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LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATE CHANCELLOR AND CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER

The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion has seen many new and exciting changes in 2019-2020. Perhaps the most significant achievements were SIUE’s 2nd Annual Diversity Day in October 2019, the implementation of the SIUE 2018-2025 Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan and Covid-19. 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 Diversity and Inclusion Institutional Leadership Team was developed. 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. The University Diversity Council was also reorganized and we continue to develop diversity and inclusion committees to represent each unit in the campus community.

This summer prior to the completion of this annual report George Floyd a Black man was murdered in the street by Minnesota Police. This senseless act has set the nation into a whirlwind of protest and definitely change. As a campus community we are committed to being an Anti-racist campus. Lots of conversations will begin this summer and I anticipate our 2020-2021 year will be full of painful conversations, new ways of thinking, new programs but a community committed to an inclusive campus. Black Lives Matter here at SIUE. Now it is time to do the work!

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, equity 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.

Covid-19 brought new diverse and interesting challenges to our campus in mid-spring but our faculty, staff and students rose to the occasion and position SIUE to continue to provide excellence and finish the semester strong.

Thank you and 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,

In this, our third annual Diversity Report summary, we are very pleased to update you on the multitude of Diversity and Inclusion activities that continue to occur at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

SIUE’s ongoing commitment to values and principles that incorporate diversity and inclusion throughout the year and all manner of programming is evident in the extensive involvement of the campus community. A few shining examples follow:

- Southern Illinois University Edwardsville received the 2019 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. SIUE joins a select group of 35 institutions nationally that have earned the distinction for six consecutive years.

- SIUE’s second annual Diversity Day celebration, under the theme “From Awareness to Action, SIUE Shaping a Changing World,” was held Monday-Tuesday, Oct. 14-15 with educational and active engagement sessions at the Edwardsville, East St. Louis and Alton campuses. These activities showcased the SIUE Diversity Strategic Plan. We were extremely excited for the powerful messages and action items that were conveyed throughout the 2019 Diversity Day programming.

- SIUE piloted DiversityEdu with new faculty, staff and first year freshmen. Each module taught skills for understanding the impact of bias, language and behavior. All first-year students were encouraged to complete the DiversityEdu learning as part of the First Semester Transition course.

- SIUE hosted the 37th annual community luncheon honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The program featured guest speaker Denise Taliaferro Baszile, PhD, Associate Dean for Student Services and Diversity in the College of Education, Health and Society at Miami University.

- SIUE welcomed Lindy Wagner as the new director of the Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion (CSDI). She assumed her new responsibilities in March 2020 and has more than 16 years of experience working in higher education, providing diversity and inclusion training workshops for faculty, staff and students, as well as student organizations. She is completing a doctorate in intercultural communication at SIU Carbondale.

- The inaugural State of the Black Union event, hosted by the Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA), provided an opportunity to deliberate on issues of particular concern to Black faculty, staff and students at SIUE. The program began with a formal report of data concerning the hiring and promotion of Black faculty and staff, as well as retention and graduation rates for Black students, and also included a leadership panel and facilitated roundtable discussions. The program concluded with the development of a one-year action plan to augment and support existing efforts to build a more inclusive campus and address persisting challenges to racial equity at the University.

(continued on next page)
LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR

At SIUE, we are dedicated to living our values and to striving for progress and innovation. 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 continue to work to create and foster a sense of belonging and community at SIUE and who, even in times of global health challenges, maintain our focus on the greater good.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Randall G. Pembrook, Chancellor
SIUE

Click here to review the SIUE Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan
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 2014-2019, 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.
Even the Darkest Night Will End and the Sun Will Rise!!
- A Small Tribute to the Late Mary Jo Peck

Mary Jo Peck, 75 of Glen Carbon passed away on Sunday, April 26, 2020 at Fountain View Manor in Granite City.

Mary was born on February 21, 1945 in Glen Carbon; the daughter of the late William C. and Leona (Viere) Henry. Mary was a secretary for over 25 years at SIU-E and a member of St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Glen Carbon. Mary was very active in the Glen Carbon community serving on the Glen Carbon Library Board and the Glen Carbon Historical Committee. She was a well-known baker and famous for making pies and kolache’. Mary enjoyed her days of cooking and just loved to spend time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She will be remembered for the love of her family and all the special times they shared together.

Mary is survived by and will be missed by her children; Andrea and David Zarr of Glen Carbon, IL, Andy and Amy Peck of Collinsville, IL, Joe Peck and Julie Ross of Rushville, IL, Trey and Shelly Peck of Maryville, IL, Chris and Elizabeth Peck of Holland, MI; brother, Maurice and Barbara Henry; sister, Margaret and Dewey Fare; brother-in-law, Phil Conreaux; grandchildren, Zane, Alistair, Alivia, Austin, Lilly, Jameson, Nolan, Drew, Benny, Ellyana, Jonathan.

Although Mary deserves a wonderful life celebration, during these uncertain times a memorial mass and a burial is being planned for a later date. Memorial donations are suggested to St. Cecilia Catholic Church, Alzheimer’s Association or to Unity Hospice. Irwin Chapel, 591 Glen Crossing Road is serving the family.

(SIUE News Archive: April 2020, irwinchapel.com)

NADOHE Chief Diversity Officer Fellow Visits SIUE

Dr. Andrea Abrams, a National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE) Chief Diversity Officer Fellow visited SIUE. Dr. Venessa Brown served as a NADOHE Senior Chief Diversity Officer Mentor to Dr. Abrams for a year. A requirement of the Mentoring program is for both to to visit each other’s institution.

Dr. Abrams met with a number of SIUE key people who shared with her their collaboration with the CDO and their diversity and inclusion initiatives.

Dr. Abrams, is the Associate Vice President for Diversity Affairs & Special Assistant to the President, and Associate Professor of Anthropology at Centre College in Danville, KY.
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.

**DIVERSITYEDU MAKES ITS WAY TO SIUE**

This academic year marks the pilot for DiversityEdu, an online program consisting of modules relating to diversity and inclusion, on SIUE’s campus. The program covers topics such as microaggressions. It is accessible to new faculty, new staff and students enrolled in the first year transition seminar.

Venessa Brown, Associate Chancellor for the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer at SIUE, said the Diversity and Inclusion Institutional Leadership Team brought the program to SIUE in hopes of helping newcomers understand the university’s mission of inclusivity.

Chancellor Randy Pembrook said such diversity and inclusion initiatives are vital as SIUE sees individuals from roughly 60 countries and between 40 and 50 states on campus within any given year. Given this, he said SIUE is encouraging community members to think from different perspectives by implementing DiversityEdu.

“Our goal is to make information available to them and accessible, we want to know as an institution that we’re doing all we can to make things available and accessible to them,” Brown said. She also said allowing community members to have this year-round access to the modules makes it a success. For more information about the initiatives taken by the Diversity and Inclusion Institutional Leadership Team, contact Venessa Brown at vbrown@siue.edu. (Alestle News Archive: September 2019)
PROGRAMS, EVENTS & UPDATES

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.

GOAL 1 & 2

IMPLICIT BIAS SERIES

Personal accounts of prejudices, frank conversations about injustice and inequality, and strategies on how to lessen the effects of biases were discussed Friday, March 22 at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Diversity and Inclusion Spring Summit, “Implicit Bias and Institutional Change: Who Am I at SIUE?” The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion sponsored the summit, which was moderated by three of the four members of the new SIUE Diversity and Inclusion Leadership team. The series included the following:

- Part I-Who Am I at SIUE? (March 2019)
- Part II-Who Am I in Relationship to others? (April 2019)
- Part III-Who Am I in the Delivery of Services (Sept. 2019)
- Part IV- Inaugural Diversity and Inclusion Summer Campus Community Reading and Discussions (Summer 2019) *(SIUE News Archive: March 2019)*

GOAL 3

INAUGURAL CAMPUS COMMUNITY READING

The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion sponsors professional development discussions and book clubs throughout the year. If you are interested in utilizing these book selections, you may download the discussion materials in our Online Learning Community on Blackboard. More book clubs coming soon!

UNIVERSITY-WIDE TRAINING RESOURCES

Our training videos are available to the University through our office. Each of these are institutional copies and are available for checkout by faculty and staff for university use. For more information, please contact the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion at 618-650-5382.
GOAL 4

Diversity Day 2019

Diversity Day Planning Committee

Southern Illinois University School Of Dental Medicine

SIUE Diversity Day 2019 - Tuesday, October 15
From Awareness to Action, SIUE Shaping a Changing World
OPENING RECEPTION FOR COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS
(INVITATION ONLY)
5-6:30 PM, LUCAS ANNEX, COUGAR PAVILION

Senator Christopher Belt

State Senator Christopher Belt grew up in Centreville and is a lifelong resident of Illinois' Metro East area. He represents Illinois' 57th Senate District, which encompasses communities in St. Clair and Madison counties, including Belleville, Collinsville, O’Fallon, Granite City, Freeburg, Mascoutah and Scott Air Force Base.

Prior to serving in the Illinois Senate, Belt enjoyed an 18-year career as a law enforcement officer. He spent 16 years with the St. Clair County Probation and Detention Center and two years as the regional deputy administrator of Aftercare for the central and southern regions of Illinois.

Senator Belt saw firsthand the impact positive role models have on youth in his community. In 2003, this experience led him to found the Difference Makers Professional Organization, which is dedicated to strengthening the decision-making capabilities of young men between the ages of 9 and 18. He authored an educational children’s book, “The Adventures of Nate the Gnat,” to teach youth how to be safe, responsible citizens.
Diversity Day 2019
OPENING RECEPTION FOR COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS
SECOND ANNUAL DIVERSITY DAY:
FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION, SIUE SHAPING A CHANGING WORLD

Diversity Day is a celebration of our institution’s past, present and future as it relates to advances in cultural-responsiveness and inclusion. This goal is encapsulated in the day’s theme, “From Awareness to Action, SIUE Shaping a Changing World.” Designed with community engagement and participation across all three SIUE’s campuses in mind, this multi-event day showcases the multitude of ways in which membership in the global community is core to our mission and values.

Diversity Day is an educational day that includes art, discussions, guest speakers, presentations, posters and even cuisine representing the ethnic roots of our students. In addition to efforts taking place on all of our campuses, we engage surrounding communities through a community service project.

