### Overall

48% six-year graduation rate for undergraduate full-time students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American/Black</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White/Caucasian</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**DIVERSITY CHAMPION**

SIUE’s goal moving forward is to be recognized as one of INSIGHT Into Diversity’s Diversity Champion schools, which are selected from the top tier of HEED Award recipients. Diversity Champion institutions exemplify an unyielding commitment to diversity and inclusion throughout their campus communities, across academic programs, and at the highest administrative levels. Diversity Champions are institutions that set the standard for thousands of other campus communities striving for diversity and inclusion. They develop successful strategies and programs, which then serve as models of excellence for other institutions. Diversity Champion schools exceed everyday expectations, often eclipsing their own goals. *(INSIGHT Into Diversity)*
2018-2019 University-wide Initiatives

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is composed of student groups, academic units, departments, and offices that contribute greatly to implementing positive change and creating an inclusive campus environment. The following collaborations showcase the 2018-2019 university-wide efforts towards achieving the SIUE Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan Goals. The information presented in this document was derived from SIUE Marketing and Communications, SIUE News, the E Today, the Alestle, and other media outlets. Many thanks to the editors, reporters, and individuals at these organizations who covered these initiatives.

SIUE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Goal 1 • Enhance recruitment for students of underrepresented groups for both undergraduate and graduate programs, and improve retention and graduation rates for underrepresented groups attending SIUE.

Goal 2 • Increase and retain the number of faculty, staff and administrators from underrepresented groups.

Goal 3 • Build a community that fosters learning, scholarship, and creative activities that reflect understanding of global diversity and a commitment to inclusion and social justice.

Goal 4 • Develop and maintain a campus climate that acknowledges, embraces, and celebrates diversity and inclusion as a core value of the SIUE community.
Goal 1

Enhance recruitment for students of underrepresented groups for both undergraduate and graduate programs, and improve retention and graduation rates for underrepresented groups attending SIUE.

• Objective 1: Achieve increased enrollment (recruitment) of students who are underrepresented relative to the available population in the state and region, as part of an institutional enrollment management plan.

• Objective 2: Increase the academic success (retention and graduation) of diverse and underrepresented students as a part of an overall institutional plan to make excellence inclusive.
HARRIS LEE NAMED ASST. DIRECTOR FOR PRE-COLLEGIATE PROGRAMS

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville selected MaKesha Harris Lee, EdD, as its first assistant director for pre-collegiate programs. During the 2017-18 academic year, the veteran SIUE academic advisor co-created and led the implementation of a 12-month pilot pre-collegiate program with SIUE’s East St. Louis Charter High School.

As assistant director for pre-collegiate programs, Harris Lee delivered pre-collegiate student success support, guidance and advising to students at East St. Louis and eventually other area high schools for aid in their preparation for the collegiate experience. She also oversees the implementation of a summer success program for incoming students to aid in their transition to SIUE.

“In her work with the Charter High School, Dr. Harris Lee took an idea of supporting students before their transition to college, and turned it into a program that helped support all students from freshmen through seniors in their exposure to collegiate readiness and the experience high school students need to prepare for that next step,” said Kevin Thomas, EdD, SIUE director of retention and student success.

Harris Lee was honored to co-develop and pilot the Pre-Collegiate Program. Harris Lee noted the importance of the programming in relation to the rising number of high school students who are under-prepared for transitioning to college. “My mission as the assistant director for pre-collegiate programs and the implementation of a summer success program is to provide support for access to post-secondary education, as well as promote the many resources we have at SIUE to help them thrive in their holistic development as future college students.” (SIUE News Archive: September 2018)

SIUE OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS HOSTS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM CAMP COLLEGE PROGRAM

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Office of Admissions hosted 50 high school students on campus through the Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling (IACAC) Camp College program.

Participants learned how to navigate a college fair, write an essay and identify which college they feel is the best fit. They also received information about financial aid and many other topics to help them navigate their college search. In addition, participants were paired with a counselor who will act as their mentor throughout the upcoming school year.

“We are excited to have hosted approximately 50 students and their guests at SIUE,” said Kelley Brooks, assistant director of Admissions. “Our hope is that they learned more about the college search process, felt the welcoming atmosphere from the SIUE community, and discovered that SIUE is a great place to be.” (SIUE News Archive: July 2018)
COLLABORATIVE HEALTHCARE DIVERSITY CAMP

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville hosted 32 high school students from Illinois and Missouri during its collaborative Healthcare Diversity Camp held June 18-22. Campers explored career possibilities in a variety of healthcare fields through hands-on activities and mentorship sessions hosted by the SIUE Schools of Pharmacy (SOP) and Nursing (SON), the SIU School of Dental Medicine (SIU SDM) and the SIUE School of Education, Health and Human Behavior’s nutrition program.

“SIUE has a lot to offer through its topnotch healthcare programs,” said Lakesha Butler, PharmD, clinical professor in the School of Pharmacy’s Department of Pharmacy Practice and camp coordinator. “Due to our new partnership with the AHEC Network of Southern Illinois, we expanded our reach among SIUE programs to include nutrition, and exposed students to both traditional and non-traditional healthcare programs.”

Healthcare Diversity Camp inspired diverse high school students by introducing them to careers in healthcare and college life at SIUE. Campers engaged in interactive activities, learned about global opportunities, toured SIUE and its program areas, and finished the week with an ACT crash course. This year’s camp was strengthened by a partnership with the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Network of Southern Illinois.

“We chose to partner with SIUE because it is a well-known university conveniently situated in a rural setting with great access to urban experiences,” said Kayla Dunahee, director SCI-AHEC – Human Resources with SSM Health Southern Illinois. “We help cultivate healthcare students in high school, support their education with professional experiences through the college years and recruit students to come to or return to rural areas upon graduation.”

The SOP hosted students on June 21. Students learned about global opportunities and the importance of communication through a patient counseling discussion and activity. “Before going to college, I know I had a lot of questions that I wanted to ask students who were actively pursuing a science program,” said Deja Finley, of O’Fallon, a third-year student in the SOP and Healthcare Diversity Camp chaperone. “This has been a great opportunity for me to be that kind of resource for these students. I was glad to provide answers and guidance for those that are still unsure about what they want to do professionally. Professional diversity improves overall patient care and makes people more willing to seek care. I’m happy to be a part of increasing diversity in healthcare.” (SIUE News Archive: June 2018)
HIGH SCHOOL HISPANIC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
SIUE Office of Admissions High School Hispanic Leadership Institute (HLI) is a select program that develops individuals’ leadership skills, creates networking opportunities and emphasizes the importance of giving back to the community. SIUE was selected among six other schools to host the students for a one-day program.
(SIUE News Archive: June 2018)

GRADUATE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
SIUE Graduate School hosted its annual Open House where prospective graduate students received information on SIUE’s more than 100 master’s programs, post-baccalaureate certificates, specialist degrees, doctoral degrees and cooperative doctoral programs.
(SIUE News Archive: October 2018)

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY PROGRAM (IHP)
The IHP is a group of community and campus families who wish to enrich the lives of their families and the international students at SIUE. The IHP seeks to promote mutually rewarding relationships between American families and international students at SIUE.
(International Student and Scholar Services)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION
International student orientations took place in fall and spring. These provided information in immigration, employment, health services, classroom orientations, and more.
(International Student and Scholar Services)
SIUE SHECODE EVENT ENGAGES YOUNG WOMEN IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

The field of computer science is a rapidly growing field with a projected employment growth rate of 19 percent by 2026. SIUE School of Engineering’s Department of Computer Science (CS) wants to ensure females are a part of the field’s surging growth and success. The Department’s second annual SheCode event introduced high school girls, the majority of them freshman, to computer science and problem solving.

Approximately 30 participants came from Alton, Belleville, Collinsville, Edwardsville, East St. Louis, Troy and other localities for the one-day educational experience. With the support of Dennis Bouvier, PhD, associate professor in the Department of CS, 12 current students coordinated the event. Additionally, three computer science alumnae, who are now working in the technology field, served as volunteer mentors during SheCode.

“It’s incredibly important for young girls to have female role models and mentors in the technology field, to show them the endless possibilities a career in this field can provide,” said Darla Ahlert, MS ’15, a technology enablement consultant at Slalom Consulting. “I enjoy making the connection between every day interactions they have with technology and the fact that they can one day be the leaders who create future technologies.” (SIUE News Archive: September 2018)

SIUE’S BLACK FACULTY AND STAFF ASSOCIATION’S INAUGURAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA TO BENEFIT BLACK STUDENTSS

For the purpose of supporting and retaining black students, the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) held its inaugural Scholarship Gala in the Morris University Center’s Meridian Ballroom. The Gala raised more than $4,000.

“The purpose of our Scholarship Gala was to engage black faculty, staff, alumni and community leaders in assisting to raise scholarship funds for black students in need,” said Lakesha Butler, PharmD, BFSA president, and clinical professor in the School of Pharmacy.

SIUE Chancellor Randy Pembrook agreed and congratulated the BFSA in its efforts to assist black students. “SIUE’s Black Faculty and Staff Association is an important constituency group on campus,” said Pembrook. “SIUE’s ongoing commitment to advancing diversity and inclusion is evident in the recent diversity and inclusion accomplishments, including granting constituency status to the BFSA.”

(SIUE News Archive: March 2019)
BLACK STUDENT WELCOME RECEPTION

The inaugural Black Student Welcome Reception was presented by the Office of the Chancellor, the Black Studies Program and the Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA). More than 260 Black SIUE students walked into Morris University Center’s Meridian Ballroom to the beat of live drummers, bursts of applause and smiling, welcoming faces at the inaugural reception. Altogether, the reception drew more than 400 people.

“This event was nothing shy of amazing,” said Lakesha Butler, PharmD, BCPS, clinical associate professor in the School of Pharmacy’s Department of Pharmacy Practice, and BFSA president.

“It was a momentous evening showcasing our chancellor and University’s commitment to creating an inclusive campus for our black students who can often times feel isolated. Now, they know they have a village of people who are rooting for them and are here to genuinely support them to the finish line of graduation and beyond.” (SIUE News Archive: August 2018)

CSPA GRADUATE STUDENTS COMPLETE COMPETITIVE FIELD PLACEMENTS

SIUE College Student Personnel Administration (CSPA) graduate students refined their leadership and organizational skills, built professional networks and developed personally as they took a step outside their comfort zones and completed competitive field placements in seven states across the nation. The SIUE CSPA program is one of the few programs in the region to offer placements at professional colleges, community colleges and historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

“Our students immerse themselves in experiential learning in at least two areas of higher education,” said Pietro Sasso, PhD, assistant professor in the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior’s Department of Educational Leadership, and CSPA program director.

According to Sasso, CSPA students who engage in rigorous field placement opportunities are often complemented by additional experiences within graduate assistantships in student affairs at SIUE or at neighboring partner institutions in the St. Louis Metropolitan area.

“The experiences provided to students prepare them as emerging professionals, and make them competitive on a national scale for employment in student affairs and higher education administration.” (SIUE News Archive: June 2018)
MULTICULTURAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (M.V.P.S)

The multicultural volunteer program was developed to assist the Office of Admissions with the strategic goal of increasing the number of underrepresented students recruited by the university. These ambassadors include but are not limited to first generation, low-income, LGBTQIA+, minority students currently on SIUE’s campus. The MVP ambassadors are charged with sharing their experiences as successful SIUE students and mentoring admits through the college selection process. *(SIUE Office of Undergraduate Admissions)*

SIUE ALUMNI AMBASSADORS SPARK INTEREST IN NEW RECRUITS

Who better to share information on Southern Illinois University Edwardsville than those whose lives have been positively changed by their experiences as a student?

Alumni Recruitment Ambassador, Michael Yancey, who earned a bachelor’s in mass communications from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1993, represented his alma mater at the New Castle County College Fair in Newark, Delaware.

Yancey, who resides in Bear, Del., attended the college fair on behalf of the SIUE Office of Admissions to share University information with prospective high school students from that region. “I had an awesome experience as an undergraduate at SIUE, and I want to help promote my school in the best light possible,” said Michael Yancey. “I love talking to people about SIUE.”

SIUE’s Alumni Recruitment Ambassador Program began in Fall 2017, and has grown to include more than 80 alumni who volunteer their time to promote the University nationwide. *(SIUE News Archive: January 2019)*
SIUE’S COLLEGIATE 100 CHAPTER RECEIVES AWARD FROM 100 BLACK MEN OF ST. LOUIS

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Collegiate 100 Chapter received the 100 Black Men of Metropolitan St. Louis Regional Chapter of the Year Award at the 100 Black Men of Metropolitan St. Louis Annual Fundraiser and Black Tie Gala, according to Darryl Cherry, SIUE Collegiate 100 advisor. The men of SIUE Collegiate 100 have boosted its membership, increased its collective GPA, participated in on-going personal, professional and leadership development opportunities, and engaged in more than 250 hours of community service on campus and in Metro East communities.

“I am proud of the consistent efforts and growth of our individual and collective membership that ultimately led to the 100 Black Men recognition,” said Cherry, also coordinator of Student Retention for Student Opportunities for Academic Results (SOAR). “I am pleased to have watched an upstart campus organization go from the infancy stage of trying to figure out what to do to, to now being considered a standard of excellence both on campus and regionally.”

SIUE’s Collegiate 100 is an auxiliary organization of the 100 Black Men of Metropolitan St. Louis and serves an important role in assimilating, developing and mentoring African American males on the SIUE campus. Its current membership is 21 students.

“Our mission is to improve the quality of life on campus for black students,” added Cherry. “We want to enhance educational opportunities, strengthen mentoring programs, promote health and wellness, and economically empower our students and the African American community.”

(SIUE News Archive: December 2018)

SIUE ATHLETICS 25 CONSECUTIVE SEMESTERS WITH GPA ABOVE 3.0

SIUE Athletics crossed the 2018 fall semester finish line in style, passing the 3.0 grade point average mark as a department for the 25th consecutive semester.

“Academic success has become a regular expectation for SIUE student-athletes,” said SIUE Director of Athletics Brad Hewitt, PhD. “It is part of the culture that our staff, coaches and University created for more than a decade.”

The department completed the fall semester with a combined 3.309 grade point average. Twelve teams earned a GPA above 3.0, nine of which were above a 3.3. (SIUE News Archive: December 2018)
INCREASED GRADUATE ENROLLMENT, RETENTION HIGHLIGHT
SIUE SPRING SEMESTER
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville increased graduate student enrollment for the spring 2019 semester and recorded its best fall-to-spring retention rate for new freshmen. Other highlights include increased international enrollment and a record for online enrollment for a spring semester.

Graduate enrollment grew 177 students (10 percent) more than spring 2018 to reach its highest level in four years. Leading the growth were the School of Business increasing 70 students (40 percent) and the School of Nursing increasing 62 students (25 percent). Overall, 267 new graduate students enrolled for the first time this spring, which is the largest number of new graduate students enrolled since spring 2008, when 289 students enrolled for the first time.

“During the past three years, SIUE spring enrollment has reached 94 percent of total enrollment from the preceding fall semester. For spring 2019, enrollment ticked up one percentage point to 95 percent from the fall 2018 headcount,” said Scott Belobrajdic, EdD, associate vice chancellor for enrollment management. The spring 2019 headcount is 12,617 students compared to 13,281 in fall 2018.

Along with graduate enrollment, retention contributed to that increase. SIUE recorded its best fall to spring retention rate for new freshmen, which increased by 0.5 percent to 92.3 percent. Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Denise Cobb, PhD, credited faculty and staff throughout campus continuously working to improve student success and enhance student engagement.

(SIUE News Archive: February 2019)

SIUE ENROLLMENT SURPASSES SIUC
For the first time in the SIU System’s records, SIUE has surpassed SIUC in total enrollment as of the Fall 2018 semester. With a total enrollment of 13,281 students at SIUE this semester opposed to SIUC’s 12,817, Edwardsville’s share of enrollment has jumped to 50.88 percent from 48.66 percent last year. SIUE added 3,634 new students in the fall semester — 1,706 new freshmen, 1,240 transfer students and 688 graduate and professional students.

SIUE Chancellor Randy Pembrook said the university’s enrollment strategies, from recruitment in major metropolitan areas to offering in-state tuition rates to students across the country in addition to offering more online class options, and our results show the university is “asking the right questions” around enrollment. “One of the things that is part of the story of us being down [511] students, is that we graduated about 250 students more than we’re used to doing. And so, it seems like we’re getting better at getting students to graduation.”

(Alestle Archive: September 2018)
Southeastern Illinois College (SIC) and the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing (SON) have agreed to offer an accelerated path to a bachelor’s in nursing (BSN) that would allow students to complete their general education courses at SIC, earning an associate’s in nursing, then complete their baccalaureate nursing coursework online through SIUE.

Students can take classes at SIC for three years and begin a job in their profession, while working online to obtain their BSN from SIUE. SIC had the state’s top practical nursing (PN) and registered nursing (RN) programs for the past two years.

“This is huge for aspiring health professionals in this very lucrative profession,” said SIC President Dr. Jonah Rice. “SIUE administrators were positive, listened to our needs and concerns, and were nimble enough to have real agency for quick change. They were amazing to work with on this project.”

“SIUE is excited to build this collaborative model with SIC,” said SIUE Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Denise Cobb, PhD. “Our shared student-centered approach, combined with a commitment to addressing the nursing shortage in the region and the state, created the conditions for this accelerated and affordable pathway.”

“The partnership between SIC and the SIUE School of Nursing demonstrates a mutual commitment of offering high-quality, affordable and accessible education to students who want to become nurses and advance within their profession,” said Laura Bernaix, PhD, dean of the SIUE SON. “This partnership will undoubtedly contribute toward ensuring a robust nursing workforce in southern Illinois.”

“Students need an affordable option to get their BSN, and this is it;” said SIC Executive Dean of Academic Services Gina Sirach, a former nursing instructor. “Convenient online options and leveraging the affordability of community colleges like SIC make for a strong option for students to achieve their dreams.”

(SIUE News Archive: March 2019)
SIUE AND SCC COMBINE FOR ACCELERATED BACHELOR OF NURSING

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing (SON) and Shawnee Community College (SCC) have agreed to offer an accelerated path to a bachelor’s in nursing (BSN) that would allow students to complete their general education courses at SCC, earning an associate’s in nursing, then complete their baccalaureate nursing coursework online through SIUE. Students can take classes at SCC for three years and begin a job in their profession, while working online to obtain their BSN from SIUE.

“The additional opportunities for students to successfully complete their educational goals, while maintaining full time employment made available by this online program means students have one less roadblock to completion. We are grateful that SIUE’s School of Nursing is working with us to further promote student success for our nursing students,” said Shawnee College President Dr. Peggy Bradford.

“Our community college partnerships are benefiting students who may not have originally seen themselves going into a four-year program,” said Roberta Harrison, PhD, SON associate dean for academic programs and community/global partnerships. “They can complete the coursework for an associate degree at the community college level. When they transition into our online program, they can already see the light at the end of the tunnel.” (SIUE News Archive: April 2019)

SIUE INTRODUCES NEW MASTER’S OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE PROGRAM

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is introducing a new master of public health (MPH) degree program offered through the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior’s (SEHHB) Department of Applied Health. The first cohort will begin in fall 2019. The MPH is an interdisciplinary program that addresses the health of worldwide populations, covering the five core areas of public health, including biostatistics, environmental health sciences, epidemiology, health policy and management, and social and behavioral sciences.

“According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment opportunities for public health professionals are rising faster than average for all occupations nationally,” said MPH Graduate Program Director Michelle Cathorall, DrPH, MPH, MCHES. “Our students will be highly-prepared to excel in those roles due to our rigorous curriculum, hands-on learning opportunities and global experiences.”

“Our MPH is an exciting addition to SIUE’s growing portfolio of health-science programs, which includes our undergraduate public health program,” said SEHHB Interim Dean Paul Rose, PhD. “The public health faculty’s expertise and student-centeredness are well-known, as is the program’s reputation for engagement in nearby communities.” (SIUE News Archive: April 2019)
SIUE INTEGRATIVE STUDIES PROGRAM EXPERIENCES RAPID GROWTH, DOUBLES INITIAL ENROLLMENT GOALS
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s popular integrative studies undergraduate program has exceeded growth expectations by more than doubling its original enrollment goals in its first four years. The program launched in 2015 with a target of 50 majors by its fifth year. Remarkably, SIUE now supports 102 integrative studies majors, with 47 students eligible to graduate from the program by summer 2019.

“I am thrilled with the program’s rapid growth, and the fact that we had 42 graduates by the end of fall 2018,” said Program Director Zenia Agustin, PhD. “We are offering students a viable pathway for pursuing their interests and goals that cannot always be met by traditional programs. The program attracts both traditional and non-traditional students, and provides the opportunity to embrace their individuality and widen their perspectives by exploring and making connections between different fields of study.”

“Additionally, a significant part of the program’s success is our dedicated faculty who have been responsive to the evolving needs of our students,” she noted. “They have been wonderfully generous with their time and expertise as they mentor our students.” (SIUE News Archive: April 2019)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS EXPERIENCE SIUE THROUGH GLOBAL UGRAD PROGRAM
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has offered unique experiences in undergraduate education and American culture to three international students during their semester long stay through the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs’ Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (Global UGRAD).

During the spring 2019 semester, Veranika Kukushkina, of Belarus, Wen Shu Wong, of Malaysia, and Ahmad Masalha, of Israel, have been studying in their respective disciplines, and gaining community service, professional development and cultural enrichment opportunities.

Veranika emphasizes the value SIUE places on practical experiences, which she has found to complement the theoretical knowledge attained in her home country. “I’m taking international trade, international management, and German and American history this semester,” Veranika said.

Wong has been immersed in local culture through participation in such Campus Activities Board events as the Cougar Painting Studio, Cougar World Games and March Mayhem. “It has been a life-changing experience to explore the United States education system and cultures,” said Wong.

At semester’s end, Veranika plans to return to her home country to pursue a summer internship and complete her studies in international economics. Wong will move on to the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom to continue her studies in electrical engineering. (SIUE News Archive: April 2019)
EAST ST. LOUIS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MAKE CONNECTIONS AT SIUE

Approximately 30 CHS students enjoyed the day of activities, information and connections at SIUE’s Pre-Collegiate event, “Get Plugged In.”