To ensure that we accurately represent the voices of the different constituency groups across campus, Diversity Day is planned and executed by the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, the Diversity Day Committee and University Marketing and Communications. Our committee is comprised of faculty, staff and students from all three campuses and chaired by the Associate Chancellor and Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Venessa A. Brown.

Social Justice advocate Howard Ross served as the keynote speaker during the Diversity Day Luncheon from 11am-1pm in the Morris University Center’s (MUC) Meridian Ballroom. Howard highlighted his life’s work and his highly-acclaimed book, Everyday Bias, which raises readers level of insight and awareness of important issues surrounding unconscious bias.

Diversity and inclusion are something that we not only embrace at SIUE, but through efforts like Diversity Day, we also demonstrate our commitment to a campus environment that has a sense of belonging for all people. For more information, click the link: Diversity Day 2019 (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)
Diversity Day 2019
Diversity Day 2019
UNITED NATIONS PARADE
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS PANEL
A welcome message to open 2019 SIUE Diversity Day, highlighted the events of the day and introduced the School of Business Alumni Panel. “Diversity is the catalyst for change,” said Lindsay Myers, Regional Sales Manager at Schattdeco. (SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2019)

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 ACCESS Newsletter 2019)

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 2019)

ART HIVE
Art Hive is a community art studio that welcomes everyone as an artist. It’s a welcoming place to talk, make art, build communities and respond in creative ways to things that matter. An Art Hive is about inclusion, respect and learning. (SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2019)
**CULTURAL LITERACY ON THE MOVE**
A Mobile Little Free Library that introduces a culturally diverse world, celebrates differences, promotes social justice and reinforces a love of reading. Young Goshen Market goers will have the opportunity to check books out and exchange them for others each time they visit the market. *(SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2019)*

**BRIDGING THE GAP: TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY**
This interactive session explored the age of trauma-informed care. This presentation discussed inherent connections existing between factors like trauma and multicultural competence, and offered student affairs practitioners and faculty insight on integrating these competencies. *(SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2019)*

**PARADE OF NATIONS**
SIUE is home to approximately 370 international students from 54 different countries around the globe. Students showcased flags of their nations at our Diversity Day Welcome Breakfast. Attendees had the opportunity to join this parade as it makes its way to the Stratton Quad. *(SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2019)*

**STUDENT PANEL DISCUSSION**
This panel on international student journeys shed light on the individual stories and experiences the panel members have faced, and educated all attendants on the significance of the hardships that international students face on a daily basis. *(SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2019)*
PERCEPTION VS. REALITY:
An interactive discussion exploring the trope of the angry black woman and the negative stereotypes these women often face in higher education settings. Grounded in black feminist thought theory, the facilitators introduced this theory as a foundation for the dialogue and discussed how to navigate these challenges. *(SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2019)*

LGBTQIA+: THE HIGHER EDUCATION LEARNING CURVE
This panel was an opportunity for students, faculty and staff of all levels of understanding and knowledge to ask current and former LGBTQIA students about their experiences as students at SIUE, including their challenges, and how SIUE can be more supportive and improve the campus. *(SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2019)*

THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY IN COLLEGE ATHLETICS
Three former college student-athletes discussed their experience as young black professionals in collegiate athletics. *(SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2019)*

ACCESSING DIVERSITYEDU LEARNING MODULES
DiversityEdu is a suite of diversity learning courses that are now available to all through Blackboard. This session focused on how to access DiversityEdu modules in Blackboard and demonstrate content. *(SIUE Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2019)*
SPECIAL LIBRARY EXHIBIT
Kaleidoscope display is an interactive exhibit for self-reflection and group reflection utilizing a small and large kaleidoscope. When looking through the reflection, students were able to notice the different ways the gems interacted.

CULTURAL APPROPRIATION PRESENTATION
The subject of cultural appropriation will be discussed at the campus of Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine (SIU SDM) on Tuesday, Oct. 15 during Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s second annual Diversity Day celebration.

For more information on the numerous educational sessions and events held throughout Diversity Day 2019, please enjoy the Diversity Day Conference Booklet 2019 on our website at www.siue.edu/diversity. You can also see photos from Diversity Day 2019 on our Facebook page.

SIUE EAST ST. LOUIS CAMPUS
A conversation on “When They See Us, Part II” was facilitated by Dr. J.T. Snipes, Assistant Professor, School of Education, Health and Human Behavior.

SIUE DIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE
This discussion presented SIUE’s Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan updates and progress since implementation of the Plan.
Diversity Day 2019
DIVERSITY DAY 2019 AT SIUE HEADSTART
GOAL 4

PHENOMENAL WOMEN’S AWARD

Chancellor Randy Pembrook and the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion would like to congratulate the 49 women nominated for the SIUE 2020 Phenomenal Women’s Award. Out of the 49 women nominated from SIUE and the surrounding community, 15 were chosen to receive the 2020 Phenomenal Woman Award based on the award criteria and their commitment to a diverse and inclusive SIUE. Each nominee received a certificate.

“This year’s group represents women around the globe who are actively contributing to diversity and inclusion at SIUE, the region, the nation and the world,” said Venessa A. Brown, PhD, associate chancellor and chief diversity officer. “Chancellor Randy Pembrook and the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion would like to congratulate the 49 women nominated for the SIUE 2020 Phenomenal Woman Award.”

Award recipients included:

Kelly Atkins, Stephanie Batson, Dr. Kimberly Carter, Caroline Crabtree, Dr. Nathalia Garcia, Carol Gentry, Dr. Diane Hayes, Dr. Jessica Hinz, Dorothy Hummel, Kelsey King, Kamariah Lewis, Dr. Earleen Patterson, Miriam Roccia, Mackenzie Rogers, and Dr. Mary Weishaar. (SIUE News Archive: March 2020)
GOAL 1

MENTORING PROGRAMS

SIUE hosts two mentoring programs. One of which is the Faculty and Staff Mentoring Student-Athletes Program; this is a joint program with the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and Intercollegiate Athletics where faculty and staff members serve as mentors to student-athletes. The second mentoring program is BUILD (Bridging Universal Inclusion & Leadership Development), which is a collaborative mentoring program between ACCESS and the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. These programs provide networking opportunities, proactive support, and one-on-one interpersonal involvement.

MENTORING STORIES

Mentoring relationships enhance not only the lives of both the mentor and the mentee, but also strengthen the institution as a whole through networks of support and togetherness. Below are mentor/mentee pairs featured in our quarterly Promoting Diversity and Inclusion Newsletter.

Here we feature Dr. Florence Maätita and Kelsie Williams. Florence, the mentor, is a professor in the Department of Sociology. Kelsie, the mentee, is a member of the Women’s Basketball team and the Faculty and Staff Mentoring Student-Athletes Program.

“Dr. Maätita is very easy to talk to and comes across as a very open person, and is very nice. She also let us know that she would be there for anything we needed. I love that in a person, to know in the back of my mind that if I needed something I can go talk to them and I would be fine -- she’s that type of person.”

- Kelsie Williams
Here we feature Kevin Schmoll and Iziah James. Kevin, the mentor, is the SIUE Police Chief. Iziah, the mentee, is a member of the Men’s Basketball team and the Faculty and Staff Mentoring Student Athletes Program.

“I am still in touch with my past mentees -- even though they have graduated and moved on I still stay in touch with them. Once a mentee, always a mentee for life!”  
- Kevin Schmoll

This is Bethany Kassebaum and Kloe Hilbrenner. Bethany, the mentor, is an instructor in the Department of Biological Sciences. Kloe, the mentee, is a member of the Softball team and the Faculty and Staff Mentoring Student-Athletes Program.

“I would tell anyone who is interested in becoming a mentor to go for it! You will get so much more out of the relationship than you put into it! These athletes are an asset to our SIUE community and beyond. It is my pleasure to be associated with them!.”  
- Bethany Kassebaum

This is Dr. Venessa Brown. Dr. Venessa Brown, the mentor, is the current Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Diversity Officer. Shamar and Lamar Wright, the mentees, are members of the Faculty and Staff Mentoring Student-Athletes Program.

“I believe in both this program, and my mentees.”  
- Dr. Venessa Brown
I believe being a part of faculty that this is a big thing we should all do. I also enjoy watching a lot of athletic events here. I believe student athletes are in a different position because they have two different things that split their attention and I believe that why it is important for them to have mentors that are faculty.

“It is fun! Especially if you like sports. I don’t go as often as I would like, but it is fun because when you watch a game and see your mentee succeeding you feel some sense of pride. There is a parent child type of relationship that makes you feel prideful. I hope a lot more faculty and athletes participate in the program. I hope everyone can meet more so all relationships can become more meaningful.”

- Marcus Agustin

Being a mentor is one way I am able to give back to SIUE and support student success. It is a way to light a path for students who are having new and challenging experiences as a student; being away from home; navigating new stressors and needing to make new decisions.

I am a big believer in what extracurricular activities can do for students because I was really shaped by being a musician and how marching band was there for me. Its helps student’s build that structure and it creates a family and I am really supportive of athletics and I think this role is a good fit for me.

Being a mentor is rewarding. If you are passionate about students having a positive experience in college, you can contribute to it by being a mentor! Helping others is a reward within itself.

- Rianne Greenwalt

“I think it is worth it and the time it take is not a super huge commitment so it is manageable. Seeing the smiles at the end of the games and being somewhat a part of what our basketball team does builds the SIUE community by belonging to something bigger than yourself.”

- Carol Colaninno
WASHINGTON MONTHLY’S NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

After being classified as a master’s-large institution for most of its history, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville was reclassified in January 2019 by The Carnegie Commission on Higher Education to the newly created doctoral/professional universities category. The classification upgrade is significant as Washington Monthly has ranked SIUE 115th in its 2019 National University Rankings of 395 doctoral institutions.

SIUE was fourth among Illinois public institutions, behind the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois-Chicago and Illinois State University. SIUE was rated ahead of a significant number of regional peers, including Missouri State (154), University of Missouri-St. Louis (176), SIU-Carbondale (257), Saint Louis University (259) and Lindenwood University (327). For the previous nine years, SIUE was in Washington Monthly’s Top 100 nationally for master’s universities. (SIUE News Archive: August 2019)

2019 HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AWARD

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has received the 2019 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. SIUE joins a select group of 35 institutions that have earned the distinction for six consecutive years.

As a recipient of the annual HEED Award, a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion, SIUE will be featured along with 92 other recipients in the November 2019 edition of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine.