“The event focused on connecting the students with faculty, staff and student leaders at SIUE as a way to get them plugged into the community,” said Makesha Harris Lee, EdD, assistant director for Pre-Collegiate Programs. “The day consisted of several sessions, beginning with a morning social that included an icebreaker game, panel discussion and an activity about self-identity and values.

“Later, the students took a campus tour and experienced the SIUE Student Government’s Tunnel of Oppression,” she continued. “The significance of the Tunnel of Oppression and the other identity awareness exercises was to raise consciousness about oppression, and for the students to have a chance to walk in someone else’s shoes and be able to see the value in differences.” Approximately 30 CHS students enjoyed the day of activities, information and connections.

The “take-away” for the day, according to Harris Lee, was for CHS students to be able to identify at least one current SIUE student or employee who will help them stay connected to the University.

“The program went extremely well,” noted Harris Lee. “After this one event, I now have 11 faculty, staff, and student leaders serving our pre-collegiate students as e-Plugs. My goal is to have an e-Plug for every pre-collegiate participant.”

(SIUE News Archive: March 2019)

SUCCESS COACH/STUDENT MENTOR PROGRAM

The Office of Student Conduct provides opportunities for students to explore what it means to be a member of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville community. Working with faculty, staff, students and other partners, they promote integrity, respect and personal accountability using an educational process that supports learning and development.

This year the SIUE Office of Student Conduct introduced the Success Coach/Student Mentor program. This program was developed summer 2018 with hopes of guiding students who may struggle adapting to the SIUE experience. The learning objectives include developing positive, meaningful interaction with faculty/staff, intentionally mentoring social and academic success, developing time management and goal setting, and improving other potential areas of weakness.

With the help of the mentor’s guidance the students will be able to reflect on their harm doings, and develop a more confident self-worth characteristic while growing academically. (SIUE Office of Student Conduct)
Goal 2
Increase and retain the number of faculty, staff and administrators from underrepresented groups.

- Objective 1: Enhance and improve recruiting processes (hiring policies, search committee training and search processes).

- Objective 2: Create pathways for faculty and staff from underrepresented groups to advance at SIUE as staff, faculty and administrators by enhancing and retaining retention processes (Development Workshops [resumes, testing, interviewing], Mentoring).
FACULTY STRATEGIC HIRING INITIATIVE
The Interim Chancellor, Steve Hansen, started a new Strategic Hiring Fund of approximately $350,000 per year to support new faculty hires for three years (FY16 – FY20). Chancellor Pembrook has allowed carryover of these funds.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THESE FUNDS?
Funding is available for new tenure-track faculty members who are from targeted under-represented racial and ethnic groups; herein, defined as Black, African-American, Latino, American Indian, Alaskan Native, particularly in disciplines where they are under-represented. Although disciplines with lower percentages of faculty from the racial and ethnic groups listed above are strongly encouraged to apply, this initiative should also serve the institution’s larger goals for increasing diverse representation in the faculty broadly. Importantly, departments that serve high numbers of under-represented students would be considered priority areas, regardless of the current composition of the department’s faculty.

Limited funding will also be made available for recruitment or retention of women in areas where they are significantly under-represented. Priority will be given to recruitment or retention of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

This program will also support post-doctoral positions or visiting professorships for candidates who are in the areas described in the previous categories. These options should be leveraged to increase the likelihood of securing the post-doctoral fellows or visiting professors as future tenure-track faculty members and to broaden SIUE’s visibility, networks, and recruitment base. Similarly, visiting professorships that actively recruit faculty members in the aforementioned categories and who will enhance SIUE’s diversity and inclusion efforts within Academic Affairs will be possible. Such instances should leverage SIUE’s existing policies and practices.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
The Office of the Provost will also provide competitive support for on-going recruitment efforts. The goal of these efforts would be to build a future recruiting base and to diversify our networks while building the knowledge base and experience of our faculty and students.

APPROVALS
The Provost and the Associate Chancellor for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion will work with deans and departments to assure the success of this program. The Office of the Provost and the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion will also provide access to training materials that reflect best practices. Commonly cited models include University of Wisconsin, University of Washington, Cornell University, Purdue University, University of Illinois-Chicago and University of Michigan’s STRIDE program, which was piloted at SIUE as PRIME.

RESULTS
Approximately 8 faculty (7 Black and 1 Latino) and 2 Staff positions have been funded (FY17-FY19) to date.

For additional information and more details please contact your Dean.

The plan is modeled after a document developed by Dr. Michael Bernard-Donals of the University of Wisconsin - Madison. http://provost.wisc.edu/facshi.htm. Some sections use the language of that plan verbatim, particularly the sections linked to this footnote. We are grateful to Dr. Bernard-Donals and the University of Wisconsin for allowing SIUE use of the UW exemplar. (SIUE Office of the Provost)
SIUE HIRES NEW TITLE IX COORDINATOR
Following a comprehensive national search led by search committee chairs Phyleccia Cole and Kim Durr and involving numerous constituency groups, Jamie Ball was hired as director of the SIUE Office of Equal Opportunity, Access and Title IX Coordination.

“We are incredibly pleased that Jamie Ball will be joining SIUE. Her background and experience have prepared her well to lead in this area of vital importance. I know our University community will welcome her to Edwardsville,” said Pembrook.

Ball arrived on campus after serving as the first institutional compliance officer/Title IX coordinator at Truman State University. She coordinated the University’s compliance with all aspects of Title IX and other laws and regulations relating to equal opportunity and non-discrimination. She served as the primary investigator for cases involving faculty, staff and student grievances relating to Title IX and other civil rights issues.

“I am honored and excited to be joining the SIUE community,” said Ball. “I look forward to forging strong relationships with the many campus partners who are essential to the support and implementation of an outstanding EOA program. I also look forward to making use of some new strategies that will support and streamline the case management process for Equal Employment Opportunity/Title IX complaints.” (SIUE News Archive: June 2018)

DR. LAKESHA BUTLER NAMED NEW BLACK FACULTY AND STAFF ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT
GLOBAL ACADEMIC ADVISING ORGANIZATION APPOINTS TWO SIUE LEADERS

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Student Opportunities for Academic Results (SOAR) Coordinator of Student Retention Darryl Cherry and Academic Advisor Efrosini Hortis have taken leadership roles in NACADA: The Global Community for Academic Advising. Both will serve two-year appointments: Cherry as chair of the First-Year Students Advising Community, and Hortis as chair of the Global Engagement Advising Community.

“Serving as chairperson provides a wonderful opportunity for professional and personal development, as well as the opportunity to lead in helping assimilate, develop, support and retain first-year students at their respective institutions,” Cherry said.

At SIUE, Cherry is responsible for developing, facilitating and monitoring programming as SOAR coordinator of student retention. He helps students overcome academic, social and cultural barriers, and challenges. Additionally, he is an advisor to the SIUE Collegiate 100 chapter, a University Staff senator, an SIUE African American Male Initiative Task Force member, and a member of the SIUE Black Faculty and Staff Association.

Cherry plans to bring together the best minds to engage in research on best practices for achieving his community’s goals and developing a universal set of minimal standards that could be recommended to all colleges and universities.

A former international student, Hortis is passionate about the efforts of the Global Engagement Advising Community she now leads. “This community illuminates the current struggles and concerns of working with international and ESL students from an advising standpoint, and endeavors toward solutions when possible,” Hortis said.

She emphasizes the “privilege and responsibility” academic advisors have in molding students into global citizens prepared to shape a changing world. “Regardless of the myriad of labels we as a society systemically place on one another, the impetus is to remove barriers and minimize differences, in an effort to promote the concept of globalization,” said Hortis. “The ideal meaning of globalization is the enlightenment that we are one world, comprising citizens who act as a single society.”

As chair of the global engagement commission, Hortis says she hopes to further this goal of enlightenment toward globalization via a plethora of the community’s experiences working with international students, English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers and academic advisors. (SIUE News Archive: March 2019)
Goal 3

Build a community that fosters learning, scholarship, and creative activities that reflect understanding of global diversity and a commitment to inclusion and social justice.

- Objective 1: Work with Faculty Senate and Student Affairs to identify ways to strengthen the University curriculum and enhance co-curricular activities to increase learning.

- Objective 2: Increase awareness, competencies, and capacities of faculty and staff to effectively address issues of diversity and inclusion.

- Objective 3: Provide opportunities for student participation in high-impact learning experiences that promote learning related to global citizenship, diversity and inclusion, including study abroad, service learning, etc.
BROADENING STUDENT LEARNING AND SUCCESS THROUGH HIGH IMPACT PRACTICES

In an effort to reach more students and secure ways to make intense and accelerated learning experiences more equitable, the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Office of the Provost sent an interdisciplinary, cross-divisional team to the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) 2018 Institute on High-Impact Practices and Student Success. A five-member team, chaired by Interim Assistant Provost Jessica Harris, PhD, went to the University of Utah in Salt Lake City for the AAC&U’s workshop from June 19-22, 2018.

“We want to improve and scale up our existing high impact practices to further support student learning,” said Harris. “We also want to look at those students who are participating in HIPs and those who are not. We have to look at the data and ask how many engaged participants are of color, low income or first generation students,” she continued. “Equity, ensuring that all of our students have access to these high impact educational experiences, is vital.”

Other team members include Venessa A. Brown, PhD, associate chancellor for the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and chief diversity officer; Kevin Thomas, EdD, director of Retention and Student Success; Matthew Schunke, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Philosophy and chair of the general education committee, and Tarsha Moore, advisor for Transition Programs and Outreach in the Office of Student Affairs.

“We must act with intention and care to ensure that all students have access to high impact practices (HIPs), and our actions reflect our commitment to equity and inclusive excellence,” said Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Denise Cobb, PhD. (SIUE News Archive: January 2019)

SIUE CARNEGIE RATING MOVES UP TO DOCTORAL/PROFESSIONAL

The Carnegie Commission on Higher Education has upgraded Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to the newly created doctoral/professional universities category. SIUE was previously considered a master’s-large institution. Among the 161 institutions in the new category, SIUE is among the top three in research expenditures, according to the National Science Foundation (NSF) Higher Education and Research Development (HERD) survey.

“This new categorization better reflects the powerful array of programs that SIUE offers and distinguishes it from many regional master’s comprehensive universities that were members of the previous Carnegie classification,” said Denise Cobb, PhD, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. “Furthermore, this new designation more accurately reflects SIUE’s impact on the region and beyond by highlighting the doctor of pharmacy, doctorate of dental medicine, doctor of nursing practice along with the research doctorate in education.

“These degrees in combination with high quality undergraduate and master’s programs provide vital paths for prospective students and offer a dramatic impact on public service, healthcare and education for the region.” (SIUE News Archive: January 2019)
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville partnered with Madison and St. Clair Counties to support students working in conjunction with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) by providing necessary services to help students achieve their academic goals. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

“SIUE and our partners in the workforce development system have a shared vision, getting students the training they need to get jobs,” said SIUE Chancellor Randy Pembrook, PhD. “As member of the SIUE community, all of us have a commitment to helping students complete their academic programs of study. WIOA provides funding and resources for a variety of individuals, who otherwise would not be able to continue their studies.”

Individuals eligible for WIOA include dislocated and/or laid-off workers, anyone eligible for public assistance, low-income adults, veterans transitioning out of the military, and spouses of eligible individuals. Eligible students may receive funding for tuition, fees and other educational expenses. (SIUE News Archive: October 2018)
SIUE SCHOOL OF NURSING AMONG COLLEGE FACTUAL’S TOP 25 FOR VALUE

College Factual’s 2019 Best Value Nursing Schools report ranks Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s School of Nursing (SON) 21st among 500 programs nationally as “Best for the Money.” SIUE also ranked second among the 20 schools in Illinois.

Factors in College Factual’s value ranking include average yearly cost of the school, the average time students take to graduate and the quality education provided to students. Schools that rank highly are offering a good value for the investment.

SIUE improved its ranking position 16 slots over the previous year’s #37 ranking. The SON is in the top five percent of College Factual’s rankings nationally for value. See the full ranking of Best Nursing Schools for the Money. The rankings identify schools that provide an excellent education for an affordable price.

“Delivering our high-quality programs while also ensuring excellent affordability demonstrates our commitment to helping our students achieve their educational aspirations,” said SON Dean Laura Bernaix, RN, PhD. “Our over-arching goal is to increase the number of accomplished nurse clinicians, educators, and leaders in the state of Illinois and surrounding regions.” (SIUE News Archive: April 2019)

SIUE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY STUDENTS AMONG TOP 20 NATIONALLY

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy (SOP) students continue to enhance their academic profile among the nation’s best in board pass rates and assessments.

The SOP Class of 2018 North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination® (NAPLEX) board pass rate was 97.3 percent, which was No. 1 in both Missouri and Illinois, and ranked 19th nationally among 135 pharmacy schools. The NAPLEX exam measures a student’s knowledge of the practice of pharmacy.

The SOP students exceeded both the NAPLEX national average of 89.5 percent and state average of 84.4 percent. When all 10 graduating classes (2009-2018) are combined, SIUE’s 95.9 percent first attempt board pass rate ranks No. 1 among the eight programs in Illinois and Missouri. For third-year students who took the Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment (PCOA), the Class of 2019 ranked 16th among 136 pharmacy schools that took the exam in 2018.

“Our continued success in NAPLEX performance reflects our high-quality students, their hard work, and an excellent curriculum delivered by our dedicated faculty and staff,” said SOP Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs Jingyang Fan, PharmD. (SIUE News Archive: March 2019)
SIUE Students receive grants to study abroad

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville sends an average of 200 students to study abroad each year, and they do everything from studying to working with the community in the hopes of bettering it in some way.

Students at SIUE can choose from about 300 locations all across the world to go to. Study abroad adviser Kim Browning said what the student is studying has a big impact on locations.

Junior history major Abbie Schaefer from Edwardsville, traveled to Florence, Italy, during the Summer 2018 semester with history professor Carole Frick and studied the Italian renaissance. “It was a really wonderful experience; it was something that I, for sure, will never forget, both as a history person and just as a person who loves to travel and see the world,” Schaefer said.

Students who wish to study abroad can apply for grants to help pay for part of their trip or the entire trip. Marc Hohlt, a senior chemistry and international studies double major, spent the spring 2019 semester in Heredia, Costa Rica thanks in part to a generous grant from the Benjamin Gilman Scholarship Fund through the U.S. State Department.

“At SIUE, we value this scholarship support as our students who receive Pell Grants have the opportunity for an international educational experience that is otherwise out of reach,” said Browning.

(SIUE News Archive & Alestle Archive: January 2019)
STUDY ABROAD FAIR
SIUE students explored the possibilities of traveling worldwide during the Study Abroad Fair held in the Morris University Center’s Goshen Lounge. Hundreds of students used the opportunity to talk directly with faculty leading 2019 travel-study programs, visit with representatives from provider companies, learn about services for students studying abroad, and talk with other students who have already studied abroad.

(SIUE E-Today)

ITU/SIUE DUAL DEGREE ENGINEERING STUDENT GAINS GLOBAL EXPERIENCE AT UN
A sophomore in the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Engineering’s dual degree program with Istanbul Technical University (ITU), Ozge Ozisiklioglu calls herself privileged to have access to high-quality education in both Turkey and the U.S. Upon completion of her bachelor’s, Ozisiklioglu plans to pursue a graduate degree in the social sciences.

She visited New York University and the United Nations headquarters through the Youth Assembly program organized by the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation. According to Ozisiklioglu, participants are interested in acting on the planet’s most challenging issues regarding the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.

Ozisiklioglu spent one day at the UN headquarters and two days at New York University for presentations by diplomats and ambassadors. She noted the value of connecting with colleagues pursuing other specializations. “My colleagues are studying law, medicine, engineering, architecture, international relations and more,” Ozisiklioglu explained. “However, we have a common goal. We had inspiring dialogue and brainstorming sessions.”

“Highly educated people have a responsibility to provide future generations with a better world,” she said. “Obviously, this is not a movement I can pursue individually. I need partners. The best place for me to find partners and colleagues is through organizations like the Youth Assembly, which involves many young, passionate people from around the world.”

(SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
SIUE’S SMITH EARN SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY ABROAD IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Hayley Smith, a junior at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, is one of five students nationwide to have received a $2,000 INSIGHT Into Diversity Global Engagement Scholarship. The scholarship supported a 16-day study abroad experience in Northern Ireland.

Smith, who is a double major in political science and philosophy, hoped to uncover how Ireland’s political system differs from America’s. Smith credits Laurie Rice, PhD, professor in the College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Political Science, and the SIUE Office of International Affairs, with helping her achieve this award and fulfill her international travel dreams.

Kim Browning, study abroad advisor in the SIUE Office of International Affairs, also facilitated Smith’s application and encouraged her during the process.

“One of our goals in the Office of International Affairs is to promote participation in study abroad activities across our student population,” Browning said. “Too many students assume they cannot afford to study abroad. Actually, there are many programs which cost no more, or even less, than a semester at SIUE.

“Scholarships like these speak directly to those students, and it’s important to remember that diversity includes many descriptions of identity. Students should inquire if they are not sure if they qualify.” (SIUE News Archive: February 2019)

SIUE ALUMNUS DEVOTES 10 MONTHS OF SERVICE AS AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEER

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville alumnus Hank Niemerg is dedicating 10 months of service, relating to community and spirituality. Niemerg completed a bachelor’s in computer science from the SIUE School of Engineering in 2018. Augustinian Volunteers are recent college graduates who feel called to spend a year in service to others while living in an intentional community, and committing to personal and spiritual development.

During his 10-month tenure as an Augustinian Volunteer, Niemerg served as a substitute teacher at Saint Augustine School and assisting with after school activities. “The Augustinian Volunteer experience centers on relationships with Augustinian friars, fellow volunteers, service site partners, program staff and God,” said Joanna Bowen, director of the Augustinian Volunteers. “Through service to others, young adults have the opportunity to utilize their skills for the common good, while learning alongside the communities they encounter.”

“I have always seen service as an important part of my Catholic faith and am very happy I’ve been given a chance to serve at this stage in my life,” said Niemerg. (SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
SIUE’S GARCIA RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS BOREN SCHOLARSHIP
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville senior Beth Garcia, of Mascoutah, has been awarded a Boren Scholarship to study at Korea University in Seoul, South Korea, from August 2019 through June 2020. A senior majoring in international studies and English, Garcia will study Korean language and culture.

Prestigious Boren Scholarships are provided by the U.S. National Security Education Program to provide funding for undergraduate students to study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. interests. Boren Scholars represent a pool of individuals who wish to work in the federal national security arena and commit to working in the federal government for at least one year after graduation in exchange for funding.

“Beth was highly motivated to apply for this award,” said Mary Weishaar, SIUE executive director of International Affairs. “Although she had not studied Korean before, she based her essays on her study of Mandarin at SIUE, her interest in Korean language and culture, and her keen desire to serve as a translator.”

“The Boren Scholarship service requirement is also a great way to gain real world experience with the potential to find a lifelong career,” Garcia said. After graduation, Garcia plans to enter graduate school to study language translation. Her career goal is to work as a translator for the U.S. government.

(SIUE News Archive: April 2019)

SIUE PROFESSOR EMERITA ENDOWS ART THERAPY SCHOLARSHIP, PROMOTES PAYING IT FORWARD
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s art therapy counseling graduate program’s first director, now professor emerita, Patricia “Gussie” Klorer, PhD, ATR-BC, LCSW, LCPC, has contributed $25,000 to the SIUE College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) to create an endowment for the Art Therapy Founders Scholarship in support of students pursuing an advanced degree in art therapy.

“I wish to convey the idea that paying it forward is a responsibility,” Klorer said. “Just about every student in our program received some sort of financial aid through a graduate assistantship or scholarship. My hope is that this endowment will grow, so that we can give even more each year.”

Klorer, who retired in May 2018, represents a strong heritage of the art therapy counseling program. She began teaching art therapy at the University in 1985 as an adjunct professor, laying much of the foundation on which others have built. The art therapy counseling program combines the therapeutic uses of art-making with the skills of a professional counselor.

“Endowed scholarships are extremely impactful because they provide scholarship support to students annually, and the fund pays out in perpetuity,” explained CAS Director of Development Kyle Moore. “Gussie’s gift is a legacy for the art therapy program that will support their students and their outstanding work in our community.”

(SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
SIUE’S CANNON ESTABLISHES STUDENT TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP THROUGH PLANNED GIFT
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Kevin Cannon, PhD, associate professor and chair of the College of Arts and Sciences’ (CAS) criminal justice studies program created a planned gift of $150,000 through life insurance that will establish an endowed student travel scholarship.

The CAS Broadening Horizons Travel Scholarship will be available to all CAS majors, with preference given to students with a demonstrated financial need, no international travel experience (including vacations), and an earnest response to the question: “How would a study abroad opportunity impact your life and affect your educational goals?”

“This planned gift through life insurance allows me to provide greater financial resources to the University than I could ever afford to donate while alive,” Cannon explained.

“Endowed scholarships are extremely impactful, because they provide scholarship support to students annually, and the fund pays out in perpetuity,” said CAS Director of Development Kyle Moore. “Planned gifts like Dr. Cannon’s allow people to leave a lasting effect on campus and can be created through a myriad of ways.” (SIUE News Archive: April 2019)

VISITING CHINESE SCHOLARS

Beginning in 2012, the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior (SEHHB) began hosting visiting faculty members from China as participants in the International Training Program in Pedagogy (ITPP).

Visiting lecturers and artists provide insight into diverse and sometimes global perspectives. By bringing their unique cultures, viewpoints and techniques into classrooms and studios, guest instructors introduce students to new concepts, skill sets and means of learning. This fosters critical thinking and enhances student learning.

This year the program hosted 5 scholars from Northwest Normal University, China and held a series of lectures to discuss research and American style pedagogy. (SIUE School of Education, Health and Human Behavior)
VISITING FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR GAINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR SIUE EXPERIENCE

As a host institution of the Fulbright program, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville welcomed Visiting Fulbright Scholar Wajdi Balloumi, of Tunisia, to serve as a teaching assistant in the College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Foreign Languages and Literature.

The Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program aims to increase Americans’ knowledge of other cultures and languages by supporting teaching assistantships in over 30 languages at hundreds of colleges and universities.

Due to his extensive campus involvement, Balloumi was chosen as a model scholar at the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Mid-Year Conference in December 2018 in Washington, D.C. Prior to arriving at SIUE, Balloumi worked as an English teacher and assisted non-governmental organizations focused on entrepreneurship, women empowerment, countering violent extremism and fighting corruption in Tunisia. He was also invited to speak on Tunisia and the influence of French colonization for another professor.

Aside from teaching undergraduate Arabic courses, Balloumi has fully embraced SIUE’s campus life. Balloumi has also become extremely active in a number of student organizations, including the Global Ambassador Program, Public Relations Student Society of America, which he was elected the organization’s treasurer, Service Saturdays, as well as the International Hospitality Program.

“I find the International Hospitality Program particularly unique because it helps to integrate international students into the community by fostering relationships between students and American families, which I consider very welcoming,” Balloumi said. “As a Fulbright scholar, I’m expected not only to teach and take courses, but also to serve as a cultural ambassador of my country.

“By engaging with the community and sharing my experiences, I can begin to change stereotypes and help promote mutual understanding and positive cultural exchange.”

“Mr. Balloumi brings a broad range of interests and experience as he was involved in training local communities in Tunisia,” said SIUE’s Carolina Rocha, PhD, professor of Spanish and Latin American studies. “The many activities in which he was involved during his first semester, followed by his subsequent selection in the Fulbright conference, demonstrate that he could successfully transfer his leadership skills from Tunisia to the United States. He is an inspiration for the SIUE community.”

(SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES DAY
The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) international studies program hosted the third edition of International Studies Day to engage the campus community in international affairs and promote global career opportunities.

The third annual event featured a keynote address from Scott Rauland, a senior advisor at the U.S. Department of State and member of the Senior Foreign Service, and panel discussions highlighting businesses and nonprofits with international focus in the region.

“International studies are enormously valuable in our society, as globalization is inevitable. It is important that we optimize it, and celebrate its diversity in voices and opinion. Still, there are things that we need to protect, information that must be safeguarded,” said CAS Dean Greg Budzban, PhD, as an introduction to Rauland who spoke on the topic of Russian disinformation with an address entitled “From Soviet Propaganda to the Firehose of Russian Falsehood.”

“We hope attendees gained new information concerning the realities and complexities of this world, and a hunger to find out more on their own or through SIUE’s growing international studies program,” said Program Director and Associate Professor Sorin Nastasia, PhD. (SIUE News Archive: April 2019)

CHINA-U.S. RISING STAR STUDY TOUR
Through the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), students had the remarkable opportunity to visit four Chinese cities within two weeks. This is a non-credit program focused on student dialogue, skill-building and an in-depth cultural experience through lectures, and visits to prime industry and cultural spots to provide students with a multi-dimensional experience of China and its essences.

Project based learning and training in different labs are also important components of the study tour. Students from the two countries with similar academic backgrounds develop and improve their professional knowledge and skills together through lessons taught by participating faculty members, industry visits and cooperative learning.

(American Association of State Colleges and Universities)
SIUE PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENTS LIVE MISSION TO SHAPE A CHANGING WORLD

This year, eight public health students from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville embarked on a five-week travel study in Eastern Africa. The travel study program was made possible through a long-term partnership with Ndejje University in Uganda. According to Michelle Cathorall, DrPH, MPH, SIUE Assistant Professor of Public Health, it offered students the unique opportunity to work with diverse communities, an integral learning component of their preparation as future public health leaders.

Cathorall noted the SIUE students’ personal and professional development as they completed community fieldwork and learned to communicate in a productive and meaningful way with Ugandans.

“One of the challenges of training the next generation of public health leaders is helping them develop a global perspective on public health issues and on how to work with those diverse communities to understand and address their health needs in appropriate ways. That’s why experiences like this are essential for our students.”

Highlights of the trip included students working in local Ugandan neighborhoods, helping develop programs to address issues of malaria and HIV, and teaching advanced life skills like enhanced communication, gratitude and patience. They also learned a new sport and competed in a tournament, explored an island that has been turned into a chimpanzee sanctuary, and visited a local government hospital where they learned about the healthcare delivery system’s challenges and improvements.

After a successful inaugural trip to Uganda, Cathorall anticipates this is the first of many travel study programs to the African country.

“To other students considering participating in a future trip, I would say definitely do it,” said Mikayla Colenburg, of St. Louis, a senior studying public health. “This trip presented so many benefits and allowed me to grow as a person and see my major in action. I hope to travel more in the future, so that I can see all the world has to offer.” (SIUE News Archive: August 2018)
SIUE PHARMACY STUDENTS GAIN CLINICAL AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCE IN GUATEMALA

A team of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy students participated in a five-week Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) from mid-February to mid-March in Antigua, Guatemala. The APPE experience involved participation in ambulatory care clinics. In addition to clinical practice, students gained experience in cultural competence, proficiency in medical Spanish, health literacy and health disparities.

The team saw more than 905 patients for pre-consultations. They conducted nearly 500 blood pressure screenings and more than 380 blood glucose screenings. The students also hosted presentations on such health topics as depression, stress, hypertension, sleep hygiene and diabetes.

Guiding the students during the APPE were the SIUE School of Pharmacy’s Misty Gonzalez, PharmD, and Carrie Vogler, PharmD, both clinical associate professors in the Department of Pharmacy Practice. “I was extremely impressed with the care our students provided to all of the patients they saw,” Vogler commented. “It was great to watch them work, and to share these enlightening experiences with them.”

(SIUE News Archive: April 2019)

SIUE SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING CENTER BRINGS IMPACTFUL SCREENING SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Speech-Language-Hearing (SLH) Center’s latest community partnership brought speech-language pathology graduate student clinicians to Metro East Montessori School (MEMS) in Granite City for a five-day screening event that included primary and elementary students.

“We were fortunate to receive a $2,475 grant from the SIUE Meridian Society that allowed us to purchase the necessary resources for this screening opportunity with the Metro East Montessori School,” said SIUE SLH Center Coordinator Jaime Henderson, MS, CCC-SLP.

Henderson notes that screenings help identify children who may need further assessment. Early detection and intervention, through screenings, promote treatment when needed to improve quality of life and allow students to enjoy all the benefits of their educational experience.

“This partnership with the MEMS offers our graduate students the opportunity to engage with children and have conversations with classroom guides and parents,” Henderson explained. “It’s a valuable way for them to practice what they learn in the classroom and further enhances the training they receive at our on-campus clinic, by bringing them into schools and other public environments.”

(SIUE News Archive: April 2019)
SIUE NURSING STUDENTS ASSIST COSTA RICAN PATIENTS

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s commitment to service was again on display as the School of Nursing took a nine-person team comprised of students, faculty and an alumna to Costa Rica, where they saw nearly 1,000 patients in four clinic days at four locations.

Valerie Griffin, DNP, assistant clinical professor and director of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program (FNP), led the team that traveled in partnership with Central America Mission Projects (CAMP). In seven days, they visited La Carpio, Pavas, Alajuela and Coco, fed children in the street at Infiernillos and played with children at Ninos con Carino Orphanage.

Griffin describes the most challenging aspect of these visits. “Global service requires flexibility and the ability to critically think about the assessment data in order to develop a plan of care appropriate to the patient, as well as using the limited resources available,” she said. “We saw 978 patients in four clinic days and were able to host a new clinic for the first time in that region.”

The team dealt with some serious issues such as diabetes, hypertension, cellulitis, skin cancer, tuberculosis and a wound requiring stitches.

Previous experience allowed the SON team to strategically structure patient visits for efficiency. “Having been to some of these sites previously allowed us to re-evaluate the process and make improvements,” Griffin said. “When Pastor Elmer informed us that he had 400 people coming to get a new pair of shoes and he wanted to send them all through the clinic, I honestly thought to myself that this was going to be difficult to accomplish. But at the end of that particular clinic day, we saw 495 individuals!”

Griffin points to a positive learning experience, because students are taken out of their comfort zone. “In the United States, we have many resources available in order to care for patients,” she said. “In Costa Rica, these resources are limited. Students acknowledge this and care for their patients using more than just clinical skills.

“They are utilizing a level of cultural competence that exceeds what we expect from nurses in America. This level of compassion becomes the focus of the care we provide and reminds the students of their calling to be a nurse.” (SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
ACCLAIMED AUTHOR AND EDUCATOR OF HOMELESS CHILDREN INSPIRES SIUE HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START STAFF DURING ANNUAL OPENING SESSION

“We are in the best business in the whole world. We are in the kid business,” said award-winning author and educator Stacey Bess to approximately 200 Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Head Start/Early Head Start staff members at Head Start/Early Head Start’s opening session at the East St. Louis Higher Education Campus.

The theme for the daylong session, which included guest speakers during the morning and professional development workshops in the afternoon, was “It Takes a Healthy Village to Raise a Healthy Child,” according to Lynnie Bailey, SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start program director.

Bess is known for the Hallmark movie based on her life, “Beyond the Blackboard,” which depicts Bess in her first teaching job that brought her to a school housed inside of a homeless shelter where she acknowledges she learned some of her greatest lessons. She also wrote the book, Nobody Don’t Love Nobody: Lessons on Love from the School With No Name about her experiences.

In part, Bess recalled her most poignant experience with the homeless student named Zachary, who hated women, because his mother abandoned him. Zachary was hard to win over, but eventually Bess did. “I told Zachary that I would stay in this awful place to work, if he would stay and do his best,” she said. Bess eventually attended Zachary’s high school graduation and hopes to visit him at his home in Alaska one day soon.

“I relate to real life stories like Stacey’s,” said Julie Lechowicz, program services specialist for the home based program option. “Her determination and drive to help others is what life is all about. As home visitors, we see poverty and families in crisis every day. If we could all put ourselves in others people’s shoes, we might be more willing to help others, understand what backgrounds people come from and be less judgmental.” (SIUE News Archive: September 2018)
SIUE HEAD START PARENT WINS ILLINOIS PARENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Head Start/Early Head Start’s Lovejoy Center parent Lateyka Vaughan received the top award during the 2019 Illinois Head Start Association’s Annual Conference at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center.

Vaughan’s four-year-old daughter, Nyomi Zackery, has been at the Lovejoy Head Start Center since 2017, and Vaughan has served as a parent volunteer since that time.

“Ms. Vaughan has been an excellent parent volunteer,” said Kay Robertson, Lovejoy Head Start Center coordinator who nominated Vaughan. “We are pleased that she is such a willing and wonderful worker. She genuinely cares about the children, the teachers and the staff.”

Vaughan credits Head Start for teaching and expanding her child’s education and skills. “What makes for a good Head Start experience is the parents, teachers, staff and the children all collaborating,” explained Vaughan. “For parents, it’s important to be hands-on and build relationships with the ‘at-school parents.’” (SIUE News Archive: April 2019)

SIUE’S SANDRA GOODWIN IS THE ILLINOIS HEAD START TEACHER OF THE YEAR

It wasn’t her first career choice, but Sandra Goodwin’s response to a need, and her desire to educate and empower others has earned the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Head Start/Early Head Start teacher high marks and the 2019 Illinois Head Start Teacher of the Year award. Goodwin was honored during the 2019 Illinois Head Start Association Annual Conference at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center.

As a home visitor, she visits 12 students and their families in St. Clair County. She works with pregnant mothers and children up to age five. “I was really shocked and humbled by it,” said Goodwin, home visitor with SIUE Head Start since 2010 and early childhood educator for approximately 17 years.

“Mrs. Goodwin has continuously shown herself to be a dedicated teacher to not only the children on her caseload, but also to their parents,” said Lisa Tate, SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start program operations coordinator. “She has perfected the art of using her experiences in life to help promote independence and self-sufficiency in the lives of the families she serves.”

“I love what I do,” said Goodwin. “I get to communicate to children that they are the best things in this world, and they can do anything. I also try to empower the parents, because they are their children’s first teachers. They also can keep reaching toward education, like I did and still am doing.” (SIUE News Archive: March 2019)
SIUE’s Center for Faculty Development and Innovation aims to facilitate access to a wide range of development opportunities for faculty as they build their careers at SIUE. Areas of focus include leadership development, teaching and learning experience, research productivity and grant writing, mentoring, work/life balance, career advancement, and serving diverse populations.

This year they sponsored distinguished David Laude, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Texas Austin, as keynote speaker for their event *Creating a Campus Culture Where Every Student Graduates*. This was a general talk given on how the 21st century college campus is necessarily evolving to be more student-centered. The presentation was broadly themed and intentionally provocative. It touched on the roles that administrators, faculty and students play on a higher education landscape impacted by changes in technology, pedagogy and higher education funding models. *(Center for Faculty Development and Innovation Events Archive)*

**BOOK CLUB: iGEN**

We have talked a lot at the university about changing the way we are teaching and learning to meet the needs of today’s and tomorrow’s learners. This book club examined Twenge’s book for important insights into what we can learn about the I-Generation – kids who have grown up in a world where the smart phone has always existed. *(Center for Faculty Development and Innovation Events Archive)*

**CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE**

This annual event is jointly sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Faculty Development Council of Faculty Senate. The program often includes a speaker and a showcase of faculty teaching. This year they sponsored Dr. Patti H. Clayton, experienced practitioner-scholar in community-engaged teaching and learning to examine example community engagement partnerships/projects and explore several frameworks that can help provide guidance for moving in the direction of co-created partnerships. *(Center for Faculty Development and Innovation Events Archive)*
SIUE’S HOWARD RAMBSY TO DIRECT THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS AND LITERARY CROSSROADS SUMMER INSTITUTE, FUNDED BY AN NEH AWARD

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded Southern Illinois University Edwardsville $106,002 to coordinate a summer institute for school teachers concentrating on an 1845 autobiography by Frederick Douglass, an ex-slave who went on to become a significant advocate for justice and civil rights.

Howard Rambsy II, PhD, professor in SIUE’s College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of English Language and Literature, will serve as the director of the Frederick Douglass and Literary Crossroads Institute in July 2019. Tisha Brooks, PhD, and Elizabeth Cali, PhD, both assistant professors in the Department of English Language and Literature, are resident lecturers for the project and co-wrote the grant with Rambsy.

“This Institute reflects our ongoing commitment to collaboration in the classroom and beyond,” emphasized Brooks. “I am most excited about bringing together scholars and teachers from across the country to dialogue about Douglass, and learn from each other. This is an opportunity to extend the reach of our African American literary studies program and expand SIUE’s impact in the region and nationally.”

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY NAMES REINKING’S BOOK TO LIST OF NEW AND NOTABLE TITLES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN INTEREST

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Anni Reinking’s new memoir “Not Just Black and White” was featured among Publishers Weekly’s New and Notable Titles of African American Interest.

Reinking, EdD, is an assistant professor in the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior’s Department of Teaching and Learning. In “Not Just Black and White,” the popular writer, speaker, teacher and workshop leader asks: What is race? How do we define identity? How does education affect our life and relationships?

Reinking shares a white mother’s story of raising a black son in multiracial America. Her roles as a mother and researcher come together in the book, as she shares her family’s life in the hope that their stories will foster learning, discussion, and new places for reflection and growth.

“I felt called to write this story as divides in the country continue to widen, and my son continues to grow and mature into a socially perceived black man in America,” Reinking said.

“I’m honest about my occasional stumbling as a mother through cross-racial experiences that led me to discover how much more I have to learn.”
SIUE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY’S BUTLER NAMED NPHA PRESIDENT

SIUE School of Pharmacy’s (SOP) Lakesha Butler, PharmD, BCPS, was named president of the National Pharmaceutical Association (NPhA). Butler, a clinical professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and coordinator of SOP Diversity and Inclusion, was inducted during the NPhA/SNPhA annual convention held in Charlotte, N.C.

Butler has been a strong leader who makes a positive influence on SOP students. She has served as the faculty advisor for the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) SIUE chapter for more than 10 years.

Butler’s vision for her two-year term is A.C.T.I.O.N. in Excellence. She plans to lead her colleagues with a focus on Advocacy, Collaboration, Transformational Branding, Inclusion, Operational Excellence and Next Generation Preparation.

“It is a tremendous task to lead a national organization, but I am more than ready for the challenge,” Butler said. “The National Pharmaceutical Association is dedicated to representing minority pharmacists and underserved communities on crucial issues affecting healthcare and pharmacy, which I am truly passionate about. I see my presidential role as service to my profession, but more importantly, to patients.”

(SIUE News Archive: August 2018)

SIUE’S JONES HONORED WITH FACULTY HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Each year, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville recognizes one faculty member who demonstrates the humanitarian qualities and philosophy of nonviolent social change such as those enunciated and demonstrated by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In honor of his scholarship and service, Myron W. Jones, PhD, assistant professor in the College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Chemistry, received the Faculty Humanitarian Award at SIUE’s annual Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration. A champion for minorities pursuing an education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) related fields, Jones serves others by helping them achieve their goals and supporting diversity.

“Dr. King worked tirelessly for the freedom and rights for all people,” Jones said. “His life was a model for those who value the virtues of equity, empathy, compassion, humility and justice. Making opportunities available for all makes us all stronger and helps our communities better resemble and emulate the world envisioned by Dr. King,” Jones said. “I hope my small part helps.”

Jones serves as project director for the SIUE Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program. A National Science Foundation-funded activity through Chicago State University, this program provides tutoring support and research stipends to minority students in STEM research. (SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
SIUE STEM FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOWS
The STEM Faculty Research Fellows program provides funds that free up a portion of faculty time for testing classroom innovations, and gives access to the Center’s educational researchers to help assess student outcomes. STEM Center educational researchers also collaborate with the fellows to prepare proposals to external funding agencies for additional research and institutionalization of effective STEM education practices. (SIUE STEM Center)

SIUE STEM FACULTY FELLOW EXPLORES THE INTERSECTION OF TECHNOLOGY USAGE AND HIGHER EDUCATION
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Undrah Baasanjav’s research, “Digital Technology Experiences of SIUE Students and Mapping the Digital Technology Education Curriculum at SIUE,” was conducted through a 2018-19 faculty fellowship with the SIUE Center for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Research, Education and Outreach.

“Projects that bridge STEM and social sciences or humanities, such as Dr. Baasanjav’s study of students’ personal experiences with digital media, bring new perspectives on how to teach STEM in ways that show its relevance to everyday life,” said SIUE STEM Center Director Sharon Locke, PhD.

“Her research is designed to shed light on what technological capabilities, as well as gaps, exist among incoming SIUE freshmen. With this knowledge, faculty can better design courses, and in turn, students can bring those practical skills into the workforce, where they are highly valued by employers.” (SIUE News Archive: December 2018)

SIUE’S ZHANG ADVANCES DEVELOPMENT OF REMOTE ROBOTIC TEACHING PLATFORM AS STEM CENTER FACULTY FELLOW
As a 2018-19 faculty fellow with the SIUE Center for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Research, Education and Outreach, Zhang is collaborating with pedagogical experts to meet his research goals of increasing instructor credibility by enhancing usability and maximizing student learning outcomes.

“Dr. Zhang’s research on the use of telepresence robots will advance knowledge in the rapidly growing area of online learning,” said SIUE STEM Center Director Sharon Locke, PhD. “Distance teachers will be able to interact with classroom students in a more natural way by being more mobile and having better control of presentations.”

“Current remote education only provides video and audio conferencing functions, which is not sufficient for classroom teaching,” Zhang added.

“I aim to develop this easy-to-use and low cost remote educational robotic system so underprivileged classrooms have opportunities to be taught by the best educators.” (SIUE News Archive: January 2019)
SIUE’S YVONNE HART LEADS THE SCHOLAR’S ACADEMY PROGRAM AT THE EAST ST. LOUIS CENTER

Being the first person in her family to graduate college, in part because of the guidance and help of a government-funded TRIO program, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Yvonne Maldonado Hart knows the value of and need for such opportunities. It is one reason that drew Hart to the SIUE East St. Louis Center’s Upward Bound (UB) Scholar’s Academy program, and compels her to offer her best as its director.

“I am a strong believer that TRIO programs work, since I am a proud alumna of Columbia University’s TRIO Talent Search Program,” proclaimed Hart. “Both of my parents migrated from Puerto Rico to New York City seeking better opportunities. I have seen many low income, first-generation students graduate from Upward Bound programs who are making a positive impact in their communities as educators, lawyers, doctors, nurses, counselors, engineers, law enforcement officers and more.”

At the ESLC’s Scholar’s Academy, Hart has been working for the past year to exceed her program objectives for the students and their families. “We provide guidance, access, and information on the processes of college admissions, financial aid and scholarship applications, and also offer career information,” said Hart.

“My goal as director is to share the knowledge I have gained,” concluded Hart, “and empower youth to reach their dreams, despite the obstacles they face.” (SIUE News Archive: April 2019)

ANONYMOUS DONOR GIVES $3.5 MILLION TO BOOST STEM EDUCATION AT SIUE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

A steadfast humanitarian, a staunch supporter of education and a longtime children’s advocate has bestowed $3.5 million upon the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter High School (CHS) to enhance its STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Center and STEM-related learning.

“This gift is a miracle, and I’m so appreciative that the donor chose CHS as the benefactor. We are also excited about what this $3.5 million gift is going to do to change the lives of our students,” said Gina Jeffries, CHS director. CHS opened its STEM Center in fall 2011. Monies for the center also were donated.

“Our intention is to make sure every student at Charter High School has access to technology and expose all of our 120 students to STEM education,” said Willis Young, CHS assistant director. Some initiatives that CHS plans to fund:

- Enhancements for engineering lab
- Laptops and iPads for use by all students
- Space for robotics
- Technology fairs and competition
- Endowed STEM scholarships

(SIUE News Archive: October 2018)
STEM+C AFTER-SCHOOL INITIATIVE INSPIRES MINORITY GIRLS TO SOLVE GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Exploring Global Challenges: A STEM+C Curriculum for Minority Girls is led by the SIUE Center for STEM Research, Education and Outreach, in partnership with the SIUE Department of Computer Science, the iBIO Institute EDUCATE Center and the East St. Louis Christian Activity Center.

The program is funded by a $846,416 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant and is working to integrate computational thinking—a way of thinking about problems so that a computer can be used to explore or solve the problems—into the EDUCATE Center’s existing Stellar Girls STEM curriculum. Implementation of the student program began in November of 2018.

The girls are taking on the role of future engineers and budding scientists, completing projects that challenge them to find solutions for real global issues, solutions that work towards alleviating hunger, promoting human health, meeting the world’s energy needs and sustaining resources for future generations.

“This is an enormous opportunity for these young females,” said Nzinga Medley, academic coordinator at the East St. Louis Christian Activity Center. “It’s sowing seeds in their lives and the community. Participants are always anxious and excited to learn what they’ll be working on next. This program not only aligns with our mission, but expands our ability to reach our goals.”

The girls will progress through a series of hands-on computing activities during four 10-week sessions over two years. Future projects include using chemicals to test for macronutrients in food and then creating a classification system, or data tree, that a computer could use to identify an unknown food by analyzing its components.

“This program is a great example of how universities and community partners can work together to enrich the STEM education of local youth, helping them to see a clear pathway that leads to STEM degrees and careers,” said Georgia Bracey, PhD, STEM Center research assistant professor and principal investigator of the NSF grant.

“I was attracted to this program because my research is about influencing underrepresented populations to pursue STEM, especially girls in engineering,” added Henriette Burns, SIUE STEM Center Fellow, who is responsible for research on the initiative. (SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
FEMALES CELEBRATED AT SIUE EAST ST. LOUIS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL’S WOMEN’S CONFERENCE

Women – in all of their glory, complexities and struggles – were lauded and discussed during the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter High School’s (CHS) mini-conference in honor of Women’s History Month.

“We wanted to both celebrate and bring attention to the issues that have affected women in history and those that are still affecting them today,” said Bridget Nelson, CHS English faculty associate and conference coordinator. “Although women as a group have come closer to equality, we are still not there.”

Conference topics and presenters included: healthy relationships, beauty standards and hair, and women in STEM. CHS students also participated in the following activities during the conference: watching the film, “Girl Rising,” a poetry session, a women’s history jeopardy tournament, and an art portrait project.

“For this conference, intersectionality was an important area of focus,” said Nelson. “Many of our sessions focused on black women and other women of color, who are further away from equality than their white counterparts.” (SIUE News Archive: April 2019)

HUNDREDS ATTEND SIUE’S INTRODUCE A GIRL TO ENGINEERING DAY

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville hosted more than 200 young girls at its seventh annual “Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day” held in the SIUE School of Engineering building. Girls from grades 5-8 attended the daylong event that offered exposure to the engineering field. Participants completed a total of five activities, covering the fields of civil, mechanical, electrical, industrial and computer science.

Small groups used teamwork to design and create their projects. The creative problem solving aspects of engineering were discussed and explored. The participants worked collaboratively on projects, were encouraged to ask questions and use their imagination. (SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
SIUE ADVANCES DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PATHWAY

In order to provide equal access to its most successful educational practices, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is developing the Digital Community Engagement Pathway (DCEP). The DCEP is being developed in partnership with Lewis and Clark Community College, and with the support of a $35,952 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Humanities Connections Grant.

The program focuses on providing underserved students opportunity to address the world’s most pressing problems in applied settings as they fulfill their general education requirements. The DCEP is designed to support underserved students by providing them with access to the high impact practices typical of an honors program. It plans to provide up to $4,000 of funding per year per admitted student.

“Rather than requiring a specific ACT score or GPA, we have designed a set of admissions standards that will allow us to evaluate a student’s commitment to the community, and level of motivation in areas of their life within and beyond the classroom,” noted DCEP Project Director Jessica DeSpain, associate professor of English.

In summer 2019, the project team will host a week-long series of training events for interested faculty. In fall 2020, a pilot version of the DCEP will be launched.

SIUE hosted Dr. James Liszka, director for the Center for Interdisciplinary and Area Studies, senior scholar with the Center for Ethics in Public Life, and professor of philosophy at the State University of New York Plattsburgh. He shared with SIUE faculty his experiences as part of a similarly-designed program: The Common Problem Project.

“Dr. Liszka helped us think more about the logistics and opportunities for the Digital Community Engagement Pathway on our campus,” DeSpain explained. “He provided several methods for working through and understanding the structure of problems with students, and how to structure work with community partners.”

“I’m excited about this program, because it will help SIUE make a valuable, lasting impact on the surrounding region and emphasize the importance of the University for our community,” DeSpain concluded.

With full program implementation slated for fall 2021, a collaborative planning committee’s work is well underway to see this educational pathway come to fruition.

(SIUE News Archive: March 2019)
SIUE FORMALIZES CHANGSHU INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has formalized a Sino-American Dual Degree Program with Changshu Institute of Technology (CIT) in Changshu, China. An SIUE delegation visited CIT in early November to meet and welcome 25 CIT students to the SIUE School of Engineering’s Mechatronics and Robotics program in January 2020.

The SIUE delegation included Mary Weishaar, executive director of international affairs; Scott Belobrajdic, associate vice chancellor for enrollment management; Keqin Gu, distinguished research professor in engineering; and Jim Monahan, director of international and graduate admissions. The group attended the International Forum for Jiangsu Association of Sino-American Universities. They met with representatives from the Chinese Ministry of Education, the Jiangsu Province Education Department and the Jiangsu Association of Sino-American Universities, which involves 12 institutions.

The agreement is a result of SIUE’s membership in the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). The AASCU has teamed with the China Center for International Educational Exchange (CCIEE) to offer the Sino-American 1+2+1 Dual Degree Program for the past 16 years. The program provides Chinese undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to study at an AASCU institution. The Chinese Ministry of Education recognizes it as a Program of Excellence. Approximately 100 Chinese institutions currently participate by annually sending 300 students to 30 U.S. institutions.

(CSI Archive: November 2018)

CAS TARGETED FUNDING INITIATIVE SUPPORTS 25 INNOVATIVE FACULTY PROJECTS

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Dean Greg Budzban, PhD, is again demonstrating his strong support of faculty innovation by providing monetary support for 25 new faculty-proposed projects via the CAS Targeted Funding Initiative (TFI).

The CAS TFI utilizes funding acquired through the College’s Winter Session courses and is supplemented with other CAS internal funds. Since the initiative’s launch in 2015, Budzban has provided more than $600,000 to faculty and staff.

“This is how an institution renews itself,” said Budzban. “Funding comes back and goes to projects that have the potential to develop into applications that have impact across the College.”

The 2019 projects enhance learning, deepen community connections, and improve campus spaces and instructional technologies. They span the College’s diverse programming from theater, music, mass communications, international studies, sociology and criminal justice to geography, chemistry, historical studies, English, foreign languages and literature, environmental sciences and philosophy.

(SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
CAS PRESENTS DISTINGUISHED GOING AWARD TO DR. GERALD O’BRIEN

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Gerald O’Brien, PhD, professor in the Department of Social Work, is the recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences’ (CAS) 2019 William and Margaret Going Endowed Professorship Award.

The distinguished award honors faculty who fundamentally connect their scholarship to their teaching and transform students’ lives. O’Brien’s fascinating scholarly work centers on historical eugenics and contemporary bioethics, and brings a disability perspective to these issues. O’Brien’s research also considers the relationship of pejorative metaphor themes to social injustice movements.

Since joining the SIUE Department of Social Work in 1997, O’Brien has lived the University’s teacher-scholar model by integrating his research in the classroom, and involving students as fellow researchers and often co-authors.

“I’m incredibly pleased and humbled to receive this award,” said O’Brien. “Through my research in historical aspects of disabilities, and especially my focus on eugenics, I came to realize the importance of how social problems or groups are framed, categorized or identified. This further relates to public policy, and the services and funding options that are supported, as well as the support or lack thereof, provided for measures of social control.” (SIUE News Archive: February 2019)

SIUE NAMES SMUCKER DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE EDUCATION

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Associate Provost and Graduate School Dean Jerry Weinberg, PhD, has named Jill Smucker as director of graduate education. Smucker assumed her new duties at the turn of the New Year.

In her role, Smucker is responsible for administration of programs and services for graduate students, expansion of the master’s degree in healthcare informatics and integrative studies, management of graduate program assessment and review, and leading new initiatives for graduate student success.

“Jill brings a wealth of experience to the Graduate School, having worked with graduate students and faculty from three different higher education institutions,” Weinberg said. “We look forward to her leadership in advancing graduate studies at SIUE.”

SIUE’s outstanding reputation for delivering high quality graduate programs and student support services appealed to Smucker. “I look forward to working in collaboration with SIUE faculty and staff to make continuous improvements to Graduate School services, and to ensure that graduate students are engaged in the many opportunities we offer.” (SIUE News Archive: January 2019)
OUTSTANDING STUDENT RESEARCH SPOTLIGHTED AT UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS SHOWCASE

More than 180 Southern Illinois University Edwardsville students from 30 degree programs showcased their Senior Assignments and Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA) to the campus community during the annual Undergraduate Scholars Showcase.

The showcase highlighted the depth and variety of SIUE’s Senior Assignment, the culminating undergraduate experience, and URCA programs. Outstanding research and creative activities were shared as performances, demonstrations, presentations, readings and poster displays.

“I was so impressed by our students. They never cease to amaze me,” said Jessica Harris, PhD, interim assistant provost and associate professor in the Department of Historical Studies. “Their accomplishments speak to how valuable and rewarding undergraduate research opportunities are, and why SIUE is committed to offering more of these experiences for our students.”

Senior dance majors Kristen Ahring and Brian Lynch, of Edwardsville, offered a special performance of “Knockturn,” a piece they debuted at SIUE’s spring Dance in Concert. “Dance is a beautiful blend of artistry and athleticism,” added Lynch. Both he and Ahring plan to pursue professional dancing careers following their May graduation.

Senior public health majors Amy Baxter, Kaitlen Bruhn, Danielle Begeske, Rosa Flores and Lindsey Douglas described the impact of their project: “X-Stress Yourself: Public Health Project at Belleville East High School.”

“We developed a stress and anxiety program for Belleville East High School, and our target population was freshmen in health classes,” explained Baxter, of Edwardsville. “We wanted to help students understand what stress and anxiety are, explain how they’re different, offer coping techniques, and educate them on resources they can access in the community.”

Each participant in the Undergraduate Scholars Showcase received a certificate of achievement.

(SIUE News Archive: April 2019)
As part of National Suicide Prevention Awareness Week, a suicide prevention conference was held Wednesday, Sept. 12. Suicide is currently the second most common cause of death among college students, and Suicide Prevention Awareness Week was a way to help inform and engage health professionals and SIUE community about suicide prevention and the warning signs.

Funding for the Suicide Prevention conference was given in a three year grant through Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Active Minds and iCare at SIUE sponsored PostSecretU, a program that serves as a gateway to opening the conversation about hopes, dreams, fears, problems and stresses that people are experiencing, but might not feel comfortable talking about.

PostSecretU was started by Frank Warren as a community art project where he asked people to anonymously send him homemade postcards with a secret on them. Students had the opportunity to fill out their own postcards at Counseling Services from Aug. 20 through Sept. 5. He spoke as a culmination of the conference, emphasizing the importance of bringing people together.

“It continues the conversation around having an awareness that we are a community and that we all have a hand in promoting mental health wellness as well as identifying when people are in distress and being able to refer people for support if there are thoughts of suicide or self harm,” said Lisa Thompson-Gibson, Suicide Prevention Project Coordinator and SIUE counselor. (Alestle Archive: September 2018)
**FRESH CHECK DAY**
SIUE hosted Fresh Check Day to “check-in” on the mental health and wellness of its students. The expo-like atmosphere brought together interactive exhibits combined with food, prizes and giveaways. The booths featured peer-to-peer messaging in a positive, community-focused setting.
*(SIUE News Archive: February 2019)*

**ERASING THE STIGMA**
SIUE’s Black Student Union and the Black Graduate Student Association hosted the Erasing the Stigma event to discuss the unique challenges of African-American students regarding mental health. This event featured a panel of students and faculty and open discussion of personal experiences of mental health stigma.
*(Alestle Archive: November 2018)*

**TUNING OUT STIGMA**
ACCESS, in collaboration with the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) Southwestern Illinois Chapter, invited SIUE alumna Theresa San Luis Teller to present “Tuning Out Stigma,” a personal story of perseverance supported by valuable mentorship. She offered remarks and shared her talents as a pianist at the Center for Spirituality and Sustainability.

While at SIUE, Teller formed a bond with mentor Lora Miles, former associate vice chancellor for Student Affairs. The mentorship program that helped make a positive difference in Teller’s life currently has approximately 50 students matched with SIUE faculty and staff.

“I’m paying it forward. I was incredibly helped by disability support services that matched me and paired me with Lora Miles,” said Teller. “And if my story of being driven will just change some people’s lives as a stigma-fighting role model, then it’s worth it.” *(SIUE News Archive: April 2019)*
Goal 4

Develop and maintain a campus climate that acknowledges, embraces, and celebrates diversity and inclusion as a core value of the SIUE community.

- Objective 1: Create a campus climate that is civil, supportive, and respectful, and that values differing perspectives and experiences.

- Objective 2: Review campus culture data.

- Objective 3: Enhance communications projecting diversity and inclusion.

- Objective 4: Review policies and procedures pertaining to diversity, inclusion and equity.

- Objective 5: Increase, enhance, and showcase our campuswide community engagement diversity and inclusion initiatives.

- Objective 6: Enhance environments supporting diversity and inclusion.

- Objective 7: Create and sustain an institutional infrastructure that effectively supports progress in achieving goals in the SIUE Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan.
INCLUSIVE CONVERSATIONS

Previously known as Biweekly Dialogues, the new Inclusive Conversations, sponsored by the Offices of the Provost and Student Affairs, were held to support critical conversations and understanding of campus climate issues for students, faculty, and staff. Some of the topics discussed included social justice and the collective responsibility to build a sustainable campus environment; one which embodies citizenship, excellence, inclusion, integrity, and wisdom. (Alestle Archive: October 2018)

INCLUSIVE CONVERSATION TACKLES MARGINALIZATION

The conversations were held every other Friday. On Friday, Oct. 12, the conversation focused on marginalization. Interim SIUE East St. Louis Center Executive Director Timothy Staples said marginalization is a topic that people can share unified experiences about.

Staples said people can empathize through marginalization, and it allows them to connect over shared experiences. “A person of one race can not really accurately say [they] understand completely what that other person is going through,” Staples said, “but, everyone has a moment of when they were marginalized.” (Alestle Archive: October 2018)

INCLUSIVE CONVERSATIONS ALLOW FOR HEALTHY DIALOGUE ON CAMPUS

January’s topic related to Martin Luther King Jr. “Who’s in the Margin — Enacting the Dream” was the main discussion point, and led to an open discussion between students, faculty, and administrators. The meeting itself was held on Jan. 8 in the Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Dr. Jessica Harris said having open conversations can help students, faculty, and administrators determine their roles in change on campus. Darrius Brimmage, a junior mass communications student from Belleville, Illinois said people need to understand a group in order to accept their differences.

“I’ve been thinking about how we can get to a point where we are able to get past our differences, but you have to get to know people past common ground and understand their experiences, and once we do that we can become more accepting of each other.” (Alestle Archive: January 2019)
ALESTLE VIEW: WHAT WE WISH YOU KNEW ABOUT OUR WIWYK CAMPAIGN

Last semester, The Alestle was chosen as one of nine college newspapers for Poynter’s College Media Project. The program encouraged and allowed our staff to create and execute a detailed campaign. While planning, we realized there were a lot of incidents on campus that needed to be brought to the community’s attention. The Alestle chose “What I Wish You Knew,” a project which aims to bridge gaps between diverse groups on campus.

We published our Hate Issue, where we cited racially-charged events and talked about their effects. We realized there was a need for healthy and constructive conversations between faculty, staff and students on campus. So we did something about it — we reached out to these groups to do just that.

Our publication’s goal is to be the voice of students on campus, and we want to stay true to this. By becoming more in tune with what the student body has to say about themselves and their experiences, we felt like the campaign aligned with our mission as a student publication. (Alestle Archive: April 2019)

WHAT I WISH YOU KNEW

A MINORITY IN A MINORITY IN A MINORITY

“Being a minority within a minority within a minority on campus is challenging. It’s the “Inception” of oppression that you cannot wake up from. It’s fulfilling to work in a space that shines a light upon different issues affecting the student population.”

(Alestle Archive: January 2019)

THE LITTLE THINGS MATTER

“I was raised up in a smaller farm town near Chicago. I worked on a farm for about six years. I did it all from cleaning up the tractors to plowing the fields. What I wish you knew is we all have little things about us that make us us, and I am no exception.”

(Alestle Archive: March 2019)
SAFE ZONE
Safe Zone’s mission is to develop a campus community of allies and provide support to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and ally/sexual (LGBTQIA+) students, faculty, and staff with the ultimate goal of developing SIUE as a safe and welcoming place for LGBTQIA+ people. (SIUE Safe Zone)

ST. LOUIS PRIDE
More than 20 SIUE faculty, staff, students and supporters participated in St. Louis’ 39th annual PrideFest activities, funded and supported by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Students Affairs. Heading up the delegation was Shelley Price-Williams, PhD, coordinator in the School of Business’s Office of Student Services and Transitions, and SIUE Safe Zone co-chair. This was the sixth consecutive year Safe Zone was a part of the annual PrideFest Grand Parade.

“SIUE also manned a booth for both days of the festival,” said Price-Williams. “We were the only university or college represented. People were overwhelmingly happy to see us. We gave out information on enrollment and SIUE. We also gave away more than 500 promotional items.”

“Our presence allows us to connect with potential students looking for an institution that will support them, and those they care about within the LGBTQIA community,” said Rex Lee Jackson, M.Ed, associate director for Residence Life, and past co-chair of SIUE Safe Zone. “This also allows SIUE to show that we as an institution are living the values we want our students to live by being visible at PrideFest.”

(SIUE News Archive: June 2018)

COMMUNITY AND ALLY WELCOME RECEPTION
The eighth annual Safe Zone/LGBTQIA Community and Ally Welcome Reception was held in the Morris University Center and more than 50 administrators, faculty, staff and students attended. The collective accomplishments of Safe Zone and its allies were shared, along with plans for the year.

“The LGBTQIA Welcome Reception was an informal way to welcome members and allies of the LGBTQIA community,” said Shelley Price-Williams. “We saw an increase in student attendance from the last few years,” added Price-Williams. “I attribute that to students feeling welcome, safe and having a community of support here at SIUE.”

“It is always great to welcome our LGBTQIA and Ally students back each year,” said Rex Jackson, associate director of Residence Life and past Safe Zone co-chair. “This allows them to connect to other LGBTQIA and Ally students, and to see members of the campus administration who are supporters of this community.” (SIUE News Archive: August 2018)
ALLY TRAINING
SIUE’s Safe Zone provided its annual ally training to raise awareness about what it means to be a part of the LGBTQIA community. This training provided participants the skills and understanding to best support the LGBTQIA community. *(SIUE Safe Zone)*

“REAL TALK” SESSION HELD ON RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY
The Center for Diversity and Inclusion held a group session known as the Relationship “Real Talk” Social Group which allowed students, faculty and staff to give and receive peer feedback about relationships within the LGBTQ community. Washington University Assistant Director for Leadership and LGBTQIA Involvement Travis Tucker visited SIUE to conduct a group session on relationships in the LGBTQ community in a safe, non-judgmental space.

“We have to recognize that, one, relationships, while they all are similar and all are based around issues such as pieces of consent and issues of respect and communication, for queer folks because of our lived experiences, because of our identities and where we have been, and because of the context, relationships sometimes are going to look a little different,” Tucker said. *(Alestle Archive: April 2019)*

GSA PROVIDES A PLACE FOR LGBTQ COMMUNITY AND ALLIES
The Gay-Straight Alliance organization allows LGBTQ students to meet and share feelings, concerns, and experiences with the community and to spread awareness of the SIUE LGBTQ community to the campus as a whole. The 15 members within the organization emphasize the importance of support along with diversity, inclusiveness and community outreach to strengthen the bond between all communities.

First-year social work graduate student and member of GSA Alder Crain, of O’Fallon, Illinois, said it’s important to have an organization like GSA on campus because of the connections you can make. “It really connects people and fosters a sense of community and allows people to meet and connect with others they may not have met otherwise,” Crain said.

This semester the organization has had events such as Board Game Night, a bake sale for the Trevor Project, a movie night, a Smash Bros. tournament and LGBT Time. *(Alestle Archive: April 2019)*
ACCESSIBLE CAMPUS COMMUNITY & EQUITABLE STUDENT SUPPORT (ACCESS)

ACCESS is dedicated to achieving and promoting an accessible campus community to ensure that students of all abilities receive appropriate accommodations and equal opportunity to be successful at SIUE. ACCESS operates as the bridge between the classroom and the stage on commencement day with a vision that students should not come to campus merely to attend, but to graduate. Every policy, procedure and resource implemented has been designed to promote self-advocacy and independence, and remove the gatekeepers to access as much as possible, leveling the playing field for all students. Below is a list of 2018-19 events that embody the commitment to promoting accessibility, and universal inclusion for all diverse learners! (SIUE ACCESS)

• ACCESS!IBILITY EXHIBIT
  The ACCESS!ibility Exhibit featured info-graphic banners, experiential learning opportunities and simulations for visual impairment, learning differences (dyslexia), auditory hallucinations, sensory motor impairment and more. This was an opportunity for students to become more educated and engaged in understanding the need for accessibility as well as better relate to some of the experiences of diverse learners at SIUE. (SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2018)

• ALL ACCESS NEWSLETTER
  This year ACCESS launched its monthly newsletter to showcase its accomplishments, and highlight ACCESS programs and events on SIUE campus. (SIUE ACCESS)

• BLACKBOARD ALLY
  ACCESS united with the offices of Educational Outreach and Information Technology Services to increase web accessibility for students, faculty, and staff. Blackboard Ally is a product that provides alternate formats for uploaded PDF, Word, PowerPoint, and HTML content, in order to meet the needs of diverse learners. (SIUE ITSpotlight: September 2018)

• ED ROBERTS CHAMPIONS OF ACCESSIBILITY CELEBRATION DINNER
  ACCESS will host SIUE’s Inaugural Ed Roberts Champions of Accessibility Celebration Dinner in Fall 2019 to celebrate the contributions of the father of the independent living movement, Ed Roberts, as well as students, faculty and staff who serve as champions advocating for equity, inclusion and access at SIUE. (SIUE ACCESS Events Archive)

2018-2019 Institutional Diversity and Inclusion Annual Report
TUNNEL OF OPPRESSION CONVERTS TO DIGITAL FOR BETTER ACCESSIBILITY

It’s not always easy to recognize the oppression different races, cultures and people with varying backgrounds endure, but with the Tunnel of Oppression these problems may just go viral. Rather than creating displays, the tunnel had a digital layout created by organizations to raise awareness for systematic oppression. SIUE community members were able to walk through a maze-like tunnel to simulate different forms of oppression in the Meridian Ballroom of the Morris University Center.