“SIUE’s strong commitment to diverse programming, and our diversity and inclusion online learning community position SIUE as a model for the region,” said Venessa A. Brown, PhD, associate chancellor and chief diversity officer. “SIUE values and appreciates a diverse and inclusive campus community. We are intentional about discussing various issues in our state, region, nation and world that impact our campus culture.” (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)

SIUE RECEIVES AWARD FOR STUDENT MID-TERM VOTING RATE OVER 30%

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville earned a Silver Seal from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge for having a 2018 campus voting rate between 30-39% in the 2018 midterm election. The award was announced on Nov. 12 at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

The nation-wide challenge hopes to make participation in local, state and federal elections a social norm throughout student bodies, while promoting democratic engagement throughout participating campuses’ cultures and curriculums. (SIUE News Archive: November 2019)
SIUE’S CAMPUS PRIDE INDEX
The Campus Pride Index sets the bar higher for LGBTQ-inclusive policies, programs and practices. The index is owned and operated by Campus Pride, the leading national nonprofit organization for student leaders and campus groups working to create safer, more LGBTQ-friendly learning environments at colleges and universities.

The index is supported under the Campus Pride Q Research Institute for Higher Education as well as benefits from strategic partnerships with professional organizations in higher education and related LGBTQ nonprofit organizations."

SIUE has worked to consistently improve resources and campus life for LGBTQ students, faculty and staff. As a result, SIUE now has a Campus Pride Index of 4 out of 5 stars, making it a Premiere Campus. *(SIUE News Archive 2019)*

Promoting Diversity and Inclusion Newsletters
Fall 2019-Spring 2020

Our quarterly *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](http://www.siue.edu/diversity), where you can find all editions of our *Promoting Diversity and Inclusion* newsletter, trainings and media available for checkout by faculty and staff, photos and information from our holiday observances, and much more!
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville was honored to be recognized as a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award recipient in 2019 for the sixth 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 six 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.
2019 DATA SUMMARY
STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

12,500 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

47% Male 53% Female

2,394 GRADUATE STUDENTS

40% Male 60% Female

6% IDENTIFIES AS A VETERAN

5% 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
What are your six-year graduation rates for undergraduate full-time students in the following groups?

**Overall**

48%

六-year graduation rate for undergraduate full-time students

- Unknown: 22%
- International: 10%
- Multiracial: 42%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 0%
- Asian American: 51%
- Native American: 50%
- Hispanic/Latino: 43%
- African American/Black: 27%
- White/Caucasian: 55%

**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)
2019-2020 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 2019-2020 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.
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 SETS THE STAGE FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN TO SUCCEED

After researching the program, Neshay Sanders thought it was too good to be true, and while she was nervous about leaving home, the Chicago native knew she could not pass up a chance to be part of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s inaugural Summer Success Program. “This is such a great program. You get six credit hours for free,” exclaimed Sanders. “SIUE has put $3,411.00 into me, and I’m so appreciative.”

Makesha Lee Harris, EdD, assistant director for Pre-Collegiate Programs, devised and designed the program.

“We are here to be an advocate for the students and promote the whole-being concept of spiritual, intellectual, social, occupational, physical and psychological development,” remarked Harris. “With the support of many different campus constituents, we are able to provide efficient delivery of services and help the students obtain their educational goals.” (SIUE News Archive: July 2019)
SIU TRUSTEES APPROVE SIUE’S PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

To enhance SIUE students’ ability to study abroad, the SIU Board of Trustees approved SIUE’s participation in the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP), emulating a long-term practice at the Carbondale campus. SIUE will offer students the opportunity to participate in ISEP, an exchange organization comprised of 300-plus universities in more than 50 countries. The exchange program involves trading places where the SIUE student pays a fee of $5,983.90 to cover general student fees, housing and meal plan, matriculation and transcripts, and the institution abroad waives all such charges. When foreign students arrive at SIUE through ISEP, their tuition, fees, housing and meal plan, and other related fees are waived. As a result, SIUE students will enjoy more study abroad locations at a cost similar to studying at SIUE. (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)

SIUE SEEKS TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS IN CHINA

Three Southern Illinois University Edwardsville leaders spent time in China during May strengthening bonds that will enhance diversity at SIUE as its faculty, students and staff continue to shape a changing world.

SIUE Executive Director of International Affairs Mary Weishaar, PhD, School of Engineering (SOE) Dean Cem Karacal, PhD, and Keqin Gu, PhD, distinguished research professor in the SOE Department of Mechanical Engineering, spent 10 days visiting the cities of Lanzhou, Beijing and Changshu.

Weishaar renewed an international partnership and met with SIUE travel study students at Northwest Normal University (NWNU) in Lanzhou. SIUE’s relationship with NWNU stretches back to 2012, and the University has hosted visiting scholars on a regular basis. While Weishaar was at NWNU, Karacal and Gu visited a prospective partner in Suzhou.

After Weishaar, Karacal and Gu visited new partners at Beijing Institute of Science and Technology University (BISTU), they traveled to Changshu Institute of Technology (CIT). They were introduced to engineering students, who will attend SIUE in a dual degree transfer program. CIT students enrolled in the dual degree program in fall 2018. Twenty-one CIT students are expected to join the SOE’s mechatronics and robotics program in January 2020.

“This trip was especially productive as we strive to maintain existing partnerships, develop new partnerships and implement new student exchange programs,” Weishaar said. “Our international partners share many goals with SIUE and show deep commitment to sustaining successful exchanges.”

“These international agreements with institutions promote faculty and student exchange, research collaboration and teaching collaboration,” Karacal said. (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)
SIUE’S ONLINE MASTER’S OF EDUCATION IN INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY RANKED AMONG MOST AFFORDABLE IN NATION

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s online master’s of science in education with a major in instructional technology degree program is ranked 23rd in the nation and 2nd in Illinois for affordability, according to leading education research publisher SR Education Group.

The 120 Most Affordable Rankings lists featured on OnlineU.org represent online schools across the nation that are committed to providing affordable, economical options for students. The tuition rates of every accredited college offering fully online degrees are manually researched and collected each year to determine the most affordable options.

“SIUE’s instructional technology program is delighted to be recognized among the nation’s most affordable online programs,” said Graduate Program Director David Knowlton, EdD. “Yes, we have one of the lowest tuitions around, but we also give students a huge bang-for-their-buck by ensuring that they get a world-class education.”

Housed in the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior’s Department of Educational Leadership, SIUE’s master’s in instructional technology is 100% online and is structured to develop creative design thinkers.

(SIUE News Archive: May 2019)

SIUE PHARMACY STUDENTS FINISH AMONG TOP 10% NATIONWIDE IN RESEARCH COMPETITION

A Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy (SOP) team of three second-year students are celebrating their proud accomplishment of finishing as a finalist in the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Clinical Research Challenge (CRC). The team offered strong showings through three rounds of competition to land among the final eight teams nationally, and top 10 percent, of the 82 participating schools.

The SIUE SOP team comprised Kristin Engelhardt, of Lincoln, Lauren Ratliff, of Wood River, and Kristen Ingold, of Freeburg. The students earned the opportunity to represent the SIUE SOP by achieving the highest scores on an internal journal club review exam. The trio’s research proposal focused on: Would pharmacy involvement in continuum of care for patients with type 2 diabetes result in reduced disease-related hospital readmission rates and ER visits, and improve quality of life and clinical outcomes?

“Encouraging students to participate in these co-curricular competitions is incredibly important,” said the team’s faculty mentor Terri Poirier, PharmD, MPH, professor and senior scholar in the Department of Pharmacy Practice. “The motivation of students to participate and learn beyond what is addressed in the curriculum is commendable, and reflects the quality of our student body at SIUE.”

(SIUE News Archive: June 2019)
REU SYMPOSIUM AT SIUE MARKS FINALE OF NSF-FUNDED APPLIED RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY FOR RISING SCHOLARS NATIONWIDE

Rising scholars and aspiring ecologists and archaeologists, showcased the culmination of an eight-week, intensive undergraduate research experience hosted by Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, in collaboration with the Illinois Natural History Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, during the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Symposium held Thursday, July 25 at SIUE.

The symposium marked the finale of a three-year program funded by a $287,690 National Science Foundation REU grant awarded to the two institutions. The popular program drew approximately 100 applicants for the 2019 summer. Ten of the nation’s best were chosen to complete the competitive interdisciplinary field study, which analyzed how humans have used the river system over the past 2,000 years.

The symposium drew all types of visitors, including SIUE faculty and administrators, as well as some of the participants’ friends and family. (SIUE News Archive: July 2019)

SIUE INTRODUCES NEW MILITARY TUITION DISCOUNT

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s new Military Tuition Rate offers active duty military, drilling reservists and drilling National Guard, the opportunity to receive a high-quality education at a discounted price.

SIUE’s Military Tuition Rate is equal to the maximum allowable benefit provided by the Department of Defense’s Military Tuition Assistance Program, currently set at $250 per credit hour. The reduced tuition rate, combined with waived fees and SIUE’s convenient textbook rental, allows active military to enroll in any undergraduate or graduate program, up to a master’s degree, at an affordable cost.

“Our textbook rental program, combined with this tuition rate, provides active duty military the unique opportunity to study at SIUE with zero out-of-pocket expenses,” added Kevin Wathen, director of Military and Veteran Services in the Office of Enrollment Management. “It also provides reservists with an educational benefit that they are currently lacking, making SIUE a top choice for reservists.” (SIUE News Archive: June 2019).
SIUE HOSTS UNDERGRADUATES FROM ACROSS THE NATION FOR HANDS-ON RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY SUPPORTED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

For Southern Illinois University Edwardsville senior Emily Fulton, conducting research through fish sampling and archaeological excavation are experiential learning opportunities she couldn’t let pass by.

“Our primary goal is to prepare undergraduates for success as graduate students, in employment and as future scientists,” said Carol Colaninno, PhD, principal investigator (PI) of the program and research assistant professor in the SIUE STEM Center. “The students are engaging in field archaeology and long-term fish monitoring programs, and learning methodologies and theoretical perspectives that bridge archaeological and ecological concepts.”

During the eight-week program, all 10 participants will complete an original research contribution. Their work will be featured during the REU Symposium being held from 1-3 p.m. Thursday, July 25 in the Morris University Center’s Mississippi Room. The symposium is open to the public. (SIUE News Archive: July 2019)

PRITZKER VISITS SIUE, SIGNS BILL GRANTING SYSTEM STUDENTS TRUSTEES VOTING RIGHTS

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker visited the campus of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville on Tuesday, July 30 where he signed House Bill 2239, designating both elected SIU System student trustees to be full voting members of the board. The signed amendment takes effect immediately.