Organizations such as New Horizons, Asian American Association, Student Diversity Council and Forensic Speech and Debate Society collaborated to prepare for the Tunnel of Oppression. The Tunnel of Oppression included skits from the organizations involved and clips of news stories about systematic oppression.

Senior exercise science major and Student Diversity Officer for Student Government Michelle Krichevsky, of St. Louis, said the design for the Tunnel of Oppression was like no other. “This year we worked with ACCESS to make [the tunnel] more accessible not only to students on campus, but because we are a commuter campus, we wanted to do something for the students who weren’t able to attend the tunnel to see it as well.” (Alesle Archive: March 2019)

AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT GROUP

SIUE counselor Karen Banks, M.Ed., LPC began a weekly support group for black women. This group is a safe space to connect with like-minded women, talk about shared experiences free from judgement, and discover tools to help black women thrive at SIUE. Topics included mental health, sexual health, campus life as a woman of color, holistic wellness, and more. (SIUE E-Today)
MY CURLFRIENDS
My Curlfriends is a student organization committed to celebrating individuality and highlighting the success of African Americans and the history of natural hair through culture and art. This year they hosted a Barber & Beauty Shop Expo featuring local licensed barbers, beauticians, lash artists and more. (SIUE Get Involved)

BLACK STUDIES LECTURE SERIES
As a part of the SIUE Black Studies lecture series, Dr. Anthony Cheeseboro presented “Horror and the Black Body.” Dr. Tisha Brooks presented “Black Mobility and Terror in Jordan Peele’s ‘Get Out.’” (SIUE E-Today)

SIUE EAST ST. LOUIS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CELEBRATE “BLACK HAIRITAGE” WITH DR. MAKESHA HARRIS LEE
Makesha Harris Lee, EdD, assistant director for Pre-Collegiate Programs, presented “Black HAIRitage” to SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School girls at the East St. Louis Higher Education Campus accompanied by members of SIUE’s MyCURLFRIENDS, an organization that provides information about and celebrates black hair.

Elaborate and meticulously crafted braids, cornrows, twists, “locs” and Bantu knots are just a few ways African women wore their hair in their native countries, according to Harris Lee. “In Africa, people could tell a person’s marital, economic, community and religious status based on their hairstyles,” Harris told the group of CHS students. “Hairstyles could also be used to determine if a woman had children or the geographic region in which the person lived.

“Black hair does not solely identify us, but is part of our identity,” said Harris Lee. “These are high school students who will go on to college and adulthood. They will run into decisions about their hair, and they will deal with their relationship to their hair.” (SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION LUNCHEON
SIUE welcomed Dr. Christine Taylor, Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the University of Alabama, as the keynote speaker at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Luncheon, presented by the Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion (CSDI), which drew approximately 265 people.

Dr. Taylor witnessed a cross burning in her neighborhood, was among the first to integrate an all-white elementary school at the age of five, and was welcomed and empowered by her white first-grade teacher to learn and succeed. These experiences and more fueled her in becoming a champion of diversity, equity and inclusion, and positioned her to continue the work in today’s troubling climate.

“Even though King’s speech was 50 years ago, please note the relevancy for 2019,” said Taylor. “We are now faced with the fact, my friends, that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. There is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is the thief of time. Let us rededicate ourselves to the long, bitter, but beautiful struggle for a new world.

“I’m convinced,” she added, “that we are living in the words of Dr. King – the Fierce Urgency of Now: the Sequel.”

(SIUE News & Alestle Archive: January 2019)

SIUE’S DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WEEK ENDS WITH NOTABLE PLAYWRIGHT CASSANDRA MEDLEY
Colorism: It is as old as colonialism, pervasive as racism and remains in effect today. The benefits and consequences of “passing as white” were illustrated and discussed during the closing of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Week. Cassandra Medley presented a portion of her play, “Noon Day Sun,” during the Second Annual Playwright Festival, sponsored by SIUE’s Black Theatre Workshop, Department of Theater and Dance, and Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion.

Medley, originally from Detroit, has written more than 20 plays. She began writing in 1977. She wrote “Noon Day Sun” in approximately 2002, and it was presented on New York Off-Broadway in 2006. “I was gifted with this story,” said Medley.

“Cassandra is a talented playwright, and I was grateful she came to campus,” said Kathryn Bentley, director of the SIUE Black Studies program and associate professor in the Department of Theater and Dance.

“Cassandra Medley’s play beautifully illustrates this issue, and gives us an opportunity to talk about something that is still prevalent in our communities,” said Bentley.

(SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
CONTRIBUTIONS AND POWERFUL PURPOSES OF AFRICAN AMERICANS HAILED AT SIUE BLACK HERITAGE MONTH OPENING CEREMONY

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville marked its 19th annual celebration of Black Heritage Month at SIUE, sponsored by the University’s Campus Activities Board (CAB). “Our Powerful Purpose” was the theme for the month and Amelia Williams, a senior majoring in biology, was the Black Heritage Month CAB chair.

“As blacks celebrate every day, but February is our anniversary,” said Williams. “Being black is something we go through every single day. It is something in the present that we have to persevere through, in the past our ancestors shed blood, sweat and tears for, and something in which future generations will take pride.”

Other black history lessons came from students of the National Pan-Hellenic Council at SIUE. Members of black Greek sororities and fraternities spoke about the origins of their organizations and what black history meant to them. In doing so, Sigma Gamma Rho sorority member Naja Gbala performed her original rap song, “NPHC, Speaking on Black History.” Taylor Robinson, a graduate student majoring in College Student Personnel Administration, performed her original poem, “I Was Never Meant to be this Educated.”

“This is your charge, to be brilliant, beautiful, bold and black,” said emcee Dominic Dorsey II, director of Accessible Campus Community & Equitable Student Support (ACCESS), at the conclusion of the program. “Never let anyone tell you to make yourself small for their comfort. Be more black means that this is not the time to turn down, but a time to turn up.” (SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
MARVIN JOHNSON DISCUSSES CHALLENGES FOR BLACK MEN IN CORPORATE AMERICA

Marvin Johnson, senior director of Integrated Services Management at Johnson & Johnson, Inc., spoke to an audience at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and delivered a resounding message for African American men facing hardships and dilemmas in corporate America – adapt and overcome at the Department of Political Science and the Political Science Association’s (PSA) Black Heritage Month symposium.

Johnson pointed out a few impediments for African Americans and stressed the importance of training to bolster one’s areas of weaknesses and to find mentors and advocates.

“Addressing the plight of African American men (from the perspective of an African American male), it is evident that there can be individual successes in corporate America, such as Mr. Johnson’s indisputable success,” said Dr. Timothy E. Lewis, assistant professor in the Department of Political Science. “However, these successes do not negate the institutional and structural barriers that black men still face.” (SIUE News Archive: March 2019)

A GLIMPSE OF BLACK HISTORY

SIUE East St. Louis Center’s Learning Resource Center (LRC) featured Reginald Petty, a seasoned civil rights leader, activist, educator, author, historian and former Peace Corp director, to speak about his experience. (SIUE News Archive: February 2019)

DR. EMMANUEL ENEYO

Black History Month at SIUE included Dr. Emmanuel Eneyo. During Eneyo’s long and productive career at SIUE, he has worked to ensure that students receive a quality education, supported black engineering students in their pursuit to the finish line and advocated for more black faculty. (SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
BLACK THEATRE WORKSHOP PRESENTS “BLACK IN MY DAY”

2018 marked the 20th anniversary of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Black Theatre Workshop (BTW), an annual multicultural event that, in conjunction with Black History Month, celebrates the voices and visions of SIUE’s diverse student population. BTW celebrated with the opening of the “Black in My Day” production at the Metcalf Theater on campus.

The late SIUE professor Lisa Colbert started the BTW in 1999 as an avenue for students to create and perform theatrical work of the African-American theater canon, according to Kathryn Bentley, associate professor in the Department of Theater and Dance, BTW artistic director and director of the SIUE Black Studies Program.

“A new generation of young people is witnessing, via social media and smartphones, all the hate we thought had died with black and white photos in history books,” said play director Greg Fenner, who received his bachelor’s in theater performance from SIUE in 2009. “Through scenes, music, poetry and dance, ‘Black in My Day,’ asks what it means to be a minority in a post-Obama America, and how do blacks maintain that feeling of hope in the face of fear?”

Following the final show, an endowed memorial scholarship was given in the name of Lisa Colbert, BTW founder.

“The Professor Lisa Colbert Endowed Memorial Scholarship is awarded to students who exemplify Lisa Colbert’s commitment to upholding the diverse voices in our theatrical expression,” said Bentley. (SIUE News Archive: February 2019)

“REAL LIFE” HIP HOPERA

BTW also presented the touring production of “Real Life” hip hopera on at the University’s Metcalf Theatre. “Real Life” featured the original works of Joel P.E. King, director of the production, who graduated with a bachelor’s in art and a minor in music from SIUE in 2003. Original cast member Cody LaShea Aaron was the associate director, who graduated with a bachelor’s in theatre from SIUE in 2008.

“Real Life” is a two-act hip hopera that explores the attitudes of urban living. The main character, Ray, has a test of faith, when he is forced to choose his morality over a sensationalized street nature that may lead to his demise. Through the power of community, acts of faith and an enduring grandmother, Ray embraces redemption, but at what cost? “This is a powerful, riveting and relevant production,” said Bentley.

“It showcases the incredible talents of some of our SIUE alumni, as well as other artists. ‘Real Life’ has been on stage across the country... I am more than pleased that we get to bring this hit production to SIUE.” (SIUE News Archive: September 2018)
ALUMNUS TIMOTHY STAPLES NAMED INAUGURAL DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR STUDENT DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (CSDI)

SIUE welcomed alumnus Timothy Staples, EdD, back to campus as director of its new Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion. Staples brings to SIUE more than 19 years of experience in secondary and higher education. Since 2015, he has served as director of campus life at South Carolina Governors School for Science and Mathematics where he oversaw student housing, orientation, student conduct and programming.

“Dr. Staples’ passion for and experience in higher education will help build a strong foundation off which our new Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion can flourish. We are committed to advancing our efforts in diversity and inclusion, and ensuring all students experience SIUE as a welcoming and supportive institution that is dedicated to helping them grow and develop both personally and academically,” said SIUE Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Jeffrey Waple, PhD.

“I am honored to return to my alma mater to provide collaborative leadership in the establishment of this new center and program,” Staples said. “I look forward to working with students, faculty and staff as we advance student diversity and inclusion at SIUE.” (SIUE News Archive: June 2018)

CENTER FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION REMODELED

The Center for Student Diversity & Inclusion was remodeled this year with hopes of sharing and celebrating more cultures. The Director of the Center for Student Diversity & Inclusion Timothy Staples believes that the center will be very useful for students and will help students find a place they belong.

“Yes, I think it’s going to be very useful [for students]. My hope is that the center will help all students at SIU find a sense of belonging, and also find it as a place of learning about other cultures and other identities that are represented on campus,” Staples said.

The center offers mentorship for students, along with a five-year strategic plan involving students to strengthen the center. For the 2018-19 school year, the new center had plenty planned to draw students including more heritage and history month celebrations. The center opened Fall 2018. (Alestele Archive: August 2018)
NEW FAMILY FRIENDLY/GENDER INCLUSIVE RESTROOM AT LOVEJOY LIBRARY

SIUE’s Lovejoy Library now offers a new Family Friendly/Gender Inclusive Restroom to promote an inclusive campus environment. It’s located just inside the main entrance on the first floor and is also handicap accessible.

“The University and Lovejoy Library are excited that we could help the Library continue to grow and meet the evolving needs of our students, faculty and guests,” said Rich Walker, SIUE vice chancellor for administration.

“We are consistently working to remove barriers, and ensure the entire campus community feels comfortable and welcome.” (SIUE E-Today)

SIUE DESIGNATED A LIVING ARCHITECTURE REGIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Green Roofs for Healthy Cities (GRHC), and its charitable arm, the Green Infrastructure Foundation (GIF) have named Southern Illinois University Edwardsville as a Living Architecture Regional Center of Excellence (LARCE). SIUE is one of four higher education institutions in the nation to receive the honorable designation.

“We are pleased with this designation and how it positions SIUE as a national leader in this exciting research area,” said SIUE’s Bill Retzlaff, PhD. Sustainable environmental practice underscores SIUE’s value of citizenship. “True to the University’s mission, we are professionals, scholars and leaders who will indeed shape a changing world. Our research efforts in green roof and green wall technologies strongly support that worthy endeavor.”

The University’s proximity to the St. Louis Metropolitan area, and Lebanon, Kan., the geographic center of the U.S., as well as its impactful 600-mile radius reach to many major population centers make it a prime location for this national designation.

The Regional Center at SIUE has initial plans to develop a center website and is working with the other regional centers to plan for training events and regional research conferences in 2019. (SIUE News Archive: September 2018)
SIUE RANKS AMONG MINORITY ENGINEER MAGAZINE 2018 TOP 50 UNIVERSITIES

SIUE ranked among the Annual “Top 50 Universities Fostering Diversity & Inclusion” list published in Minority Engineer magazine. The readers of Minority Engineer magazine selected the top schools in the country which they believe offer a diversified curriculum, student base and faculty, as well as foster a diverse and inclusive learning environment.

Since 2012, the SOE’s minority enrollment has nearly tripled, increasing from 86 students to 243 in 2017, while female enrollment has increased from 122 to 207.

“The School of Engineering is highly motivated to enhance the diversity of its student body and faculty through the conviction that different perspectives lead to a diversity of solutions in tackling engineering problems,” said SOE Dean Cem Karacal, PhD. “As a result, we create an environment where a wide arrange of ideas are exchanged and great solutions are generated. Engineers graduating with such a perspective are surely destined to shape a changing world.” (SIUE News Archive: December 2018)

SIUE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS WINS SEVEN COLLEGIATE ADVERTISING AWARDS

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Marketing and Communications Department received seven awards in the 2018 Collegiate Advertising Awards competition. SIUE matched its standing from each of the past two years when it also received seven total awards.

The Collegiate Advertising Awards program is an elite national program created to honor today’s most talented marketing professionals for outstanding excellence in all forms of advertising, marketing and promotion specific to higher education products and services. The Collegiate Advertising Awards allow for marketing and advertising efforts to compete against similarly sized colleges, universities and other educational organizations nationwide.

Entries are judged on creativity, layout/design, typography, production, quality and overall effectiveness. SIUE earned gold awards in three categories:

- The Lovejoy Library website in the Website Design category
- Men’s basketball schedule poster in the Sports Specific category
- Theater and Dance brochures in the Brochure–Series category

SIUE also earned silver awards in four categories:

- Pre-Advising Lesson Series in the Special Video Production-Series category
- Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan in the Brochure-Multiple Pages category
- The Undergraduate Viewbook in the Student Viewbook-Printed category
- “e” Baseball T-Shirt in the Advertising Specialty category

(SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
SIUE MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVES 13 EDUCATIONAL ADVERTISING AWARDS

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s University Marketing and Communications Department received 13 awards in the 34th annual Educational Advertising Awards sponsored by Higher Education Marketing Report.

The Educational Advertising Awards is the largest, oldest and most respected educational advertising awards competition in the country. Entries are judged on creativity, marketing execution and message impact. SIUE earned gold awards in two categories, silver awards in two categories, bronze awards in five categories, and merit awards in four categories. (SIUE News Archive: March 2019)

UNCONSCIOUS BIAS TRAINING

The Center for Faculty Development and Innovation sponsored Wendy Todd, Manager of Education and Training, who is responsible for Diversity Awareness Partnership’s training and consultation for a variety of organizations on topics regarding diversity, inclusion, and equity.

Participants in this training were exposed to current research on bias, as well as best practices for mitigating bias in ways that are specifically suited for their context. Real-world examples were provided throughout the session in order to demystify what can sometimes be an elusive topic. (Center for Faculty Development and Innovation Events Archive: February 2019)

SIUE’S MONTGOMERY INDUCTED INTO STL SPORTS HALL OF FAME

The St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame inducted legendary former SIUE softball Head Coach Sandy Montgomery into the Hall of Fame at the Illinois Enshrinement Dinner.

Montgomery concluded her SIUE tenure of 30 years of coaching and administrative duties in October 2018. In that time, her accomplishments include more than 1,000 career wins, winning the 2007 NCAA Division II National Championship, 12 NCAA Tournament appearances, six conference titles and ten 40+ win seasons.

“Sandy Montgomery is one of the four pillars that created the SIUE Athletics’ culture and tradition of excellence,” SIUE Athletic Director Bradley Hewitt said. “As an athletic department, we are successful both on and off the field because of Sandy Montgomery, the alumna, coach, administrator and friend. She has mentored and positively affected the lives of so many young coaches and, of course, student-athletes over the past three decades. The sport of softball in this region and nationally has been elevated because Sandy Montgomery.” (SIUE News Archive: January 2019)
SIUE ALUMNA NAMED ILLINOIS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) named Susan Converse as the 2019 Illinois Teacher of the Year at its annual Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year banquet. Converse graduated from SIUE with a BA in Journalism in 1990 and a Masters in Educational Administration in 2004. She began her teaching career in 1995 and has taught at the elementary, middle school and high school levels and worked as an administrator for nine years.

She now teaches Special Education at Edwardsville High School. Converse has taught students with emotional disabilities, learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities and autism. She works with them on their transition needs as they prepare to exit the school system.

Principal Dennis Cramsey said Converse is deserving of being named Illinois Teacher of the Year because of her passion for teaching. “To see Susan in action with kids and see how much she loves kids amongst teaching becomes obvious of why she is deserving of that award.”

Converse opened a coffee shop at her high school in 2016 called the Tiger Den. The Tiger Den Coffee Shop has served as a stepping stone as a self-supported vocational training center for her students.

Having an impact on students’ lives is what Converse believes makes teaching an important job. “Being a teacher means that you have a position to directly impact individual lives on a daily basis and you impact those lives greatly because everything you say, every comment you make and every look you give is internalized by the people around you,” Converse said. “You have a responsibility to be the best you can be.”

(Alestele Archive: February 2019)
SIUE HOSTS HIGHER EDUCATION DIVERSE BUSINESS FAIR
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville held the third annual Diverse Business Fair, “Making Connections,” in the Morris University Center’s Meridian Ballroom. Thirteen Illinois universities and three community colleges took part in the event.

The fair featured information on how to do business with colleges, SIUE, and other State of Illinois public universities, also known as the 13-member Illinois Public Higher Education Cooperative (IPHEC), according to SIUE Procurement Officer Starla Nixon. The free business opportunity afforded small, minority-, women-, persons with disabilities- and veteran-owned businesses access to higher education and community college buyers in one, convenient location.

“It could be seen like speed dating. Vendors come to present what services they can provide,” offered Nixon. “We all have one goal, and that is to help diverse members make connections with other universities, community colleges and other IPHEC awardees. We all have goals as it relates to diversity. If a few of us increase our business with diverse vendors, we all benefit.” (SIUE News Archive: March 2019)

COUGAR FEST MERCHANT AND VOLUNTEER FAIR BRINGS OPPORTUNITY TO SIUE
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Cougar Fest: Merchant and Volunteer Fair connected area businesses and non-profit organizations with students, where they learned about the products and mission of area merchants, and engaged with representatives about volunteer opportunities. Cougar Fest’s entertainment, giveaways and prize drawings offered the perfect break for students between classes.

“We’ve benefited from large groups of SIUE volunteers, as well as individuals who consistently give back through their involvement in our activities and events,” said Taylor Justice, volunteer and events coordinator at Beverly Farm. “We attend Cougar Fest every year. We’ve found that SIUE students are looking for opportunities to make a difference. They want to spend their time in meaningful ways.” (SIUE News Archive: January 2019)
THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT
The Clothesline Project is an artistic display addressing the issue of sexual violence against women and men. The decorated t-shirts were hung on a clothesline as a visual representation of the problem of sexual violence and to honor survivors.

GREEN DOT
Green Dot is a violence prevention program based on empowering bystanders. This year PEACe facilitated faculty and staff trainings, where participants learned to recognize potentially harmful situations and how to safely intervene.

ITS ON US: WEEK OF ACTION
It’s On Us: Week of Action event provides opportunities for students to become involved in the prevention of gender-based violence, featuring creative expression, engaging and informative table displays.

WHAT WERE YOU WEARING
This exhibit, presented in partnership with YWCA Alton and Call for Help Inc., was put on to help participants evaluate what enabled individuals and society to ask, “what were you wearing?” in the case of sexual assault.
The Prevention Education and Advocacy Center (PEACe) hosted its annual Walk a Mile event, aiming to engage men as allies against sexual violence and supporters for survivors. After students introduced concerns the last time the event was held, SIUE changed their event to Walk a Mile in Their Shoes. “Last year after we did Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, we got some feedback from different members of our campus community that they kind of felt as though it wasn’t as inclusive as it could be,” graduate assistant at the Prevention Education and Advocacy Center, Kiah Earl, said.