The legislation was introduced by Rep. Katie Stuart (112th district) and was sponsored by Sen. Rachelle Crowe (56th district). Previously, the governor designated the voting student trustee, generally alternating between the SIUE and SIU Carbondale campuses.

“I’m excited to be here today to celebrate the greatness of the SIU System," Pritzker said. “The entire SIU System serves as a testament to the power of higher education. I’m proud to sign into law this legislation that will give both campus student trustees the right to vote on every issue that affects those they represent. Student voices matter. Their input is needed now more than ever.” (SIUE News Archive: July 2019)
NEW STUDENTS WELCOMED BY CAMPUS COMMUNITY DURING HOUSE CALLS EVENT

Warm greetings, offers of support and encouragement for the year ahead could be heard throughout the residence halls at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville on Tuesday, Aug. 27 as more than 70 administrators, faculty and staff visited students during University Housing’s annual House Calls event.

Students in 29 wings, throughout the first-year residence halls of Bluff, Prairie and Woodland, along with those in the transfer Focused Interest Community (FIC) in Cougar Village, were included in the welcome event. The FIC communities received greetings from faculty and staff directly connected to their study areas.

“The intent of House Calls is to foster a quality living-learning environment that provides the right tools to help freshmen and transfer students better adjust to campus life,” said Associate Director for Residence Life Rex Jackson. “House Calls acts as an official welcome to the University, allowing students to address any questions or concerns they may have about SIUE, their classes, or any other issue they may be experiencing as a new student on campus.” (SIUE News Archive: August 2019)

SIUE WELCOMES DIVERSE CLASS OF MERIDIAN SCHOLARS

SIUE welcomes the newest recipients of the University’s Meridian Scholarship to campus. This year’s incoming class of 20 Scholars is among the University’s most diverse, including students from Tennessee, Oregon, Kentucky and Nigeria.

The Meridian Scholarship is the most prestigious scholarship given to incoming first-year students. Each year, more than 600 students submit an application essay and resume, meet high academic qualifications (a score of 1260 on the SAT or a 27 on the ACT) and complete an on-campus interview. The four-year award includes full tuition, fees, and room and board.

For more information on the Meridian Scholars program and to apply for fall 2020, visit siue.edu/meridian. (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)
SIUE TO HOST EXPLORE DAYS FOR SCHOOLS OF NURSING, PHARMACY, AND ENGINEERING

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville will host fall Explore Days for the Schools of Nursing, Pharmacy and Engineering to offer current and prospective students opportunities for in-depth interaction with representatives from specific academic areas.

SIUE Explore Days included:

School of Nursing: Saturday, Sept. 14
School of Pharmacy: Saturday, Oct. 12
School of Engineering: Saturday, Nov. 9

“With more than 300 areas of study, SIUE is equipped to offer students a robust educational experience with diverse programming that will prepare them for successful careers and lives of purpose,” said Ryan Downey, assistant director for new student and campus visit programs in the Office of Admissions. “Explore Days allow current and prospective students to interact directly with program directors and find which program is the best fit for them.”

Explore Day attendees will learn about the various ways to get involved on campus, see a residence hall, take a campus tour and speak with representatives from the Office of Admissions and Student Financial Aid. (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)

SIUE ART THERAPY COUNSELING PROGRAM ATTAINS ACCREDITATION

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville art therapy counseling graduate program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (cahhep.org) upon the recommendation of Accreditation Council for Art Therapy Education (ACATE). SIUE is one of 12 accredited schools nationally to offer art therapy counseling. The Accreditation Council for Art Therapy Education (ACATE) and CAAHEP’s board of directors recently conducted a peer review that recognized the program’s substantial compliance with the nationally established accreditation standards. The CAAHEP, ACATE and American Art Therapy Association (AATA) establish the standards.

“Our students annually provide 13,000 hours of mental health services to the St. Louis and Metro East areas through practicum, programming and curriculum,” Robb said. “Retention rate for students is 98% during the last five years. We strive for a completion rate of three years, and 98% of our students graduate on time.” (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)
Inside and outside of class, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter High School (CHS) students can be seen studying and working on assignments on their new Chromebook laptops. It is the first time that CHS students have been able to use technology for their entire school day, courtesy of a $3.5 million gift from an anonymous donor.

A portion of the gift was used to purchase 120 new Chromebook laptops, which students first received on Monday, Oct. 7. Coordinating the 1-to-1 Chromebook Computer project are Liza Cummings, PhD, CHS STEM instructional coordinator, and Greg Laktzian, CHS math teacher assistant.

“We want the best for our students, and the gift of the Chromebooks has made it possible for students to better study and learn,” said Gina Jeffries, EdD, CHS director. “They love them. The Chromebooks allow our East St. Louis students to remain competitive amongst other students in surrounding districts. They are a big success. We know that students will grow academically with this new resource.” (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)

SIUE PRE-COLLEGIATE PROGRAM KICKS OFF A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Pre-Collegiate Programs welcomed 21 students to campus on Thursday, Oct. 10 from SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School (CHS) and Collinsville High School, according to Makesha Harris Lee, EdD, assistant director.

During the first Pre-Collegiate event of the 2019-20 school year, juniors and seniors spent a full day attending the following breakout sessions: Leadership Development, Financial Aid, Paying for College via an Interactive Game of Jeopardy, and a “Real Talk” student panel with current SIUE graduate and undergraduate students.

The SIUE Pre-Collegiate Program offers resources critical for college preparedness for students who may not have the personal resources to obtain them. Students are able to visit SIUE. In addition, the Pre-Collegiate staff visits students at local high schools and provide services that include an orientation, assistance with Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), math tutoring, and other supplemental programs. The Pre-Collegiate Program currently provides math tutoring two days per week to students at Collinsville High School and will deliver math assistance to SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School students in the spring. (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)
EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES AT SIUE GRADUATE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s nationally-recognized Graduate School will host its annual Open House on Wednesday, Oct 16. The event will consist of two identical sessions: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in the Morris University Center’s Meridian Ballroom. Register now at siue.edu/graduate-visit!

Prospective graduate students will receive information on SIUE’s more than 140 master’s programs, post-baccalaureate certificates, specialist degrees, doctoral degrees and cooperative doctoral programs. Information will also be available on graduate admission requirements and financial support, including graduate assistantships and competitive graduate awards.

“SIUE’s Graduate School offers a great variety of academic programs, and the Open House provides an excellent way for prospective students to talk to SIUE professors about how these programs can help them achieve their professional goals,” said Jim Monahan, director of graduate and international admissions. “I encourage both current undergraduate students and individuals in the workforce to stop by the event and learn how simple it is to get the application process started.” (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)

TRANSFER VISIT DAY HELPS PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS DISCOVER THE POSSIBILITIES

Prospective students were inspired by the possibilities and encouraged to make an informed decision about enrolling at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville during Transfer Visit Day held Friday, Sept. 20.

“We want to give prospective students the tools necessary to be successful in their transition to SIUE, and to better understand their transfer credit,” said Ryan Downey, assistant director for new student and campus visit programs in the Office of Admissions. “It’s important that we focus just as much on the transfer student population as our incoming freshman population, since enrollment demographics are shifting.”

During the event, visiting students had the opportunity to interact with representatives from campus organizations and student services, including admissions, financial aid, University Housing and various academic disciplines. Current transfer students hosted a panel where they shared advice and insight from their experiences. Senior sociology and pre-law major Melody Peterson, of St. Louis, was a panelist. According to Downey, Transfer Visit Days have been a positive addition to the opportunities SIUE provides prospective students.

“Transfer Visit Days helps raise awareness of SIUE,” Downey said. “Even if a visiting student does not enroll, they’ll go back to their community college or another institution and talk about their experience at SIUE.” (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)
It was a time for connections and commonality among students of the same ethnic background, sexual orientation/identification and military experience. It was also a time for them to be greeted by Southern Illinois University Edwardsville chancellor, administrators, faculty and staff, and to experience first-hand how the University is a welcoming, fun and safe place for all students.

“Do you all know how beautiful you look from up here,” asked Kathryn Bentley, co-chair with Tarsha Moore of the Black Student Welcome Reception, held from Monday, Aug. 26 in the Morris University Center (MUC) Meridian Ballroom. “This is our second year welcoming new and returning black students to campus, and we want you all to know that you have a roomful of people who want you to succeed and excel. Enjoy the food, fellowship and fun!”

Bentley is an associate professor in the Department of Theater and Dance and director of the SIUE Black Studies Program. Moore is the assistant director of SIUE’s Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion (CSDI). The annual Black Student Welcome Reception was held Monday, Aug. 26 in the Morris University Center (MUC) Meridian Ballroom. “I really enjoyed the parade around campus. There is a lot of energy here,” said Kelsey Covington, of St. Charles, a freshman majoring in nursing. “I wasn’t expecting something like this. I felt very welcomed.” The receptions also celebrated the LGBTQIA+ Community, veteran community, and the Latinx and Asian Pacific Islander community. (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)
SIUE ANTHROPOLOGY DEGREE AMONG THE TOP 5 MOST AFFORDABLE

According to AffordableSchools.net, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is among the top five most affordable bachelor’s in anthropology degree programs nationally. The methodology considered average cost of attendance and student-to-faculty ratio. The College of Arts and Sciences houses the Department of Anthropology. AffordableSchools.net states, “One of the best places to learn about anthropology for undergraduates is SIUE. It offers both the affordable bachelor of arts and the bachelor of science in the field, as both are well-rounded programs that incorporate classroom learning from practicing professionals, field experience and even international experiences. Students won’t spend all their time in the classroom. The department believes that learning in the field and in the lab is the best way for students to truly understand anthropology. SIUE offers students the chance to complete internships, work in the school’s Ethnology Museum Laboratory, work on community projects, utilize the SIUE anthropology lab, and participate in local field schools.”

Julie Zimmermann, professor and chair of the Department of Anthropology, notes the recognition is not simply about being affordable. “As AffordableSchools states, SIUE Anthropology is one of the ‘best’ places for undergraduates to learn anthropology,” she said. “That is because we give our undergraduates individualized attention and opportunities typically reserved for graduate students in larger programs. As I always say, if you want to read about anthropology, go to one of those other schools.” (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)

NEW SPEECH PATHOLOGY ORGANIZATION AIMS TO INCREASE MINORITY REPRESENTATION

After a period of inactivity, members of SIUE’s National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing chapter are revamping the organization in hopes of bringing more minorities into speech-pathology.

SIUE’s NBASLH leadership saw the importance in reactivating the chapter, as there is great underrepresentation of minorities in speech pathology.

According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, about 3.5 percent of certificate holders in solely speech-language pathology in 2016 were black or African-American. Of those certified in both speech-language pathology and audiology, only 2.6 percent were black or African-American.

However, chapter president Nydraisha Geeters, a senior speech-language pathology student of Rockford, Illinois, said the field needs representation from all minorities — not just African-Americans.

“We need more minorities in the field, whether they’re black or not,” Geeters said. “We need Hispanics, we need Indians, we need Asians because we need those people and we need their skills from their languages.” (Alestle News Archive: October 2019)
SIUE ATHLETICS AMONG NATIONAL LEADERS IN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

SIUE Athletics joins the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as the state’s top public institution in graduating student-athletes and tied for 13th nationally, according to the NCAA Graduation Success Rate (GSR) report. Five SIUE programs earned a perfect score of 100 percent in the latest GSR figures. The men’s golf, women’s basketball, softball, women’s tennis and volleyball teams all earned perfect scores. The GSR for the SIUE student-athletes in the 2009-2012 cohort is 92 percent overall.

“SIUE student-athletes continue to demonstrate success in the classroom from year to year,” said SIUE Director of Athletics Tim Hall. “SIUE has been among the top public institutions for many years now, and this report is a reflection of our student-athletes’ diligent work.”

SIUE also is the top public institution among Ohio Valley Conference schools.

“Student-athlete success is at the forefront of our institutional goals,” added Hall. “Creating a regionally-prominent and nationally-respected athletics program begins with a strong academic reputation.” (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)

SIUE HOSTS ILLINOIS REGIONAL COLLEGE FAIR

Prospective college students are invited to learn about available higher education opportunities as Southern Illinois University Edwardsville hosts the Illinois Regional College Fair (IRCF) Fair from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22 in the Morris University Center.

The event is sponsored by the Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling (IACAC), in conjunction with SIUE. High school students, transfer students and parents in attendance will have the opportunity to meet with college representatives from more than 100 in-state and out-of-state colleges and universities, to learn about academic programs and other aspects of the student experience.

Financial aid representatives also will be on hand to answer questions. In addition, local high school counselors will be present to assist students looking for guidance on post-secondary options.

“We greatly appreciate the support of local high school and community college counselors who help provide this opportunity for students and families to explore numerous institutions, all within one setting, during one evening,” said Todd Burrell, SIUE director of undergraduate admissions and former IACAC president. (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)
SIUE SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE DEAN’S SCHOLARSHIP GALA

The Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine held its 5th annual Dean’s Scholarship Gala on November 2nd, 2019 at the Westin St. Louis. The School continued its annual tradition of awarding at least three Dean’s Scholarship Awards valued at $5,000 to deserving dental students.

Since the Gala’s inception, SIU SDM has awarded 17 Dean’s Scholarship Awards and provided $85,000 in scholarship funding to deserving students through support from the Gala and the Dean’s Scholarship Endowment. (SIUE News Archive: November 2019)

SIUE SOP GRADUATES BOARD PASS RATE RANKS IN TOP 20 IN U.S.

Graduates of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s School of Pharmacy (SOP) class of 2019 have exceeded both state and national averages, boasting a first-attempt board pass rate of 95.83 percent on the North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam® (NAPLEX). These results place SIUE in the Top 20 of the 135 pharmacy programs in the country, and first among all programs in Illinois and Missouri.

The graduates’ combined scores were the highest board pass rates of any program in Illinois or Missouri, and exceeded both the 2019 NAPLEX state and national averages of 84.52 percent and 87.95 percent, respectively, and the 2019 MPJE state and national averages of 75.31 percent and 83.58 percent, respectively. (SIUE News Archive: March 2020)

SIUE STUDENT NURSES ASSOCIATION HOSTS FLASH STORE TO SUPPORT STUDENT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND

“We’re all in this together.” The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing’s (SON) Student Nurses Association (SNA) is proving that to be true, as they host a flash store to help raise funds for their fellow students undergoing hardship due to COVID-19 through the SIUE Student Emergency Assistance Fund.

The SIUE Student Emergency Assistance Fund is made possible through a partnership between the Office of Student Affairs and the SIUE Foundation. (SIUE News Archive: April 2020)
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS LIVING ON CAMPUS EXPLORE OPTIONS OVER BREAK

Next week during Thanksgiving Break, many students living on campus will be loading their cars up with laundry, their favorite clothes and maybe even textbooks just to speed far away from SIUE. However, heading home to family over break is not an option for some, including many international students.

Sophomore industrial engineering major Burak Yakut, an international student from Turkey, is one of several international students planning to stay in Edwardsville over fall break due to long travel times.

Yakut said due to international student associations such as the Global Ambassador Program and Tandem, he has become good friends with students from all different areas of the world, and therefore he plans to spend much of the break enjoying their company.

“Almost all my friends are going to be here, so we are going to be meeting at night and going to bars or just [hanging out] at home,” Yakut said. (Alestle News Archive: November 2019)

SIUE FINALS WEEK IS A TIME FOR DOG THERAPY

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has gone to the dogs – but in a good way. Four-legged friends are helping take some of the stress out of finals week for students by making themselves available for petting, hugging and a lot of smiling.

Got Your Six Support Dogs made its semester visit from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday, Dec. 9-12 in Lovejoy Library. His or her owner accompanies each dog. Some of the owners and their dogs who visited this semester include Donna Bardon (Woody), Kelly Felax (Izzy) and Gail Chapman (Bosco).

“So far, we have averaged approximately 70 students at each two-hour session, which is an all-time high,” reported Jackson. “Many students stop, pet the dogs and relax for a few minutes. They also ask questions and share stories of their own pets.” (SIUE News Archive: December 2019)
SIUE GRAD STUDENT NAMED FINALIST IN SPACE COMPETITION

“Understanding how plants adapt in an extraterrestrial environment is critical for providing agronomically significant targets for genetic engineering and helping to grow plants on the International Space Station (ISS) for future long-distance space exploration.”

Spoken with true passion and the promise of a pioneering career as a molecular biologist, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville biological sciences graduate student Sophie Bandurski is making a name for herself as a forward-thinking inventor. Bandurski was a finalist in the Growing Beyond Earth Maker Contest, earning acclaim for her team’s creation of an Aeroponic Microgravity Planting System.

Bandurski will present on her research being conducted in the Luesse lab in November 2020 at the American Society for Gravitational and Space Research. While there, she plans to use her Aeroponic Microgravity Planting System design as a point of conversation with experts in the field. *(SIUE News Archive: March 2020)*

RISE ACT INCREASES FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS TO UNDOCUMENTED AND TRANSGENDER STUDENTS

On January 1, 2020, the implementation of the Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act became effective. This new law impacts students, including but not limited to, qualifying undocumented and transgender students, making them eligible to apply for Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) administered aid programs.

These Illinois students will now be able to apply for any student aid or benefit funded or administered by the state of Illinois, any state agency, or any public institution of higher learning. These funds include, but are not limited to, scholarships, grants, awards, stipends, room and board assistance, tuition waivers, or other financial or in-kind assistance.* *(SIUE News Archive: January 2020)*
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).
SIUE’S ONAL WINS NATIONAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING WORK AS IISE FACULTY ADVISOR

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Engineering’s (SOE) Sinan Onal, PhD, has earned national recognition from the most prestigious organization in the industrial engineering field for his work as the SIUE student chapter of the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers (IISE) faculty advisor.

Onal, an assistant professor of industrial engineering, was presented with the 2018 IISE North Central Regional Outstanding Faculty Advisor award during the 2019 IISE Annual Conference and Expo held May 18-21 in Orlando.

The award recognizes advisors who have demonstrated substantial and excellent contributions to the chapter by supporting officers and student activities as a teacher, advisor and mentor.

“To be selected as this year’s recipient is fulfilling, because the award is given to an outstanding individual, who through their role as a chapter advisor, has demonstrated effective leadership, mentoring and personal/professional development of collegiate members within the society,” Onal said. “I see my students as developing professionals in the field of engineering, and it is my responsibility to introduce them to real-life engineering problems, and help them understand that technology and engineering are everywhere by giving them opportunities to collaborate with industry professionals and the community.” (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)

WSIE’S STEPHANIE LEWIS RECEIVES MAPO’S PROFESSIONAL BUSINESSWOMAN AWARD

Proficient, purposeful and personable are a few adjectives that describe Stephanie Lewis, account executive for Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s radio station, WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound. They are also some of the reasons why the Metro Area Professional Organization (MAPO) honored Lewis with the Professional Businesswoman Award.

MAPO is a non-profit organization co-founded by Dr. John Q. Owens and Dr. Dorothy Owens. It recognizes men, women and youth who have made great contributions to their families, church, community and or personal profession.

“It is through the dedication, hard work and vision of the co-founders and board members of this organization, that we are able to experience firsthand the honoring of those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to impact the lives of humanity,” said SIUE Chancellor Randy Pembrook, PhD. “MAPO’s mission is to share and care for the homeless, hungry and network with centers and shelters who will benefit from receiving supplies for those who are in need,” added Pembrook.

“I am pleased to be recognized by MAPO, which has such an important mission—helping those in need,” said Lewis. “I’m also glad to be a part of this great WSIE team. Our goal—to serve the community by bringing jazz, smooth jazz, blues, easy R&B, SIUE sports and student programming—is a valuable one. We are a listener-supported station, and the communities in the Metro East and Greater St. Louis Area are near and dear to WSIE.” (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)
LUER NAMED SIUE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY DEAN

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Mark Luer, PharmD, FCCP, has been named dean of the School of Pharmacy (SOP). Luer has served as interim dean since July 2018. The appointment is subject to SIU Board of Trustees approval.

“The SIUE School of Pharmacy has continued its outstanding record of accomplishment during Dr. Luer’s service as interim dean, and we are excited to see what will be achieved in the future,” said SIUE Chancellor Randy Pembrook, PhD. Luer is highly regarded as a collaborative and inclusive leader who is strongly committed to the SOP’s advancement. Under Luer’s leadership, the SOP has continued to produce pharmacy candidates that are among the nation’s best in board pass rates and assessments, ranking number one among the eight programs in Illinois and Missouri for first attempt North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination® (NAPLEX) board pass rates.