At the event, Associate Director for Residence Life, Rex Jackson, introduced reasoning for the name change and why it is crucial to broaden the conversation. “We chose to switch it to ‘their’ so that we could have a broader conversation around the fact that sexualized violence hits along the entire gender spectrum,” said Jackson. (Alestle Archive: September 2018)

COFFEE WITH COOL WOMEN
This series facilitated by Women’s Studies connects a small group of SIUE students with successful women who talk about their career paths. These women who have chosen interesting, challenging, and sometimes unconventional careers, invite students to think, “Wow. I want to do that. I can do that.” (SIUE Women’s Studies)

THE MENSI PROJECT
In response to limited access to feminine hygiene products on campus, interim director of SIUE Women’s Studies program Christy Ferguson began to supply these items to the lacking bathrooms in what she dubbed The Mensi Project. (SIUE Women’s Studies)
SIUE POLICE DEPARTMENT R.A.D PROGRAM

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Police Department hosted its annual Rape Aggression Defense Program (R.A.D) for all faculty, staff, students, and guests. R.A.D. is a nationally certified self-defense program designed specifically for women, providing information about realistic defensive tactics and techniques to survive an assault, insight into an offender’s mindset, and minimizing risks of sexual assault. (SIUE Police Services)

NEW SIUE POLICE OFFICERS HAVE LOCAL TIES

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Police Department has added four officers to increase its squad to 44. All of the new officers have direct ties to either SIUE or the Metro East.

The officers were sworn in by Vice Chancellor for Administration Rich Walker. Chief of Police Kevin Schmoll also participated in the ceremony.

“We are pleased to have these officers join a team of SIUE officers who are proud to serve,” Walker said. “We pledge to each of their families that we will do our best to provide them with the proper equipment, training and support to keep them healthy and safe as they help keep our students, employees and guests safe on all three campuses.” (SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
INTERNATIONAL WEEK
International Week, hosted by SIUE International Student Council, allows students, faculty, staff, and visitors of SIUE to get acquainted with the many cultures represented at the University. International students set up booths to introduce their culture and their country through artifacts and costumes.

As the biggest annual international event, International Night centered on the theme, “All Around the World in One Night.” At International Night, visitors were invited to enjoy authentic international cuisine prepared by international students and watch performances of many talented international students. (SIUE International Student Council)

TASTE OF CULTURE
The Campus Activity Board’s Taste of Culture provides an opportunity to experience the flavors of diverse cuisine. This year they sampled food from Greece, Nigeria, and Turkey. (SIUE Campus Activities Board)

DIWALI & DANDIYA NIGHT
The Indian Student Association hosted the annual Diwali & Dandiya Night that featured traditional food and dancing to celebrate the Indian Festival of Lights. (SIUE International Student Council)
SELFIES WITH SANTA
SIUE Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) hosted Santa’s visit to SIUE to hear Christmas wishes, bring holiday cheer, and take selfies with students, faculty and staff. SIUE’s personal contact with the North Pole was Dominic Dorsey II, director of ACCESS. “Having an African American Santa visit us today brought holiday cheer along with a demonstration of our commitment to diversity,” said Lakesha Butler, PharmD, BFSA president, and clinical professor in the School of Pharmacy. “It especially warmed my heart to hear several students say this was their first encounter with a black Santa.” (SIUE News Archive: December 2018)

TITLE IX HOLIDAY
SIUE’s Title IX Office celebrated the holiday season by joining the Hands Off IX petition to protect the rights of survivors of sexual violence. (SIUE Office of Equal Opportunity, Access and Title IX Coordination)

DIVERSE HOLIDAY GREETINGS
The School of Business Department of Management and Marketing celebrated their diversity with a display of 13 languages from 3 continents, representing their individual ancestry. (SIUE School of Business)
SIUE CELEBRATES KWANZAA IN THE SPIRIT OF UMÖJA

Students, staff, faculty and children gathered for Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s campus-wide celebration of the African American holiday, Kwanzaa, to promote unity and culture, among other things. The SIUE Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA), SIUE Black Studies Program, the SIUE National PanHellenic Council and the Office of the Chancellor hosted the Kwanzaa observance at SIUE’s Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion (CSDI).

“Kwanzaa is a good way for those in the African American community to cherish and celebrate our culture and one another, learn from each another, review the past, and set goals for the future,” said Lakesha Butler, PharmD, BFSA president, and clinical professor in the School of Pharmacy. “Being able to interact with students and other African American faculty and staff at a social gathering helps to improve morale, and provides a sense of community that contributes to our belonging.”

During SIUE’s Kwanzaa celebration, each of the seven principles and their meanings were displayed on the walls throughout the CSDI. An activity was also assigned to each principle, such as “List a few ways in which Ujima can be practiced at SIUE.”

The names of the principles in Swahili and their English meanings:

- Umoja – Unity
- Kujichagulia – Self-determination
- Ujima – Collective work and responsibility
- Ujamaa – Cooperative economics
- Nia – Purpose
- Kuumba – Creativity
- Imani – Faith

“My family has celebrated Kwanzaa for more than 30 years,” said Kathryn Bentley, SIUE Black Studies Program director and associate professor in the Department of Theater and Dance. “It is a time for us to come together and reaffirm our commitment to values that fortify us throughout the year. I thought it was important to introduce Kwanzaa to our campus, as we strive to build community with our black faculty, staff and students. We are looking forward to continuing this as an annual tradition to complement other activities and gatherings that promote a sense of togetherness and belonging.”

(SIUE News Archive: December 2018)
JOHNNY MOSES

Pacific Northwest culture-bearer and storyteller Johnny Moses returned to the area with appearances in Edwardsville at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Center for Spirituality and Sustainability. Moses told Native stories for all ages and also spoke in Alton on the teachings and songs of the SiSiWiss (sacred breath) spiritual tradition of the Native Northwest.

Johnny Moses has ancestry from several tribes of Washington and British Columbia. He is enrolled with the Coast Salish Tulalip Tribes near Seattle. He is a traditionally trained cultural practitioner and memorizer of oral tradition. In 2012 he received the Washington Governor’s Heritage Award. Moses and SIUE Professor of Philosophy Gregory Fields have collaborated for more than two decades. (Center for Spirituality and Sustainability)

DEEPLY ROOTED DANCE THEATER

Traditions of American and African-American dance, storytelling and universal themes converged on September 14, 2018 when Chicago’s Deeply Rooted Dance Theater (DRDT) came to SIUE. DRDT collaborates with nationally renowned choreographers across the spectrum of modern, ballet and African dance to reflect contemporary voices. Jennifer Dunning of The New York Times wrote, “Greeted by the audience with an affectionate exuberance that swelled to roars of laughter and approval...performed with Deeply Rooted’s signature attention to detail, lithe technical skill and dramatic nuance.” (SIUE News Archive: September 2018)

FRED DAVID GRAY

In 1955, Fred David Gray was thrust into the national spotlight when he represented Rosa Parks after her arrest for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery city bus. The incident sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which is considered the beginning of the civil rights movement. Gray also helped organize the boycott that brought Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to the attention of the world. Gray went on to serve as King’s first civil rights attorney. With a legal career that has spanned more than half a century, Gray has won multiple landmark civil rights cases. SIUE had the honor of hosting Fred Gray on the theme, “Bus Ride to Justice – the Montgomery Bus Boycott,” partially based on his autobiography, Bus Ride to Justice: The Life and Works of Fred Gray. (SIUE News Archive: October 2018)
SIUE’S ARTS AND ISSUES AND THE CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY PRESENT ORCHID ENSEMBLE

Blossoming for the first time on the campus of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is Orchid Ensemble, highly acclaimed and unique musicians who blend a variety of musical styles to produce an intriguing and delightful sound experience for audiences worldwide.

Orchid Ensemble, nominated to receive the annual Canadian musical award JUNO, performed at the Center for Spirituality and Sustainability. The trio consists of Lan Tung (Taiwan/Canada) on the erhu/Chinese violin, Dailin Hsieh (Taiwan) on the zheng/Chinese zither, and Jonathan Bernard (Canada) on percussion.

The group blends ancient musical instruments and traditions from China and beyond, creating a beautiful new sound.

“Our goal with the Arts & Issues events in the Center for Spirituality and Sustainability is to not only showcase outstanding artists, but also artists who bring something different and unique,” said Grant Andree, Arts & Issues director. “This world music trio from Canada mixes ancient Chinese instruments with percussion to create beautiful music in a variety of styles – both traditional and contemporary.” (SIUE News Archive: March 2019)

SIUE HOSTS NOVELIST VU TRAN AND POET TJ JARRETT AT LITERARY EVENT

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s new Master in Fine Arts (MFA) in creative writing program hosted award-winning novelist Vu Tran and poet TJ Jarrett to read in The Cougar Store at the Morris University Center (MUC) followed by lively question-and-answer sessions. “Bringing visiting writers to campus is a hallmark of a vital MFA program,” said Professor Valerie Vogrin, one of the creative writing faculty organizing the event. “Our current students benefit immensely from hearing a variety of voices. Excellent literary programming also serves the local community and helps raise the profile of our new degree program.”

Vu Tran, author of Dragonfish, was born in Saigon, Vietnam and reared in Oklahoma. He is the winner of a Whiting Award and Dragonfish was a New York Times Notable Book and one of the San Francisco Chronicle’s Best Books of the Year. He teaches creative writing at the University of Chicago.

TJ Jarrett’s debut collection Ain’t No Grave was published by New Issues Press. Her second collection Zion, winner of the Crab Orchard Open Competition 2013, was published by Southern Illinois University Press. Her recent work has been published in Poetry, African American Review, Boston Review, Beloit Poetry Journal, Callaloo, VQR and others. She is a software developer and lives in Nashville, Tenn.

(SIUE News Archive: March 2019)
GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS:
FALL 2018

Graduation Celebration is a pre-commencement celebration to honor students of various cultures and identities who have successfully completed an undergraduate, graduate or professional degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. The ceremony acknowledges the sense of scholarly community among students and culture, culminating with a graduation stole presentation.
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INTERNATIONAL GRADUATION CELEBRATION

BLACK GRADUATION CELEBRATION

LATINX GRADUATION CELEBRATION

NON-TRADITIONAL GRADUATION CELEBRATION

RAINFOREST GRADUATION CELEBRATION

GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS:
SPRING 2019
SIUE and Community Engagement

SIUE Community Engagement provides students, faculty and staff the opportunity to apply academic knowledge, gain skills and experience, and contribute to the community. Here we highlight some of this year’s community service events, along with recognition of our campus-community partnerships and their important work.
SIUE UPWARD BOUND ALUMNI GIVE BACK TO RECENT PROGRAM GRADUATES
For six Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Center Upward Bound (UB) East St. Louis and Cahokia (EC) program alumni, their means of “paying it forward” involves cashing in on past opportunities afforded to them. This year six alumni donated a scholarship of $500 each to recent graduates of Upward Bound.

The SIUE Upward Bound EC/BEM program helps youth prepare for higher education and serves students from East St. Louis and Cahokia (EC), and Brooklyn, East St. Louis Charter and Madison (BEM), High Schools. Participants receive instruction in literature, composition and STEM subjects on college campuses after school, on Saturdays and during the summer. The quality services provided will prepare the students for successful high school completion and entrance into post-secondary programs.

“This is a great example of showing the success of the Upward Bound Program, and how it helps students to achieve, be a positive force in the community and to give back to those who are coming behind them,” said Upward Bound Program Director Keith J. Ware, EdD. (SIUE News Archive: August 2018)

ESTL ALUMNI CHAPTER OF PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY HELPS SIUE STUDENTS LOOK BUSINESS READY
More than 100 Southern Illinois University Edwardsville male students were dressed for success thanks to the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Alumni Chapter Epsilon Lambda Sigma of East St. Louis. The Teamsters National Black Caucus Chapter of St. Louis donated more than 300 business shirts and 31 suits to SIUE students, according to Dr. Freddie Wills, Phi Beta Sigma member.

“Our fraternity was discussing ways we could help young men on the SIUE campus. We thought of providing items for a career search, because we know how hard it can be to acquire business attire,” said Wills. “Then we had a unique opportunity to partner with the Teamsters National Black Caucus Chapter of St. Louis, who provided us with the business attire.”

“Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. is committed to helping young African American males succeed in their efforts to attain a degree,” added Wills. “Our chapter is delighted to support the efforts of the GAME program. We see this as an opportunity to provide mentorship to young men at SIUE, and we would like to have continued engagement with students participating in GAME.”
(SIUE News Archive: December 2018)
SIUE EAST ST. LOUIS CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS HOLIDAY RECITAL BRINGS JOY
A group of parents sat enraptured, commented favorably and cheered enthusiastically during the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Center for the Performing Arts Program Holiday Recital at the East St. Louis Higher Education Campus.

Performing Arts students, ages 6-16, displayed their creative gifts in the form of dancing, drumming, piano and guitar playing, and performing in the chimes choir. Dancers, trained by instructors Gerald Williams and TaShayla Montgomery, delighted the audience with choreography scripted to themes of black history, West African culture and Christmas, according to Desiree Tyus, director of Youth Programs and Initiatives at the SIUE East St. Louis Center.

“I started this recital party two years ago as a chance for students to learn and perform holiday music,” said Mary Jo Pembrook, PhD, Performing Arts Program piano and chimes instructor. Some of the night’s offerings included Pembrook’s piano students’ performance of “Jolly Old St. Nicholas,” “The Little Drummer Boy,” “Silent Night,” and “Feliz Navidad.” Instructor Dan Bearden’s students featured a guitar interpretation of “Jingle Bells.” (SIUE News Archive: December 2018)

SIUE EAST ST. LOUIS CENTER’S PROJECT SUCCESS STUDENTS’ HANDS NOW A WORK OF ART
The Pulitzer Arts Foundation of St. Louis commissioned SIUE alumna Edna Patterson-Petty and her granddaughter, artist Eugenia Alexander, both of East St. Louis, to work in collaboration with the Project Success program in creating the piece. The idea was inspired by artist Ruth Asawa’s legacy of arts activism and education for children in San Francisco. More than 60 Project Success students worked from September-December 2018 in creating the sculpture. Patterson-Petty and Alexander instructed the students in the creation of hundreds of hands.

“Edna and Eugenia’s approach as artists, and their dedication to working with young people made them a perfect team for this commission,” said Kristin Fleischman Brewer, the Pulitzer’s director of public programs. “Knowing that all of those involved will be able to see this sculpture, and know that they helped shape something is really beautiful.” (SIUE News Archive: March 2019)
SIUE EAST ST. LOUIS CENTER’S VETERANS UPWARD BOUND CAREER FAIR OFFERS MANY OPPORTUNITIES

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Veterans Upward Bound hosted its VetMATCH College and Career Fair. Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) assists with vocational/technical and other post-secondary educational options including seeking, obtaining and succeeding in higher education.

“We were excited to have been able to present career options for higher wages, college information, employers looking for workers, and other resources and services available for veterans—all at no cost,” said Johanna Wharton, director of Workforce Development and Strategic Partnerships with the SIUE East St. Louis Center.

Agencies and organizations at the college and career fair included:

- Allied Universal Security Services, St. Louis
- Ad Lift Truck, St. Louis
- Connections to Success, East St. Louis
- Lewis & Clark Community College Career Services-Veterans Services, Godfrey
- LUME Institute, St. Louis
- SIUE East St. Louis Center (ESLC)
- SIUE Office of Veterans Service
- SIUE Veterans Upward Bound, ESLC
- Southwestern Illinois College, Belleville

(SIUE News Archive: August 2018)

SIUE EAST ST. LOUIS CENTER EQUIPS VETERANS WITH EDUCATIONAL CHOICES AND INFORMATION

This year ESLC’s Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) program presented a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) and Veterans Educational Benefits Workshop. The VUB program has a comprehensive pre-college program and currently serves 110 veterans, according to Jim Robbins, VUB Director, SIUE alumnus, and Air Force veteran, who served in Vietnam. “This workshop illustrates just a portion of the services we provide our veterans year round,” said Robbins.

“After today, these veterans will have a basic understanding on how to access their educational benefits and know the names of other agencies and people to assist them, besides our program staff.” The workshop topics included:

- FAFSA Process
- Veteran Educational Benefits Certification Process and Work Study Program
- Veteran Vocational Rehabilitation and GI Bill Benefits
- Veteran eBenefits
- The Brain’s Response to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

(SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
SIU SDM PROVIDES FREE DENTAL CARE DURING VETERAN’S CARE DAY

Faculty, staff and students at the Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine (SIU SDM) demonstrated their appreciation for the sacrifice and service of the nation’s veterans by providing free dental care at the inaugural Veteran’s Care Day.

SIU SDM third- and fourth-year dental students, under the supervision of dental school faculty who are all licensed dentists, provided free exams, x-rays, cleanings, fillings and extractions at no cost.

Nearly $22,000 worth of free comprehensive care was provided to 33 patients.

“I jumped on this opportunity,” said Jason York, of Macomb, who served in the Air Force from 1993-97. “This was a great offering for veterans. I’ve seen a lot of people here for a lot of major dental work that has to be done. You can tell they’re comfortable at the SIU School of Dental Medicine.”

Edwardsville native Kathy Long brought her father, Clarence Korte, a WWII veteran, to Veteran’s Care Day. “I have aging parents and their insurance doesn’t cover dental care, so we were thrilled to learn of this opportunity,” Long said.

“You can’t believe the relief on these veterans’ faces just being able to get this service done. They are incredibly thankful. We were thrilled with the service,” she added, “and thoroughly enjoyed visiting with the other veterans as we waited.”

Robert Jones, of Glen Carbon, served overseas in Germany in 1960-62. “The process was easy, and I was greeted quite nicely,” he said of his experience. “I’m glad the snow didn’t keep us away!”

“We understand that the selflessness of those who serve our country is the very reason we enjoy our freedoms,” said Katie Kosten, DMD, director of Community Dentistry.

“We know there are a lot of veterans in need of dental care. This was a way that we could give back in the way we are equipped. We were honored to say thank you to our veterans.” (SIUE News Archive: November 2018)
SIUE SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES COLLABORATIVE TEAMS WITH THE CITY OF ALTON

This year SIUE and Alton officials signed a partnership agreement between Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Successful Communities Collaborative (SSCC) and the City of Alton to enhance its thriving community.

SSCC is a project that partners with local communities in Illinois and surrounding areas to improve various aspects of life and address issues of sustainability. The pilot year took off in fall 2017, with Highland and Godfrey as community partners.

In collaboration with Alton, the SSCC will work to:

• Develop a marketing strategy to attract and retain youth sports tournaments
• Evaluate best practices for business incubation and small business start-up initiatives
• Develop traffic and transportation recommendations for some residential neighborhoods
• Create a mobile app to focus on small businesses and retail offerings unique to Alton

(SIUE News Archive: September 2018)

SIUE’S SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES COLLABORATIVE WINS INNOVATION AWARD

After just over one year of its inception, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Successful Communities Collaborative (SSCC) captured the Illinois Council on Continuing Higher Education’s (ICCHE) Innovative Initiative Award. Mary Ettling, director of the Office of Educational Outreach, accepted the award at the ICCHE Conference at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

“Community engagement is crucial to SIUE’s mission to serve the public good,” said Ettling. “The Office of Educational Outreach is pleased to provide support to the SSCC, faculty, students, and community partners engaged in the program.”

During SSCC’s 2017 pilot year, SIUE School of Nursing (SON) students collaborated with the City of Highland to combat opioid use. SIUE’s Department of Public Health students worked with the Village of Godfrey, where recycling project “Greener Godfrey” took off successfully. Currently, SSCC is collaborating with the City of Alton through spring 2019 to address the town’s 15-year comprehensive public improvements plan.

SSCC’s innovative practices center on broadening the educational experience of SIUE students by providing learning beyond the four walls of the University and expose them to valuable real-world experiences. By matching the identified needs of partner cities with existing courses on the SIUE campus, SSCC facilitates a new dimension in higher institution learning. (SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
THE CITY OF ALTON CLOSER TO A PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE EXPANSION THANKS TO SIUE’S SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES COLLABORATIVE

The students and faculty of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Successful Communities Collaborative (SSCC) transformed two city blocks in Alton into a bike lane for a day. To demonstrate what the City of Alton’s proposed Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan would look like, with temporary paint, the team created a depiction of what the road could resemble when the plan is executed, according to Connie Frey Spurlock, PhD, SSCC faculty director and associate professor in the Department of Sociology.

The SIUE/STL Art Hive, hosted by SIUE’s art therapy counseling program, was also present at the pop-up event. The Art Hive provided community members the opportunity to provide feedback on the demonstration with art materials.

“I learned a lot and enjoyed the opportunity to see what a bike trail might look like along the Broadway Corridor,” said Alton Mayor Brant Walker. “I would like to thank SIUE’s Successful Communities Collaborative for all their planning, development and funding through the JPB Foundation. We were also able to discover the perspectives of the public and business owners.” (SIUE News Archive: April 2019)

SIUE’S SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES COLLABORATIVE COMPLETES INAUGURAL PARTNERSHIP WITH ALTON

Students enrolled in academic courses as part of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Successful Communities Collaborative (SSCC) completed a year of real-life community development projects in partnership with the City of Alton.

“The City of Alton is truly grateful for the collaboration with SIUE, and we look forward to maintaining this relationship beyond the current academic school year,” said Alton Mayor Brant Walker. “Engaging students and faculty to look at our community, and identify ways to make Alton a better place to live and work has been a great learning experience for us.” (SIUE News Archive: April 2019)
SIU SDM CELEBRATES NATIONAL CHILDREN’S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH
The Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine (SIU SDM) hosted nearly 300 local children throughout February in honor of National Children’s Dental Health Month. Every Monday and Friday, third-year students led educational activities centered on proper hygiene and diet, while fourth-year students conducted screenings under the supervision of licensed dental faculty.

The SIU SDM welcomed kindergarten and second grade students from Roxana South Primary School, and Saints Peter and Paul School. The interactive educational activities included practicing brushing and flossing friendly animal characters, creating an alginate hand mold, identifying good and bad foods for teeth, and spinning a colorful question and answer wheel.

“This community offering is an opportunity for us to educate children on basic oral principles, and identify any issues going on with their teeth that parents need to be aware of,” said Katie Kosten, DMD, assistant professor and director of community dentistry. “For our dental students, it’s a great opportunity for them to practice their clinical skills, build rapport and service the community in a meaningful way.”

(SIUE News Archive: February 2019)

GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY
The Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine (SIU SDM) hosted its 13th annual Give Kids a Smile Day. Nearly 110 children received free comprehensive dental care valued at approximately $61,000 while also enjoying fun education activities highlighting the importance of oral health.