Among the School’s other major accomplishments have been advancements in the areas of diversity and inclusion. “In fall 2018, we admitted the most diverse class of students in our program’s history,” Luer noted. “This occurred through an increase in awareness for cultural differences and a conscious effort to share our values with prospective students, one of which is inclusivity.”

SIUE ALUMNA NELSON BRINGS CHANGE TO HER EAST ST. LOUIS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

At first sight, the small, demure English teacher could pass for a student herself. However, Bridget Nelson has earned high marks as a teacher with her Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter High School (CHS) students, because of her commitment and care to them and their education.

“Ms. Nelson is a stellar example of an excellent teacher,” said Gina Jeffries, EdD, CHS director. “During Teacher Appreciation Week, it is befitting to recognize her. I am proud that Ms. Nelson was selected to present at the National Council of Teachers of English Conference during this school year and represented the SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School on a national level.”

Nelson is mindful to provide confidence and support to her students. “Our students face a lot and come to school with prior experiences that are not always positive,” she explained. “It’s important for me to not only be aware of that, but also find ways for them to excel at learning.”

“I centered on academic success, without taking into account that it could look different. Now, my focus is on making sure my students have their voices heard. I facilitate the environment that allows them to learn and use their voices, because their voices are usually the ones that are silenced. Students need to be the agents in their own education. If not, they are just regurgitating what someone wants to hear, and they’re not really learning.” The ability to transform yourself makes for a good educator, according to Nelson. (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)
ELZA IBROSCHEVA NAMED SIUE ASSOCIATE PROVOST

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Denise Cobb, PhD, has named Elza Ibroscheva, PhD, as associate provost, effective July 1. Ibroscheva’s primary responsibilities in the associate provost role will include academic planning, assessment and accreditation.

Her energetic commitment to the University was developed during her 13-year tenure as a faculty member in the Department of Mass Communications, including service in such leadership positions as department chair and graduate program director. She returns to campus after serving Webster University as associate dean at the School of Communications since 2017.

“The search process demonstrated that there is genuine excitement to have Dr. Ibroscheva back as a campus collaborator and leader,” said Cobb. “I have the utmost confidence in her abilities to make a significant and meaningful impact in the Office of the Provost and for the University. She is a true teacher-scholar. Her commitment to student-centered education and quality, and her recognition of the importance of research and scholarship will be true assets.”

(SIUE News Archive: June 2019)

SIUE ALUMNUS, STAFF MEMBER RECALLS SUPPORT SYSTEM THAT HELPED HIM SUCCEED, SEEKS TO PAY IT FORWARD

East St. Louis native Maracus Scott credits a high school computer teacher for saving his life, by teaching him computing skills that would set him on track for a prosperous future. Inspired by that technical gift, Scott set out for college at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville determined to succeed, despite any challenges.

Scott came to SIUE as a computer science major. Intrigued by the programming side of the field, he enjoyed his classes, but realized he had a lot to learn and lacked a personal support system. Scott found that support from SIUE’s Dr. Earleen Patterson and others in the Student Opportunities for Academic Results (SOAR) Center. He built a network of caring individuals who motivated him to pursue his dreams by providing the mentorship he needed.

He has since worked his way up in ITS, holding full-time positions in desktop support and application support. First the mentee, now the mentor, Scott is deeply committed to paying forward the support he received as a student. He has now had the opportunity to hire student workers who he can mentor and train in the computing field. “I’m able to give back and offer that essential work experience, which is difficult for African Americans in some predominantly poor areas,” he noted. “It’s the one thing I was missing and caused me to struggle as a student. I can now be that person for these students.” (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)
ROBIN HUGHES NAMED DEAN OF THE SIUE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Denise Cobb, PhD, has named Robin L. Hughes, PhD, as dean of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Education, Health and Human Behavior (SEHHB) after a national search.

Hughes brings to SIUE her scholarly expertise in African American students and faculty experiences, African American students’ educational success, critical race theory and educational and social settings, and student-athletes and supports, specifically identity, experience and history.

Hughes is co-editor and co-founder of the Journal for the Study of Sports and Athletes in Education (JSSAE). Her scholarly publications, including articles, book chapters and books, focus on the development of student athletes participating in revenue generating sports, issues of race, and how those issues impact faculty and students of color in higher education. Her graduate level teaching has included such courses as readings in critical race theory, diverse students on college campuses, sports and athletes in education, African Americans in higher education, and research throughout the p-20 educational continuum. (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)

SIUE JOINS 200 INSTITUTIONS AT AAC&U SUMMER INSTITUTES


The AAC&U is partnering with higher education institutions to develop TRHT Campus Centers to prepare the next generation of strategic leaders and critical thinkers to address the historical and contemporary entanglements of race and racism within society. At the institute, teams interested in learning more about the TRHT framework will join teams from the 10 current TRHT Campus Centers to develop transformative campus action plans focused on breaking down racial hierarchies.

Jessica Harris, PhD, interim assistant provost and associate professor in the Department of Historical Studies within the College of Arts and Sciences, will serve as the SIUE team leader. She will be joined by Kathryn Bentley, associate professor of theater performance and director of black studies, Courtney Boddie, PhD, director of counseling services, Connie Frey-Spurlock, PhD, associate professor of sociology and director of SIUE’s Successful Communities Collaborative, Bryan Jack, PhD, associate professor of historical studies, and Elizabeth McKenney, PhD, associate professor of psychology in the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior.

“I look forward to working with our campus team at the TRHT summer institute,” Harris said. “Our goal is to develop an action plan and proposal to develop a TRHT Campus Center at SIUE that will serve as a model for community-based racial healing and change in the St. Louis-Metro East region.” (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)
SIUE’S TOBERMAN NAMED HONORS PROGRAM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville University Honors Director Eric W. Ruckh, PhD, has named Ian J. Toberman as University Honors Program Assistant Director. Toberman currently serves as the academic advisor for SIUE honors students, guiding current students on their curricular, career and co-curricular plans.

The University Honors Program offers a small liberal arts experience to over 500 students within the SIUE’s comprehensive programs. A new honors general education curriculum began in 2016, and Toberman served as the inaugural advisor for students.

“In his time with honors, Ian has been exemplary,” Ruckh said. “He is able to be deeply engaged with students, while not losing sight of our larger vision, promoting the transformative possibilities of liberal education. His challenge now will be working to build equitable access to the honors program.”

“My goal in this new position is to create an atmosphere of support for students inside and outside of the classroom,” Toberman stated. “During the past four years, we have worked hard with University administration, faculty and students to shape the honors experience. We have a program that celebrates a student’s individuality, creates a welcoming community and supports the full range of a student’s collegiate experience. It is gratifying that one of my main responsibilities will be to work with underrepresented students to explore what honors has to offer.” (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)

FACULTY FELLOWS PROGRAM

The Faculty Fellows program is a collaborative effort between the Office of the Provost, the Office of Student Affairs and University Housing.

The Faculty Fellows program provides a rare opportunity for students to get to know faculty members on a more personal level.

Goals of the Faculty Fellows Program:
- To contribute to the seamless learning by bridging the gap between formal academic programs and out-of-classroom learning experiences.
- To promote the personal and academic growth of students through contact with faculty.
- To provide faculty with an understanding of student life and opportunities to meet with students outside of the classroom and to allow residents the opportunities for one-on-one interaction with faculty outside of the classroom.
- To create opportunities for residents to attend both social and educational events which are developed through collaboration of University Housing staff as well as SIUE faculty.
- To create opportunities for collaboration amongst faculty members assigned to different housing areas on campus.

(SIUE Office of Students Affairs and University Housing)
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 FACULTY FELLOWS INNOVATE, INTEGRATE AND INVIGORATE STEM EDUCATION

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Center for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Research, Education and Outreach has announced its FY20 Faculty Research Fellows. The FY20 fellows are Nima Lotfi, PhD, and Kathleen Vongsathorn, PhD.

Lotfi is an assistant professor in the School of Engineering’s (SOE) Department of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering. As a research fellow, he will study the implications of using open-source hardware and software platforms for Control Systems education. Vongsathorn is an assistant professor in the College of Arts and Sciences’ (CAS) Department of Historical Studies. Her research centers on integrating STEM and history in undergraduate curriculum.

“Open-source platforms are the perfect solutions in underserved communities and K-12 institutions in which there is a serious lack of financial support and technical expertise,” Lotfi explained. “I hope this project will lead to identifying educational outreach opportunities among the general public, and facilitate resources and education to a broader array of constituents.”

“Beyond my scholarly interests, I firmly believe, and research suggests, that incorporating humanities into STEMM curriculum can create better scientists,” Vongsathorn said. “There is also some evidence to indicate that integrated curriculum improves retention and grade point averages for women and underrepresented minorities in STEM.” (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)

SIUE SENIOR EARNS COMPETITIVE RESEARCH AWARD AT INTERNATIONALLY-ATTENDED CONFERENCE

SIUE senior exercise science major Chelsie Zajac, of Belleville, added a major achievement to her research portfolio when she secured the only undergraduate research poster presentation award during the 2019 National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) conference held July 10-13 in Washington, D.C. Zajac conducted her research as an Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA) associate on the novel topic “Parameters of the Athlete Triad in Male NCAA Division I Athletes.” She worked under faculty mentor Brianne Guilford, PhD, associate professor and exercise physiology graduate program director in the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior’s Department of Applied Health. (SIUE News Archive: August 2019)
SIUE’S HILBRANDT EXPANDS INTERNATIONAL IMPACT AS PRESIDENT OF ENDANGERED LANGUAGE FUND

Internationally-acclaimed linguistics scholar, Kristine Hildebrandt, PhD, is expanding her impact on the revitalization of the world’s endangered languages with colleagues worldwide as president of the Endangered Language Fund (ELF). Hildebrandt is a professor in the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of English Language and Literature. (SIUE News Archive: August 2019)

SIUE’S FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOW AIMS TO BOOST STUDENT VOTER ENGAGEMENT

Wilson is a doctoral candidate in higher education at the University of Arizona. He plans to work with CSPA students to register, educate and empower their peers and the students with whom they work across campus to achieve full participation in the 2020 elections. According to Wilson, many SIUE students will be voting for the first time in 2020, which requires learning how to navigate the “often complex, bureaucratic and antiquated election system.” (SIUE News Archive: August 2019)

GOV. PRITZKER APPOINTS SIUE’S JESSICA HARRIS TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM BOARD

Harris is one of 11 trustees selected by Pritzker to the new board. “I was contacted by Governor Pritzker’s office and asked if I would be interested in a potential appointment to the ALPLM board, after which I went through an extensive vetting process,” she said. “I feel honored to have this opportunity to serve and look forward to working with other members of the board to advance the mission of the ALPLM.” (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)

SIUE’S COBB AMONG ILLINOIS INNOVATION NETWORK’S INAUGURAL OFFICERS

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Denise Cobb, PhD, has been named secretary for the Illinois Innovation Network (IIN) as it installed its inaugural slate of officers, approved bylaws and created four working committees to address key statewide priorities during a Sept. 26 meeting of the IIN Council at Governors State University. (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)
SIUE SCHOOL OF NURSING SECURES $2.75 MILLION HRSA GRANT FOR ADVANCED NURSING EDUCATION WORKFORCE PROGRAM

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing (SON) continues its pioneering advancement of the nursing profession across Illinois with its receipt of a competitive four-year $2.75 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for its innovative Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW) program.