(SIUE News Archive: October 2018)

FREE SCREENINGS
In order to find patients for their exit board exams, fourth-year SIU School of Dental Medicine students recently provided free screenings for community members. The free screenings promoted awareness of the SIU School of Dental Medicine clinics and the services provided.

(Aleston News Archive: February 2019)
MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE
SIUE’s Public Health program coordinated with Hoyleton Youth and Family Services to present the Mental Health First Aid Course and Certification. This course helps to identify, understand, and respond to signs of addictions and mental illnesses. (SIUE E-Today)

GREAT STORIES CLUB
SIUE partnered with St. Vincent Home for Children to participate in the Great Stories Club, a program designed to engage young adults with accessible and thought-provoking literature. This year’s theme was “What Makes a Hero?: Self, Society, and Rising to the Occasion.” (SIUE News Archive: September 2018)

GLOBAL ORAL HEALTH
SIU School of Dental Medicine student Kamiya Khatwani spent three weeks in India presenting oral health awareness sessions to more than 2,400 individuals across two states, Gujarat and Maharashtra. (SIUE News Archive: August 2018)

EXPERIENCE SERVICE DAY
Approximately 650 SIUE freshmen, armed with work gloves, water bottles and grit, swarmed into farms, parks and communities to provide more than 2,000 volunteer service hours as part of the SIUE Experience Service Day project. (SIUE News Archive: August 2018)
PUERTO RICO RECOVERY EFFORTS
SIUE Public Health students and faculty traveled to Puerto Rico to aid in recovery efforts after the devastation inflicted by Hurricane Maria. They spent five days working with All Hands and Hearts, a nonprofit that partners with local communities to respond to disasters. (SIUE News Archive: August 2018)

TURKEYPALOOZA FOOD DRIVE
Campus Kitchen at SIUE hosted a themed food drive, collecting nonperishable and canned food donations that will be used to make Thanksgiving meal grocery bags for families in Granite City, IL. (SIUE E-Today)

VETERANS WORKSHOP
The Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for the Metro East at SIUE, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), and Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) hosted a Veterans Starting a Small Business in Illinois Seminar and Speed Networking event. (SIUE News Archive: October 2018)

ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR
The University held its annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair. “The fair is a great way for the SIUE community to support local crafters and vendors,” said Alexa Bueltel, coordinator of Campus Life with the Kimmel Student Involvement Center. (SIUE News Archive: December 2018)
BREAST CANCER RESEARCH
Campus Recreation’s Club Sports program sold Special Club Sports t-shirts to raise money and awareness for breast cancer research, a disease that severely impacts students and their families. *(SIUE E-Today)*

METRO EAST SBDC AT SIUE HOSTS WORKSHOP IN SPANISH
The Illinois Metro East Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at SIUE hosted a Spanish language workshop on Starting a Small Business in Illinois at the Fairmont City Library. *(SIUE News Archive: October 2018)*

BEARDS FOR BOOTS
The Student Veterans of America organization hosted their first annual Beards For Boots fundraiser, a facial hair growing tournament in support of military men and women on campus. *(Alestle News Archive: November 2018)*

PINK ZONE
SIUE Women’s Basketball and SIUE Pink Zone joined forces to raise awareness and funds for Susan G. Komen Missouri for the seventh consecutive year. This year’s effort raised $7,800 to fight breast cancer. *(SIUE News Archive: March 2019)*
SIUE WOMEN’S BASKETBALL SERVES WITH READING INITIATIVE

Several members of the SIUE women’s basketball program spent time in area schools reading and interacting with the students. The student-athletes were positive ambassadors by reading, answering questions and interacting with the students at St. Mary’s (Edwardsville), North Elementary (Godfrey) and Parkside Primary (Bethalto).

“We are thankful for the opportunity to work with our local schools who allowed our student-athletes to spend time in their classrooms,” said SIUE women’s basketball Head Coach Paula Buscher.

“I am continually impressed with our student-athletes and their willingness to give back and positively impact the lives of others in our community,” she added. (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)

SIUE CAMPUS RECREATION CONNECTS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY

When Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Department of Campus Recreation installed artificial turf fields on campus at the recreation complex, it planned on heightening engagement with the community and scheduling more events at the site. That vision is coming to fruition as external groups are signing up to utilize the state-of-the-art surface.

“Campus Recreation was able to be more proactive looking at rental opportunities during the summer,” said Keith Becherer, campus recreation director. “As a result, Intramural Coordinator Tom Dougherty connected with Southwest Illinois Baseball League (SWIBL) Commissioner Andy Mauschbaugh to discuss options. We now have more than 50 youth baseball games scheduled for the Rec Plex this summer, drawing thousands of youth participants, their families and spectators to campus.”

Mauschbaugh is pleased to collaborate with the University. “This access ties directly to SWIBL’s mission, and that is to give an opportunity to kids in southwestern Illinois to learn and to play baseball at a high level,” he said. (SIUE News Archive: March 2019)
SIUE’S EAST ST. LOUIS HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START TEAMS UP WITH GATEWAY CHAPTER OF LINKS FOR READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

In celebration of the nationwide Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss’ birthday, SIUE Head Start and the Gateway Chapter of the Links, Incorporated promoted literacy with the reading of Dr. Seuss’ *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish* at Head Start’s Discovery Center for Little Scholars at the East St. Louis Higher Education Campus. The Links also donated more than $1,000 in merchandise to various SIUE Head Start centers throughout St. Clair County. The women’s organization gave away tables, soil for gardening, a microwave, a Keurig, a white board and four cozy corner canopies. “We are a service organization that believes in the importance of literacy and education,” said Judith Griffin, chair of the Links’ Services to Youth Facet. *(SIUE News Archive: March 2019)*

SIUE COMMUNITY SHOWERS HEAD START PARENT WITH SUPPORT AFTER HOUSE FIRE

The big, beautiful eyes of Tyra Parker, of East St. Louis, filled with water as she talked about the horrifying experience of losing her home to a fire. The pregnant woman’s tears remained there as she gave thanks for the lives of her four children, and the generosity of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville community.

“I want to say thank you to everyone who contributed to me and my family. This school, and people I don’t even know from SIUE, have truly been a blessing,” said Parker, a parent at the SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start Bluffview Center. “This tragedy has showed me how truly good and kind people can be,” reflected Parker. “It has also made me grateful for the lives of my children, and make me love them even more.”

“We are so grateful for the wonderful support that the SIUE community has shown Tyra and her family,” said Kathleen Appleby, Bluffview Head Start/Early Head Start Center director. “I am proud to work at a place where the people don’t just believe in the University’s values, but live them.” *(SIUE News Archive: December 2018)*
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Head Start/Early Head Start Discovery Center for Little Scholars gave free car seats to 16 preschoolers. The gift was made possible by the Illinois State Police and two anonymous donors.

The idea of the car seat giveaway originated with SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start staff Megan Redman, Kimberly Simpkins and Curtricia Hudson, according to Discovery Center Coordinator Heidi Eichenseer. “Illinois law changed in January, and now children up to the age of two must be secured in rear facing car seats,” said Eichenseer. “We also recognized that many of our families were unable to purchase car seats.”

Prior to the giveaway, Tabitha Luczak, Stronger Beginnings for Families lead home visitor at Southern Region Children’s Home and Aid, gave a detailed presentation on the features and proper use of various car seats. Luczak demonstrated the functions of the convertible seat, infant seat, combination seat and booster seat. *(SIUE News Archive: January 2019)*

**PROFESSOR HONORED FOR COMMUNITY WORK**

Alicia Alexander, a professor in the Department of Applied Communication Studies, was honored at the Women’s History Month rally for her community volunteer work in the “I Support the Girls” (ISTG) project.

ISTG is a non-profit organization that donates bras, underwear and feminine hygiene products to those in need. According to Alexander, there are 54 people across the U.S. leading ISTG in different cities. There are also locations in Pakistan, Australia, Canada, Mexico and Thailand.

Alexander created ISTG SIUE, which brings students and others involved with the university to be a part of the organization. *(Alestle Archive: April 2019)*
SIUE’S PEMBROOK AND WALKER RECEIVE ESGR PATRIOT AWARD
The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) presented The Patriot Award to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Chancellor Randy Pembrook, PhD, and Vice Chancellor for Administration Rich Walker. The award recognizes supervisors and managers nominated by a National Guardsman or Reservist employee for support provided directly to the nominator.

“We are so pleased at SIUE to be able to serve the needs of individuals who have served or are serving in the military,” Pembrook said. “In this particular instance, I hope the award indicates that we are doing a good job in meeting the educational goals of those serving in the National Guard and Reserves. It is an honor to be recognized, and we accept the award on behalf of all the SIUE faculty and staff who teach and serve these patriotic individuals every day.”

“We highly value the military service of our employees who are members of the National Guard and Reserves,” Walker said. “We are proud to provide support to our citizen warriors who protect us at home and around the globe.” (SIUE News Archive: April 2019)

CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY
LEADERSHIP AWARDS (CSS)

CSS at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville hosted its 16th annual Leadership Awards Dinner. Rev. Steve Jackson, pastor of Mt. Joy Missionary Baptist Church, the oldest black Baptist Church in Edwardsville, received the Spirituality Leadership Award. (SIUE News Archive: March 2019)

ILLINOIS COLLEGE PRESS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION AND AWARDS

The Alestle won 14 awards at the recent Illinois College Press Association’s Convention in Chicago. The awards were in a broad range of categories for in-depth reporting, design, multimedia, special supplements, photography, sports writing and headline writing. (SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
INAUGURAL MID-AMERICA TRADE SUMMIT HONORS ITC AT SIUE CLIENTS

The International Trade Center at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (ITC at SIUE) celebrated the success of its clients Sev-Rend High Performance Packaging and Smart Controls LLC, both of which were honored as successful exporters during the inaugural Mid-America Trade Summit held at the University of Missouri.

The International Trade Center at SIUE serves entrepreneurs and small businesses in southern Illinois by providing individualized, no-cost export consultation, identification of foreign buyers, agents and/or distributors through trade leads, international market analysis and more.

The SIUE School of Business’s Internship Coordinator Amanda Russell attended the event’s networking reception. “Attending the trade summit networking reception provided a great advantage to increase the School of Business’s profile amongst our small businesses and service providers in the region,” said Russell.

“Connecting with these business partners allows us to develop more internship and full-time employment opportunities for our students. By partnering with the ITC, School of Business students have opportunities to cultivate professional development relationships with global companies right here in southern Illinois.” (SIUE News Archive: December 2018)

SIUE STUDENT RESEARCHERS PRESENT AT SPANISH SAINT LOUIS SYMPOSIUM

Four Southern Illinois University Edwardsville undergraduates have taken the same research theme and explored it in different mediums to produce original scholarly contributions. The students presented their research projects highlighting the representation of Latina/o in film at the Spanish Saint Louis Symposium hosted by Saint Louis University.

The students all conducted their research via SIUE’s unique Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA) program, under the direction of Carolina Rocha, PhD, professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature.

“I encouraged each of the students to conceive their projects according to their passions, so each presentation was wonderfully unique,” Rocha said. “I am grateful they decided to make room in their busy schedules to present at the Spanish Saint Louis Symposium, as it’s an extremely valuable experience. Their participation speaks of their commitment and dedication to learning outside the classroom.” (SIUE News Archive: April 2019)
UNITED WAY OF ST. LOUIS NAMES SIUE ALUM TUCKER AS PRESIDENT, CEO

The United Way of Greater St. Louis named SIUE alumna Michelle Tucker as the organization’s next president and chief executive officer. An East St. Louis native, Tucker earned a bachelor’s in English from SIUE and a master’s in business from Webster University. Tucker has been actively engaged with United Way over 20 years as a member of its community investment committee and Women’s Leadership Giving Society.

Tucker currently serves as president and CEO of Epworth Children and Family Services. She joined Epworth in 2017 as the agency’s first female and African-American CEO in its 154-year history. There, she oversaw a staff of nearly 200 employees and programming that serves more than 10,000 youth and families annually.

The appointment was made through a unanimous decision by the Board of Directors. “Michelle’s passion and vision for creating a better St. Louis region align seamlessly with United Way’s mission of helping people. We are confident in Michelle’s ability to lead United Way in serving our region as the organization leans into new strategic and transformative initiatives on the cusp of our centennial anniversary,” said Rich McClure, chair of the board of directors.

“It’s a rare occasion when passion, purpose and profession come together in this way, and I am incredibly excited to step forward to continue driving increased impacts and outcomes for those in need,” said Tucker. “I believe transformational times require transformational actions and when United Way calls, you answer.”

(SIUE News Archive: January 2019)

SIUE STEM CENTER, COMMUNITY PARTNERS’ URBAN GARDENING PROGRAM

A little rain couldn’t dampen the excitement surrounding a field trip to Edwardsville’s Watershed Nature Center as educators brought samples of the Center’s beautiful landscape indoors to allow 15 young girls from Madison to engage in scientific exploration.

The girls, grades 5-8, participated in the Urban Gardening program led by the SIUE’s Center for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Research, Education and Outreach, in partnership with the Madison County Housing Authority (MCHA) and the Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities (MJCH).

“This type of after-school program has been shown to increase student engagement and lifelong interest in STEM topics,” said SIUE STEM Center Instructor and Outreach Specialist Colin Wilson. “It’s a wonderful community partnership that allows us to use resources efficiently, while reaching much of the region with important STEM education.”

(SIUE News Archive: May 2019)
URBAN PLANNING SPECIALIST SANDOVAL MIXES EQUITY WITH SUSTAINABILITY DURING SIUE VISIT
From hundreds of colorful miniature toys, gadgets and non-descript items, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville students fashioned several sustainable communities, per instructions of urban planning specialist Gerardo Sandoval, PhD. Sandoval, an associate professor in the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management at the University of Oregon, shared his knowledge and insights on developing and planning sustainable communities, especially in Latino and marginalized neighborhoods during his visit to campus.

“Sustainable communities benefit everyone, but it is important to engage minority communities,” said Sandoval. “In the history of this country, it has been the opposite. Neighborhoods emphasized and upheld segregation and inequities.

“Minority groups have not been a part of building and planning their neighborhoods... I’m saying the planning process needs to be reshaped by interests in these communities and have these communities participate in shaping their neighborhoods.”

(SIUE News Archive: April 2019)

SIUE STEM CENTER FELLOW BRINGS VALUABLE EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH EXPERIENCE
The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Center for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Research, Education and Outreach is a national leader in developing and implementing transformative STEM education programming and community engagement initiatives.

By welcoming Henriette Burns, of St. Louis, to their expert team for a yearlong (with renewal option) fellowship, their valuable work has been further enhanced. Burns holds a bachelor’s in engineering, with a focus on biomedical and material science, from Northwestern University. She also has a master’s in teaching, with a focus on math, and was a doctoral student in math/science education, with a focus on understanding empathy in engineering design, at Washington State University. She also holds an MBA from the University of Oregon.

Her extensive educational and professional experiences make her a valuable contributor to the STEM Center’s ongoing programs, especially its Exploring Global Challenges after-school initiative in East St. Louis to integrate computational thinking into STEM curricula. “I am responsible for research on the project, due to my background in engineering, business and STEM education. I was attracted to this program because it aligns with my research on influencing underrepresented populations to pursue STEM, especially girls in engineering,” Burns explained. (SIUE News Archive: February 2019)
SIUE STUDENTS SPREAD ENGINEERING MESSAGE AT BETHALTO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Three Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Engineering students visited Trimpe Middle School in Bethalto, IL to heighten interest in engineering among approximately 60 students.

Senior mechanical engineering majors Cody Johnson, of Sullivan, Thomas Giacobbe, of Glen Carbon, and Aaron Bandy, of O’Fallon, discussed the engineering process, their projects and the importance of working in groups. Johnson, Giacobbe and Bandy are all members of Pi Tau Sigma, SIUE’s mechanical engineering honor society.

“The students and a few teachers thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and asked quite a few questions, as we touched upon topics ranging from finite element analysis and Hooke’s Law to group cooperation,” Bandy said. “We were also impressed at the school’s introduction to engineering topics such as orthographic drawings as early as 7th grade and using AutoDesk Inventor in 8th grade.”

Majid Molki, PhD, Distinguished Research Professor and chair of the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, believes in the importance of such community outreach. “Exposure of young students to the engineering design concepts and teamwork at this early stage of education is motivating and helps the students to choose the right engineering major and be successful in college,” he said.

(SIUE News Archive: December 2018)

SIUE ALUMNA AND ILLUSTRATOR INSPIRES YOUNG GIRLS TO TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR SUPER POWERS

The impressive abilities of superheroes don’t have to be warp speed, x-ray vision or shapeshifting. Instead, super powers can be kindness, acceptance and other personal qualities. That’s what Kloey of Universe City aims to prove to young girls.

The colorful lead character of the newly published book Marvelous and Kind Kloey is the creation of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville alumna and illustrator Danielle Seago, of central Illinois. Seago, and author Kathy Guthrie, decided their first book would promote kindness, and teach readers that it’s OK to need help and to ask for it.

“Each character has different colored hair and superhero masks. I also really focused on including a diversity of characters, so that every child can see themselves as a superhero,” Seago said.

Seago and Guthrie are already planning the next book in their series, which will focus on leadership and what it means to be a good leader.

(SIUE News Archive: November 2018)
News and Media Headlines

SIUE is fortunate to have multiple media outlets committed to covering diverse news stories on and around our campus. Here we highlight events of note, along with recognition for our diversity and inclusion champions and their important work.
July 26, 2018  
**President Trump visits Granite City, draws protests**  
“Trump’s supporters and opponents filled into Civic Park in Granite City before the president’s motorcade passed by. Trump visited…”

August 2, 2018  
**SIUE East St. Louis Center Performing Arts Summer Concert Delivers another Talent-Packed Show**  
“SIUE East St. Louis Center (ESLC) for the Performing Arts Program made their audience feel as if they were at a Broadway show…”

August 3, 2018  
**NCERC at SIUE’s Diversity Feedstock Showcase is One of a Kind**  
“SIUE students are working the “Feedstock Diversity Showcase” that features not only corn, but also…”

August 6, 2018  
**SIUE Workshop Helps Teachers Understand History Through a STEM Lens**  
“During the two-day workshop, “STEM Notebooks: Understanding History through a STEM Lens,” teachers worked with notebooks and other materials…”

August 9, 2018  
**SIUE Senior Corinthia Jordan’s Self-Published Book of Poetry Aims to Heal Young Women**  
“What began as therapeutic self-reflection and expression has transpired into a beautiful compilation of poetry that now fills…”

August 10, 2018  
**SIUE Alumna Eickhoff’s “Taking the ‘Dis’ out of Disability” Video Goes Viral**  
“Southern Illinois University Edwardsville alumna Tiffany Eickhoff, who has cerebral palsy, works out in her CrossFit class with a car tire strapped to her back…”

August 20, 2018  
**SIUE Conference Highlights Ways to Advance Sustainability through the Humanities**  
“Fourteen educators and community workers from the region discussed their views, experiences and plans regarding the workshop’s theme…”

August 21, 2018  
**High Quality Summer Internship Inspires SIUE Senior to Use Passion for Justice to Motivate Change**  
“As Southern Illinois University Edwardsville senior psychology and criminal justice double major Anna Miller, of Troy…”
September 4, 2018
SIUE Welcomes 3,634 New Students for 2018 Fall Semester
“SIUE had its two largest graduating classes in 2017 with 2,380 undergraduate degrees and 2018 with 2,617 undergraduate degrees...”

September 4, 2018
World Record for “Longest Line of Books” Achieved on Literacy Day at SIUE
“Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and the surrounding communities came together to collect books for charity and simultaneously arrange...”

September 6, 2018
SIUE Speech Language Pathology Students Gain Global Perspective on Communication Disabilities During Travel Study
“From learning the language of Luganda and embarking on a wildlife safari to observing physical and occupational therapy sessions and helping children...”

September 10, 2018
SIUE received A’s in Diversity and Dining

September 17, 2018
SIUE Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion Offers Support and Advocacy
“Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s new Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion (CSDI) is offering that safe space, along with support and advocacy...”

September 17, 2018
SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School Student Jasmine Whitley Tells of Her Travels to Finland
“Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter High School (CHS) senior Jasmine Whitley made history as the first student from the CHS to...”

September 19, 2018
Beet Box Mobile Farmers Market Makes Fresh Produce Accessible and Affordable
“The Beet Box, supported primarily by the Goshen Market Foundation, as well as numerous community partners, has officially hit the road...”

September 21, 2018
Rededicated SIUE Science Complex Provides State-of-the-Art Teaching and Research
“SIUE students are reaping the benefits of SIUE’s ongoing commitment to campus growth with the renovations that were the final phase...”

September 27, 2018
Changes to sexual harassment policy proposed at student government meeting
“SIUE’s director of equal opportunity, access and Title IX coordination, Jamie Ball, proposed three new changes to SIUE’s sexual harassment policy...”
October 5, 2018
SBDC and International Trade Center at SIUE Recognize “Immigrants in Our Midst”
“Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s International Trade Center (ITC), Small Business Development Center, and…”

October 5, 2018
The NCERC at SIUE Receives Inspiring Programs in STEM Award
“The award is presented to institutions whose programs inspire a new generation of young people to consider STEM…”

October 7, 2018
SIUE East St. Louis Center’s Jesse Dixon Receives East St. Louis NAACP Education Award
“The East St. Louis Center has focused on connecting East St. Louis youth to such innovative and impactful STEM initiatives…”

October 11, 2018
Bias Incident Response Team responds to racist, homophobic vandalism
“The first part of response is to respond to the victim or victims of a bias incident…”

October 15, 2018
SIUE School of Nursing Enriches Simulated Experiences with Revolutionary Anatomage Table
“The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing’s (SON) new technological centerpiece, an Anatomage Table, is enabling students…”

October 17, 2018
Historian Stefan Bradley reunites with his folk at SIUE
“Listen. Stefan Bradley has been giving talks related to his new book, Upending the Ivory Tower: Civil Rights, Black Power, and the Ivy League…”

October 20, 2018
Annual Celebration of World Faiths held at SIUE
“The Center for Spirituality and Sustainability worked to bridge understanding and compassion across different religions and traditions…”

October 22, 2018
SIU Annual Diversity Excellence Awards Presentation Hosts Craig Clayton
“The Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees’ Annual Diversity Excellence Lecture & Awards Presentation will feature…”

October 25, 2018
SIUE STEM Center’s New Location in Science East Enhances Opportunities for Collaboration and Community Building
“The STEM Center’s vibrant, expanded new location is advancing its mission of building a community of researchers and educators…”
October 26, 2018
SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School’s Track Team Helps Athletes Become Better Students
“When Jalen Paraham first came to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter High School...”