The multi-faceted educational effort is creatively designed to increase the number of nurse practitioners who practice in rural and underserved communities throughout Illinois, by promoting a smooth and natural transition from the student role to practicing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) into these areas.

Bolstering the success of the program will be academic clinical partnerships between the SIUE SON and Chestnut Health Systems, OSF HealthCare, Southern Illinois Healthcare and the SIUE We Care Clinic.

The SIUE SON and its clinical partners will also collaborate on the development of a regional conference for primary care settings highlighting mental health treatment, the opioid crisis, non-opioid pain treatment options, recognizing addictive behavior, rehabilitation of the opioid dependent patient, and long-term follow-up strategies. (SIUE News Archive: August 2019)

SIUE INTRODUCES TIM HALL AS DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Chancellor Randy Pembrook today introduced Tim Hall as the eighth director of athletics in University history in the Lukas Annex Cougar Pavilion. Hall arrives on campus after serving as director of athletics at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County (UMBC). “We are so excited that Tim Hall and his family have joined SIUE,” Pembrook said. “He is an experienced, proven athletic director who has had tremendous success at UMKC and UMBC. We anticipate great achievement in the future for SIUE Athletics, as Cougar student-athletes compete in the Ohio Valley and Mid-American Conferences.”

Hall brings previous experience in the OVC at Eastern Kentucky University, where he began as the university director for development in 2000. He later was promoted to director of major gifts and special projects, and raised more than $4.6 million for the institution, including $1.3 million for intercollegiate athletics.

Hall moved to UMKC after serving as the associate athletics director for development at Kent State (Ohio) University from 2003-07. Hall earned a bachelor’s in sports administration from the University of Toledo in 1994 and achieved a master’s in sports administration from Kent State University in 1998. He and his wife, Beth, have four children. Hall succeeds Brad Hewitt, who retired at the end of the 2019 spring semester. (SIUE News Archive: August 2019)
SIUE ONLINE NURSE EDUCATOR GRADUATE PROGRAM RATED MOST AFFORDABLE

The SIUE School of Nursing is nationally recognized for its competitive, high-quality online nurse educator master’s program. The SON’s program ranks #1 in IL and #5 in the nation for affordability. *(SIUE News Archive: August 2019)*

SIUE’S ONLINE HEALTHCARE INFORMATICS PROGRAM RANKED #6 NATIONALLY

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville online master’s in healthcare informatics has been ranked sixth in the nation by affordablecolleges.com for the second consecutive time. *(SIUE News Archive: September 2019)*

SIUE INTRODUCES MASTER’S IN NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is introducing a Master of Science degree in nutrition and dietetics designed for students who desire a master’s, while gaining eligibility to become a registered dietitian and pursue careers as entry level dietitians. *(SIUE News Archive: August 2019)*

GLOBAL HEALTH EVENTS MOTIVATES COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND SERVICE

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville faculty, staff and invited students engaged in inspiring discussions surrounding the possibilities of global health research, teaching and service project collaborations during a Global Health Speaker Event and Reception held Wednesday, Oct. 2 on campus. *(SIUE News Archive: October 2019)*
SIUE RECEIVES $990K NSF GRANT

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded a three-year $991,073 grant to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville for the project “ADVANCE Adaptation: Toward an Inclusive Model of Excellence in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).”

The project’s goals include: increasing recruitment and hiring of diverse female STEM faculty by implementing the Progressive Recruitment Initiatives Mark Excellence (PRIME) program; increasing retention of diverse female STEM faculty by improving departmental climate and support for female faculty with the Keeping Educators through Equity Programming (KEEP) initiatives; and increasing promotion of diverse female STEM faculty by mitigating bias in the tenure and promotion review processes through the University Promotion (UP) initiative.

Together these collaborative initiatives provide a comprehensive approach that will result in diverse applicant hires, improved retention and promotion of diverse female STEM faculty, and stronger academic programs at SIUE. The integrated approach will serve as a model for similar institutions.  (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)

NSF FUNDS SIUE GEOPATHS PROGRAM TO BUILD EDUCATION AND CAREER PATHWAYS

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded $382,636 to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville for its collaborative GEOPATHS-EXTRA program. GEOPATHS will build pathways to careers in the geosciences through research experiences and internships that demonstrate the value of geosciences to society. Students will study local environmental problems and develop solutions that have the potential to contribute to global environmental challenges.

The SIUE GEOPATHS project aims to raise awareness of geoscience careers among students who are from groups underrepresented in the geosciences, including women, racial and ethnic minorities, veterans, persons with disabilities, and first-generation college students.

“Our vision is that students will develop early confidence in their scientific abilities, and a sense of belonging to the geosciences that will propel them toward degree attainment and successful careers,” said Locke. “The program will include activities designed to strengthen scholars’ science identity and belief in their ability to be successful in geoscience careers. As they progress through SIUE, they will participate in research with faculty mentors, training in geotechnical skills and extended field trips that show the excitement of these fields. We hope that they will then consider graduate school or enter the geoscience workforce.”  (SIUE News Archive: March 2020)
SIUE’S ALESTLE WINS NATIONAL COLLEGE JOURNALISM AWARD

SIUE The Alestle, won two national awards during the 98th annual Associated Collegiate Press/College Media Association (CMA) National College Media Convention in Washington, D.C.

The Alestle won first in the CMA Pinnacle Awards in the Best Portrait category and a second-place in the Best Newspaper Entertainment Page/Spread category.

The Alestle has placed several times in recent years in national American Scholastic Press Association (ACP) Best of Show competitions at the fall national college media convention in the four-year weekly tabloid, large school website and special edition categories. The publication is consistently an American Scholastic Press Association winner and regularly wins several awards in the annual Illinois College Press Association contest. (SIUE News Archive: November 2019)

O’BRIEN PRESENTS ANNUAL SIUE ‘GOING’ PUBLIC LECTURE

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Gerald O’Brien, PhD, professor in the Department of Social Work within the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), will present the annual William and Margaret Going Endowed Professorship public lecture at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 12 in the Morris University Center’s Maple/Dogwood Room.

O’Brien will present “Eugenics, Genetic Innovations and the Minority Group Model of Disability.” Following the lecture, he will be joined by panelists Cathy Contarino, IMPACT Center for Independent Living executive director, Dominic Dorsey, SIUE ACCESS Office director, Alison Reiheld, PhD, associate professor in the SIUE Department of Philosophy, and Duff Wrobbel, PhD, professor and chair of the SIUE Department of Applied Communication Studies.

In February 2019, O’Brien received the William and Margaret Going Endowed Professorship Award in CAS, which honors faculty who fundamentally connect their scholarship to their teaching and transform students’ lives. O’Brien’s scholarly work centers on historical eugenics and contemporary bioethics, and brings a disability perspective to the issues. O’Brien’s research also considers the relationship of pejorative metaphor themes to social injustice movements.

O’Brien’s latest research objective is to expand his knowledge of the various ways that historical eugenics relates to both new genetic technological innovations, as well as the relevant policy issues which will likely be developed in the wake of the completion of the Human Genome Project. (SIUE News Archive: November 2019)
Each semester, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA) program recognizes excellent faculty mentorship and student work through four awards. The fall 2019 Vaughn Vandegrift URCA Research Mentor of the Semester Award was presented to Darron Luesse, PhD, assistant chair and associate professor of the Department of Biological Sciences. Jane Barrow, head of the painting program in the Department of Art and Design, earned the URCA Creative Activities Mentor of the Semester Award.

The URCA program provides opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in research and creative activities under a faculty advisor. At the introductory level, URCA assistants work on faculty-led research and creative activities to gain hands-on experience throughout various disciplines. URCA associates work one-on-one with faculty mentors to develop their own projects by honing their research and technical skills under professional guidance. (SIUE News Archive: November 2019)

ITC AND UNIVERSIDAD DE LIMA CREATE NEW PARTNERSHIP TO BENEFIT EXPORTERS AND ENTREPRENEURS

Silvia Torres Bowman, director of the Illinois SBDC International Trade Center (ITC) at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and Ricardo Perez-Luyo, director of international business programs at Universidad de Lima in Peru, established strategic activities based on the memorandum of understanding (MOU) duly signed between the respective universities, during Perez-Luyo’s visit to SIUE on December 2-3.

“The ITC is delighted to welcome Universidad de Lima as our brand-new partner,” Torres Bowman said. “This new alliance will contribute with bringing new opportunities in trade and education for Peru and Illinois. We hope to build a solid bridge, forging connections between southern Illinois businesses, SIUE faculty and students with their Peruvian counterparts. I am confident this partnership will bring long-term benefits to our region and unique opportunities for our students.”

“It’s a quite interesting pilot project that we have already started working on,” Perez-Luyo said. “The point is that students from our universities are going to create business plans for national and foreign companies. We are talking about the application of knowledge in a highly competitive market such as the United States, promoting not only trade but investments.” (SIUE News Archive: December 2019)
NEW SIUE POLICE OFFICER ADDS DIVERSITY

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Police Department added officer Ashley Narup Wednesday, Dec. 11. Narup’s addition continues the University’s quest to add both diversity to the force and individuals with connections to the Metro East.

Narup was sworn in by Chancellor Randy Pembrook. Vice Chancellor for Administration Rich Walker and Chief of Police Kevin Schmoll also participated in the ceremony in Rendleman Hall.