October 29, 2018
SIUE Students Get First-Hand Look at Impact of Psychologists in Prisons
“When you think of prison-related job opportunities, you may assume students pursuing a degree in criminal justice would be most interested and/or best suited...”

October 30, 2018
SIUE’s Allena Brazier is on a Journey to Bring Hope and Creativity to East St. Louis through the Katherine Dunham Fellowship
“Remembering the creative influence on her formative years, longing to make a positive difference in her hometown of East St. Louis...”

November 1, 2018
College Democrats host Sen. Durbin, local Democrats at get out the vote rally
“Congressman Dick Durbin, D-Illinois, traveled to SIUE to speak at a get out the vote event hosted by...”

November 6, 2018
SIUE Pharmacy Students Take Passion for Health and Helping Outside
“Nearly 75 Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy students lived their commitment to improving...”

November 1, 2018
Administration to open Facebook page in lieu of recent events
“As a result of Saturday’s shooting in Pittsburgh, SIUE administration and the Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion released an official statement revealing...”

November 15, 2018
Marginalized groups want more administrative action
“Vandalism of two cars with written racial slurs, racist flyers, a vulgar message written on a classroom blackboard...”

November 15, 2018
Center for Spirituality and Sustainability unifies different religious affiliations
“SIUE’s Center for Spirituality and Sustainability, also known as the Fuller Dome, emphasizes the connections between people...”
November 16, 2018
SIUE MUC Marketing Team Earns Three ACUI Graphics Awards
“The ACUI Region V conference brought approximately 250 professionals...”

November 20, 2018
SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School Hosts its First College Fair
“More than 100 CHS students, from grades 9-12, participated in...”

November 21, 2018
SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School Students Give Thanks for Good Friends and Good Food
“In the spirit of the holiday, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter High School (CHS) continued its tradition of...”

November 27, 2018
SIUE School of Engineering Hosts Successful Energy Symposium
“The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Engineering (SOE) successfully hosted its inaugural...”

November 29, 2018
“Maybe Life is Only Stories:” SIUE’s DeSpain Talks of Bridging Generational Divides through Digital Storytelling
“The scholarly work of SIUE’s Jessica DeSpain, PhD, is asking and answering...”

December 4, 2018
SIUE East St. Louis Center's Clinical Medical Assistant Program Training Students to Enter a Better Workforce
“The healthcare system is rapidly growing. The skills of a medical assistant are in demand...”

December 4, 2018
SIUE STEM Center Hosts Fulbright US-ASEAN Visiting Scholar
“Spending a fall semester on Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s campus is a delight in many ways, especially the first time you experience it...”

December 6, 2018
SIUE’s Williams Earns Competitive Statewide Public Health Scholarship
“Southern Illinois University Edwardsville senior Tiffany Williams has been awarded a $1,000 scholarship...”

December 17, 2018
SIUE Alumnus Bradford Receives National Award for Leadership
“Three-time SIUE alumnus Dr. Corey S. Bradford, Sr. is the recipient of...”

January 10, 2019
SIUE Researchers Debunk Common Misconceptions about Teens in New Book: Great Myths of Adolescence
“In a new book dedicated to “teens everywhere who are working to understand...”
January 16, 2019
SIUE’s Tiana Clark Addresses Black Burnout on BuzzFeedNews.com
“Being an African American woman can be hard. But when burnout is added to the mix…”

January 18, 2019
SIUE’s New Sustainability Group, From the Ground Up, Offers Insights to Your Food
“Do you know the journey, processing and environmental costs involved in getting the corn, green beans or…”

January 18, 2019
SIUE iCARE Program is 2019 Arcus Award Finalist
“The St. Louis Regional Chamber announced that Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s iCARE program…”

January 22, 2019
Students from SIUE and East St. Louis Charter High School Participate in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Service Project
“The first Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. service project at the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Center (ESLC) included a unity walk around campus…”

January 24, 2019
SIUE School of Engineering Hosts National Solar Car Conference
“The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Engineering (SOE) is hosting…”

January 31, 2019
1,700 Metro-East Students Cheer on SIUE Cougars During Education Day
“Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Athletics again offered thrilling basketball competition and interactive learning opportunities…”

February 1, 2019
SIUE’s Dr. Timothy Lewis Asks “Is Black History Month Important?”
“To best discuss, learn and understand American history, the antiquity of African Americans is an undeniably vital and interwoven piece of the multi-fabric…”

February 5, 2019
Permanent Cougar Career Closet provides professional attire to students throughout the year
“What was formerly an interview waiting area in the Career Development Center…”

February 14, 2019
SIU Board Approves SIUE Flat Undergraduate Tuition for 2019-20
“The Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees today approved a tuition freeze for all new undergraduate students…”
February 26, 2019
SIUE Black Heritage Month Committee Spotlights Legendary Katherine Dunham
“In a way to acknowledge the plethora of African Americans who have positively impacted...”

February 27, 2019
SIUE Annual Dance Marathon Fundraising Effort is Music to Sick Children’s Ears
“More than 100 people showed their various dance moves on Saturday, Feb. 23...”

March 20, 2019
SIU SDM Women’s Dentists Panel Highlights Professional Experiences
“The Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine (SDM) hosted its annual Women Dentists Luncheon Panel...”

March 20, 2019
Fun, Learning and Pie Marked SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School’s First Pi Day
“The room was full of excitement and energy of the learning kind, as groups of...”

April 11, 2019
SIUE Media Campaigns Class Partners with East St. Louisans to Inspire and Engage their Community
“Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s value of citizenship is in action...”

April 11, 2019
SIU SDM Research Day Emphasizes Global Impact of Research and Scholarship for Practitioners and Patients
“The Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine (SIU SDM) demonstrated its commitment to...”

April 17, 2019
SIUE’s Maer Receives Cronkite Faith and Freedom Award
“Southern Illinois University Edwardsville alumnus Peter Maer will receive the...”

April 24, 2019
KSDK Highlights SIUE Alumna’s Inspirational Story, “Tuning Out Stigma”
“SIUE alumna Theresa San Luis Teller returned to campus on Tuesday, April 23 to...”

April 24, 2019
SIUE School of Nursing Celebrates Record Donor Support, Dramatic Growth
“The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing (SON) had much to celebrate at its 12th Annual...”
April 24, 2019
SIU SDM Receives $2M ILCHF Grant to Treat Pediatric Patients
“The Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine (SIU SDM) has received a $2 million grant from the Illinois Children’s Healthcare Foundation...”

April 24, 2019
SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start Parents Encouraged to Remember Self-Care
“In keeping with its tradition of celebrating children’s first teachers and those who help create an effective learning environment...”

April 24, 2019
Art Hives seek to strengthen communities by creating art
“Last summer, the Center for Spirituality and Sustainability at SIUE began housing Art Hives — a small, community-based...”

April 25, 2019
SIUE Graduate School Presents Research Grants to Outstanding Students
“The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Graduate School is pleased to announce...”

April 30, 2019
SIUE International Studies Day Highlights Global Careers, Features Keynote on Russian Disinformation
“The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) international studies program hosted the third...”

May 1, 2019
SIUE and Rend Lake College Combine for Accelerated Bachelor of Nursing
“The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing (SON) and Rend Lake College (RLC) have agreed to offer...”

May 1, 2019
SIUE’s Learning Resource Center Explains How Technology Can Help with Autism
“Responding to the need and request of a community member and his family...”

May 3, 2019
SIUE Alumna Shares Value of Industrial/Organizational Psychology on National Platform
“Perhaps it was the silent ‘p’ of psychology that made it seem like a magical area...”

May 10, 2019
SIUE Confers Degrees Upon 2,600 Graduates
“Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Chancellor Randy Pembrook, PhD, conferred degrees upon 2,601 graduates...”
We are proud to present the 7-year 2018-2025 SIUE Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan, which is the result of countless hours of work by the University Diversity Council, faculty, staff, and students. Our hope is that SIUE’s commitment to the goals, objectives, and strategies in this Plan will be the catalyst to achieve even greater milestones for diversity and inclusion on our campus.

We developed this Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan with feedback and input from numerous conferences, summits, and discussions with faculty, staff, and students. We feel we have captured the voices of our campus and transformed these ideas into a Plan with solid goals to move us forward in the diversity and inclusion journey at SIUE.
Goal 1
Enhance recruitment for students of underrepresented groups for both undergraduate and graduate programs, and improve retention and graduation rates for underrepresented groups attending SIUE.

Objective 1: Achieve increased enrollments (recruitment) of students who are underrepresented relative to the available population in the state and region, as part of an institutional enrollment management plan.

Strategy for Success 1.1.1: Develop and implement an enrollment management plan that includes strategies to increase applications, admissions and enrollment percentages for admissible freshmen and transfer students from groups historically underrepresented in higher education.

Indicator of success: Outperform expected state and regional market share application, admission, and enrollment ratios for admissible freshmen and transfer students from underrepresented backgrounds.

Assigned to: Enrollment Management

Strategy for Success 1.1.2: Invest in the development of additional pipelines and leverage existing outreach efforts to facilitate access and opportunity to higher education (e.g., SIUE-ESL Charter H.S.; Historical Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Hispanic Chambers of Commerce High School Hispanic Leadership Institute, Community Colleges, Healthcare Diversity Camp).
Indicator of success: Increase the yield rate (admit to enrolled percentage) for admitted students from underrepresented races and ethnicities, particularly African American and Hispanic or Latina(o) groups.

Assigned to: Enrollment Management, Graduate School Admissions, Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, Professional Schools, Academic Affairs

Strategy for Success 1.1.3: Continue to formally analyze and establish routine reporting of Student Tracker and Admitted Student Questionnaire data to the University Diversity Council, Chancellor’s Council and Deans’ Council for all admitted freshmen including underrepresented students to demonstrate patterns among those accepting or declining offers of admission to SIUE.

Indicator of success: Data reviewed by the University Diversity Council, Chancellor’s Council and Deans’ Council as a formal agenda item twice per year and suggestions forwarded to Enrollment Management. For areas of concern, Enrollment Management to develop and carry out expedited actions to address each concern.

Assigned to: Enrollment Management, University Diversity Council, Chancellor’s Council, Deans’ Council

Objective 2: Increase the academic success (retention and graduation) of diverse and underrepresented students as a part of an overall institutional plan to make excellence inclusive.

Strategy for Success 1.2.1: Develop a summer bridge program for 100 first generation low income students admitted under the academic review committee and inclusive of underrepresented groups.

Indicator of success: Increase first-to-second year retention for this group relative to historic performance for similarly positioned groups.

Assigned to: Enrollment Management, Office of the Provost

Strategy for Success 1.2.2: Continue to decrease the percentage of unmet need for our students with the lowest expected family contributions. Determine appropriate institutional aid levels required to maximize enrollment and retention while maintaining institutional net revenue goals.

Indicator of success: A decrease in the percentage of unmet need for our neediest students.

Assigned to: Enrollment Management
Align and coordinate current efforts in place to support underrepresented student persistence and completion rates.

**Indicator of success:** Set targets for performance relative to peer institutions to ensure that SIUE is performing above the median within three years. (See IBHE, IPEDS or US News. Align ourselves with schools having similar entrance requirements and freshman cohort diversity. Set a long-term goal of performing in the top ten percent of peers.)

**Assigned to:** Enrollment Management

Create and expand mentoring programs for students to improve student success and retention.

**Indicator of success:** Increase in retention rates of students.

**Assigned to:** Student Affairs

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**Goal 2**

Increase and retain the number of faculty, staff and administrators from underrepresented groups.

**Objective 1:** Enhance and improve recruiting processes (hiring policies, search committee training, and search processes).

**Strategy for Success 2.1.1:** Develop a university-wide hiring policy that is followed by all units hiring, that ensures an equitable search process, and conforms to external requirements (example: civil service).

**Indicator of success:** New faculty and staff hires from underrepresented groups, as reported by the Office of Institutional Research.

**Assigned to:** Office of Equal Opportunity, Access and Title IX, Human Resources, Academic Affairs

**Strategy for Success 2.1.2:** All search committee chairs will complete training related to diversity recruitment processes.

**Indicator of success:** The number of training sessions and the number of people trained on how to develop action oriented plans.

**Assigned to:** Office of Equal Opportunity, Access and Title IX, Center for Faculty Development and Innovation, Human Resources
Strategy for Success 2.1.3: Confirm that all SIUE job descriptions include language regarding the importance of diversity and inclusion.

Indicator of success: Increase in the number of people applying, interviewing, and hired for faculty and staff, affirmative action plan job group, from underrepresented groups, as reported in the University’s Affirmative Action Plan relative to the available national pool.

Assigned to: Human Resources, Office of Equal Opportunity, Access and Title IX, Department Chairs, Deans, Directors

Objective 2: Create pathways for faculty and staff from underrepresented groups to advance at SIUE as staff, faculty and administrators by enhancing and retaining retention processes (Development Workshops [resumes, testing, interviewing], Mentoring).

Strategy for Success 2.2.1: Create and expand workshops on career development, effective interviewing techniques and inform the university community on these opportunities.

Indicator of success: Growth in the number of faculty, staff, and administrators from underrepresented groups who achieve tenure, promotion, and career advancement as reported by the Office of Institutional Research.

Assigned to: Career Development, Center for Faculty Development and Innovation, Human Resources

Strategy for Success 2.2.2: Create and expand mentoring programs for faculty and staff.

Indicator of success: Decrease in voluntary and involuntary departure rates or turnover rates of faculty, staff, and administrators.

Assigned to: Center for Faculty Development and Innovation, Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, Deans, Directors

Strategy for Success 2.2.3: Conduct exit interviews or exit surveys to find out why people leave SIUE.

Indicator of success: Compilation of data as collected through units, schools, and departments reflecting improvement in retention and success to determine whether retention strategies are working.

Assigned to: Department Chairs, Deans, Directors, Human Resources
Goal 3
Build a community that fosters learning, scholarship, and creative activities that reflect understanding of global diversity and a commitment to inclusion and social justice.

Objective 1: Work with Faculty Senate and Student Affairs to identify ways to strengthen the university curriculum and enhance co-curricular activities to increase learning.

Strategy for Success 3.1.1: Assess learning outcomes related to SIUE’s Objective for the Baccalaureate Degree which states, “All students will gain an understanding of the traditions that influence individuals and communities in order to develop a respect for and a sensitivity to human diversity. Students will gain a deeper understanding of global interdependence.”

Indicator of success: The general education assessment committee will provide baseline data on this outcome and the Office of the Provost will work with stakeholders to establish targets.

Assigned to: Office of the Provost, Faculty Senate

Strategy for Success 3.1.2: Implement the Sustained Dialogue (SD) Pilot and determine how SD can become part of the curricular and/or co-curricular experience for students.

Indicator of success: Students, staff and faculty will complete SD training and the SD pilots will be implemented in Honors and in co-curricular opportunities. Faculty Senate will consider whether SD can become a requirement.

Assigned to: Office of the Provost, Student Affairs

Strategy for Success 3.1.3: Faculty will work with Faculty Senate and the Office of the Provost to determine how to strengthen the Lincoln Program or the SIUE Experience to address diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Indicator of success: A completed pilot or a curricular proposal could be a result of these efforts.

Assigned to: Office of the Provost, Student Affairs, Faculty Senate
Objective 2: Increase awareness, competencies, and capacities of faculty and staff to effectively address issues of diversity and inclusion.

Strategy for Success 3.2.1: Enhance professional development opportunities through increased programming in support of inclusive excellence.

Indicator of success: Plan and implement professional development activities related to diversity and inclusion at least two times per year for faculty and staff.

Assigned to: Vice Chancellors, Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion

Strategy for Success 3.2.2: Provide support for faculty to transform or create courses that achieve diversity and inclusion-related learning outcomes.

Indicator of success: Increase the number of faculty engaging in course redesigns and/or new courses to integrate inclusive pedagogies or to enhance diversity and inclusion content.

Assigned to: Academic Affairs

Strategy for Success 3.2.3: Develop specific outreach strategies to encourage underrepresented and diverse faculty and students to participate in URCA and other high-impact practices.

Indicator of success: Increased number of underrepresented students in URCA and increased percentage of underrepresented students completing a high impact practice prior to Senior Assignment.

Assigned to: Office of the Provost

Objective 3: Provide opportunities for student participation in high-impact learning experiences that promote learning related to global citizenship, diversity and inclusion, including study abroad, services learning, etc.

Strategy for Success 3.3.1: Increase opportunities for study abroad opportunities and improve funding to support study abroad experiences.

Indicator of success: Increase numbers of students studying abroad; broader array of study abroad opportunities across academic units and programs.

Assigned to: Academic Affairs (Academic Advising, International Affairs) and Advancement
Strategy for Success 3.3.2: Develop and implement plans to enhance student participation in intentionally designed high impact learning experiences, whether in general education, major programs, or co-curricular experiences.

Indicator of success: Increased numbers of students participating in high impact learning experiences, whether in general education, major programs, or co-curricular experiences.

Assigned to: Academic Affairs

Strategy for Success 3.3.3: Develop plans that will strengthen the relationship between Academic Affairs and the community engagement activities of the East St. Louis Center and SIUE-ESL Charter High School.

Indicator of success: Increased numbers of students and faculty participating in high impact learning experiences, whether in general education, major programs, co-curricular experiences.

Assigned to: Academic Affairs

Goal 4
Develop and maintain a campus climate that acknowledges, embraces, and celebrates diversity and inclusion as a core value of the SIUE community.

Objective 1: Create a campus climate that is civil, supportive, and respectful, and that values differing perspectives and experiences.

Strategy for Success 4.1.1: Develop an annual diversity and inclusion training for all students, faculty, and staff.

Indicator of success: Decreased number of reported racial and bias incidents.

Assigned to: Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion

Strategy for Success 4.1.2: Expand efforts for ongoing town halls, university workshops, and open dialogue sessions focusing on diversity and inclusion that help to prevent harassment, retaliation, discrimination and provide productive ways to resolve conflict.

Indicator of Success: Faculty, staff, and students will report a decrease in harassment, retaliation, and discrimination reports as reflected in the campus climate survey.
Assigned to: Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, Office of Equal Opportunity, Access and Title IX, Human Resources

Strategy for Success 4.1.3: Create an annual Diversity and Inclusion Day at SIUE which includes reviewing the dashboards, guest speakers, student presentations, learning assessment outcomes, and presentations by internal and external leaders focusing on diversity and inclusion.

Indicator of success: Broad representation from students, faculty, staff and administrators across all units attend the meeting.

Assigned to: Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, Student Affairs

Strategy for Success 4.1.4: Increase connections between the Chancellor’s Council and the University Diversity Council.

Indicator of success: Chancellor’s Council and University Diversity Council hold annual joint meeting focused on diversity and inclusion; each member from the Chancellor’s Council will attend one University Diversity Council meeting per year.

Assigned to: Chancellor’s Council, University Diversity Council

**Objective 2:** Review campus culture data.

Strategy for Success 4.2.1: Conduct campus climate surveys every three years.

Indicator of success: Improvement in results of diversity and climate-related perceptions as measured by the campus climate surveys that will be conducted every three years by the University Diversity Council and other surveys conducted by the Office of Institutional Research.

Assigned to: University Diversity Council, Institutional Research

Strategy for Success 4.2.2: Develop and implement a process for regular review of the SIUE Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan.

Indicator of Success: An annual report to the University community.

Assigned to: University Diversity Council

**Objective 3:** Enhance communications projecting diversity and inclusion.

Strategy for Success 4.3.1: Create a Board of Trustees (BOT) report section focusing on diversity and inclusion to be covered each meeting.
Indicator of success: Reports are prepared at each meeting during the year.

Assigned to: Chancellor, University Diversity Council

Strategy for Success 4.3.2: Review web-based material to assure that diversity and inclusion is reflected.

Indicator of success: Web-based material reflects diversity and inclusion at SIUE.

Assigned to: Marketing and Communications, University Diversity Council

Objective 4: Review policies and procedures pertaining to diversity, inclusion and equity.

Strategy for Success 4.4.1: Develop an Americans with Disabilities Act committee as reflected in our Affirmative Action Plans.

Indicator of success: An Americans with Disabilities Act Committee.

Assigned to: Office of Equal Opportunity, Access and Title IX

Strategy for Success 4.4.2: Review university policies prohibiting discrimination, harassment, and related retaliation through the university’s compliance process and student conduct process.

Indicator of success: Updated policies, procedures and changes disseminated to university community.

Assigned to: Office of Equal Opportunity, Access and Title IX, Student Affairs, University Diversity Council

Objective 5: Increase, enhance, and showcase our campus-wide community engagement diversity and inclusion initiatives.

Strategy for Success 4.5.1: Compile current campus-wide community engagement initiatives from all units.

Indicator of success: Annually, campus-wide engagement activities are published on the Institutional Diversity and Inclusion web site and the University calendar. Activities are also distributed to appropriate constituent groups.

Assigned to: Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion

Strategy for Success 4.5.2: Develop research projects around the university connection to the metro east communities and showcase during Diversity Day.
Indicator of success: At least one new research project is shared during Diversity Day.

Assigned to: Academic Affairs

Objective 6: Enhance environments supporting diversity and inclusion.

Strategy for Success 4.6.1: Expand programs, services and staffing to support the Multicultural Center.

Indicator of success: Increase in staff, programming and support resources to carry out our commitment to a diverse and inclusive campus community.

Assigned to: Student Affairs

Objective 7: Create and sustain an institutional infrastructure that effectively supports progress in achieving goals in the SIUE Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan.

Strategy for Success 4.7.1: Each academic and student services unit assigns a diversity coordinator to promote diversity activities. Diversity coordinators meet annually to discuss activities.

Indicator of Success: All academic and student service units actively participate in annual dialogue meetings and Diversity Day.

Assigned to: Chancellor’s Council