An Evansville, Illinois native, Narup graduated from the Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) Police Academy on Nov. 8 and received the Southern Illinois Police Chiefs Association’s Most Outstanding Officer Award. She is also a volunteer firefighter with the Village of Evansville.

Previously, Narup was a human services caseworker for the Illinois Department of Human Services, where she provided supplemental nutrition assistance and Medicaid benefits for under-represented families in Randolph and Monroe Counties.

Narup earned a bachelor’s in secondary education/history from SIU Carbondale in 2011. (SIUE News Archive: December 2019)

SIUE CAMPUS POLICE TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS AMID COVID-19 OUTBREAK

While the COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily forced many people to leave their jobs or to work from home, there are a few professions that still need their employees to make the trip to work. One of these jobs is that of a police officer.

Schmoll said even though there are not a lot of students, and the police department is practicing social distancing, they still have traffic stops when there is probable cause.

“Our campus dwindled population-wise to a very small number, so we had to change our role a little bit. We went from a student-centric and a customer service-based police department to more focused on properties and assets and ensuring buildings are secure,” Glenn said.

SIUE’s campus police also had to go through a change in procedure, where they are helping staff members and students in and out of buildings and residence halls more than anything else. (Alelstle News Archive: April 2020)
SIUE’S SNIPES TALKS ABOUT ATHEISM IN BLACK COMMUNITIES

There are no African American atheists, right? If there are, they are immoral. These counternarratives were addressed in the presentation, “Ain’t I Black too: Counternarratives of Black Atheists in College,” given by J.T. Snipes, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, on Monday, Feb. 17 in the Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion (CSDI).

“I analyzed interview data from eight black college students at various institutions from across the United States. In this study, I explored the intersections between race and religion, and the role college plays in shaping those respective social identities. Using Critical Race Methodology, I co-constructed with my participants counternarratives that disrupt dominant narratives of a black atheist ontology. Each collective counternarrative reflected how participants understand their intersectional identities within a collegiate setting.”

Snipes ended his lecture with discussing how faculty, staff and students could create a more open and inclusive space for atheists in general, and black atheists in particular. (SIUE News Archive: February 2020)

SIUE’S GOPALAN NAMED 2020 ARTHUR C. GUYTON EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Hailed as an “exceptional mentor,” “highly-accomplished and adaptable educator,” and an “authority on implementing flipped classrooms methodology,” Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Chaya Gopalan, PhD, has been named the American Physiological Society’s (APS) 2020 Arthur C. Guyton Educator of the Year.

Gopalan is an associate professor in both the SIUE School of Education, Health and Human Behavior’s (SEHHB) Department of Applied Health and the School of Nursing’s (SON) Department of Primary Care and Health Systems. She is highly-regarded nationally for her commitment to implementing a range of teaching modalities to connect with diverse learners.

The distinguished Arthur C. Guyton Educator of the Year Award honors her for excellence in classroom teaching at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels, and for her strong commitment to the improvement of physiology.

In her recommendation letter, former student Rim Hadgu, PharmD, described Gopalan as the “epitome of excellence.” She credited Gopalan for inspiring her to become a confident leader and persistently pursue her goals.

Gopalan is principal investigator of a National Science Foundation-funded project to advanced flipped teaching in STEM education, and the APS 2018 Teaching Career Enhancement Award winner. In 2019, she was recognized with a Phenomenal Woman Award from the SIUE Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. (SIUE News Archive: March 2020)
SIUE’S AMPADU TO BUILD SUCCESS OF WE CARE CLINIC IN EAST ST. LOUIS

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s School of Nursing (SON) has managed the WE CARE Clinic in East St. Louis for more than 20 years, with the mission of providing comprehensive evidence-based primary care services to people in the Metro East area.

Longtime clinic contributor Jerrica Ampadu, PhD, RN, CCP, has been named the Clinic’s new director. Under her leadership, the Clinic seeks to improve patient access to care through increased connection with potential clientele, boost student participation and offer virtual and telephonic access.

“I am excited to be director at the WE CARE Clinic,” said Ampadu, an SIUE alumna and native East St. Louisan. “It will better allow me the opportunity provide healthcare services to underserved and vulnerable populations, specifically residents of East St. Louis and surrounding communities.”

“We plan to develop a marketing plan tailored specifically to the residents of East St. Louis,” said Ampadu. “East St. Louis is a strong faith-based community. Therefore, we will partner with local churches and faith-based organizations to provide health education.” Ampadu, who has been a nurse for the past 23 years, earned her bachelor’s and master’s in nursing from SIUE in 1997 and 2002, respectively. (SIUE News Archive: April 2020)

SIUE’S RAMBSY RELEASES NEW BOOK, “BAD MEN: CREATIVE TOUCHSTONES OF BLACK WRITERS”

Their dark appeal, undisputable talents, blazing notoriety and even miscarriages of justice, have inspired the creativity of numerous writers and artists throughout the years. These “bad” men are the subject of the new book penned by Howard Rambsy II, PhD, professor in the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Department of English Language and Literature.

As Rambsy studied and taught African American literature, he became fascinated with the recurring patterns of bad men and vulnerable black boys in the work of various writers. The professor also received inspiration from the more than 500 first-year black male students that he has taught at SIUE since 2004.

“I’m hoping that this book will prompt new awareness about the kinds of muses or artistic inspirations that motivate African American writers,” reflected Rambsy. “It takes groups of scholars covering related topics to elevate a subject, so ideally, the work I’m doing will contribute to conversations that merge and advance African American creativity.” (SIUE News Archive: April 2020)
Civil unrest has swept the globe as racial injustices and systemic oppression have again been brought to the forefront following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Protests, action movements, and calls for listening and learning span the world.

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Education, Health and Human Behavior (SEHHB) is responding with a significant opportunity for teaching and learning, as is its mission, by hosting the first in a series of virtual panels, podcasts, and community discussions on the important topic of Dismantling Institutional Racism in Higher Education. Supported by the Provost’s Office and the East St. Louis Center, the panel discussion will explore how institutions of higher education (leadership, faculty, staff and students) can serve to disrupt systemic racism and white supremacy embedded into organizational life and culture.

The virtual panel is free and will take place via Zoom beginning at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 11, and last for approximately 2 hours. Interested participants should register at https://bit.ly/dismantling_oppression and a zoom meeting link will be sent to registrants prior to the event.

Affiliates interested in the work of the collective are welcome and should contact Dr. Jessica Krim at jkrim@siue.edu for more information. Details on this event and future work of the collective can be found on the SEHHB’s Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts. (SIUE News Archive: June 2020)

MAHONY RECEIVES AWARD RECOGNIZING COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

Southern Illinois University System President Dan Mahony is the 2020 recipient of the Charles Whitcomb Service Award given by the Minority Opportunities Athletic Association (MOAA) which acknowledges individuals who foster diversity and inclusion within the intercollegiate athletics community. Mahony is the fourth recipient of the annual award.

In determining award recipients, MOAA looks for individuals and administrators who have gone above and beyond to create welcoming, inclusive and supportive environments within the field of athletics and who have demonstrated a commitment to the recruitment, hiring and retention of a high-quality and diversified staff. The award also seeks to recognize those who have created or fostered a proactive, positive engagement around diversity and who have established programs that improve the campus/organizational climate for underrepresented groups. (SIUE News Archive: June 2020)
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)
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.
SIUE’S CELIK ORGANIZES THIRD ENERGY SYMPOSIUM IN TURKEY

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Engineering’s Serdar Celik, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, held the third Ilgaz Energy Symposium on Monday, May 20 at historic Istanbul University in Turkey.

More than 60 energy professionals from academia, public institutes, the private sector, nonprofit entities and media attended the one-day event.

Celik, a native of Turkey, started the symposium with an opening address, and the event continued with keynote speakers and two panels. The morning session focused on energy efficiency followed by renewable energy technologies in the afternoon.

“The symposium has been expanding and yielding a broader impact since we started in 2017,” Celik said. “The outcome was beyond my expectations. I have heard from several energy professionals that they are looking forward to the fourth symposium next year.”

The symposium drew national and regional news coverage in Turkey, raising awareness of SIUE and its School of Engineering. Celik introduced the symposium in May 2017 at the urging of Turkey energy professionals, with a focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy politics. (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)

SIUE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING HOSTS JSS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DELEGATION

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville hosted a delegation Friday, June 7 from JSS Science and Technology University located in Mysuru, India. The JSS visitors included Vice Chancellor B.G. Sangameshwara, Engineering and Technology Dean T.N. Nagabhushan and B.S. Harish, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Information Science and Engineering.

SIUE Chancellor Randy Pembrook, PhD, and Director of University-Community Initiatives Gireesh Gupchup, PhD, visited JSS in 2017, where they signed a letter of engagement. This reciprocal visit served to launch formal discussions about specific areas of collaboration involving student and faculty exchange within the SIUE School of Engineering (SOE).

“Partnerships such as this are important on many levels,” Pembrook said. “They provide avenues for students to visit campuses around the world, and experience other cultures, languages and methodologies. From a faculty perspective, partnerships such as these provide wonderful opportunities for collaboration on research and exploration of alternative approaches to curricula and pedagogy. For SIUE, these partnerships are an important part of fulfilling our United Nations designation as a ‘world university.’”

SIUE has had an agreement with JSS since 2012 that involves SIUE School of Pharmacy student and faculty exchanges, teaching and research exchanges, and assisting with arranging clinical services. (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)
SIUE COLLEGE STUDENT PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION
STUDENTS SPEND SUMMER GAINING REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE ACROSS THE COUNTRY

From California to Texas, Georgia to Pennsylvania, and back to Missouri, 12 master’s candidates in Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s college student personnel administration (CSPA) program are completing competitive national internships, gaining real-world professional training and elevating their job prospects.

“This year, the college student personnel administration program set a record for the number of students who obtained competitive internships across the nation, which reflects the quality of our students and academic program,” said Pietro Sasso, PhD, assistant professor and graduate program director. “Our students are increasingly sought after regarding their competencies around advising, assessment, social justice and student development—the ‘core four’ of our program. These placements elevate our students in the job market post-graduation and provide them a national scope regarding the large scale of American higher education.”

Mariah Young, of Edwardsville, and Morgan Short, of Decatur, are both enjoying placements in Texas. CSPA student Morgan Short, of Decatur, is assisting with summer camps and conferences at the University of Texas at Arlington. Young’s primary responsibilities include assisting with the preparation, facilitation and evaluation of the freshman orientation program at the University of North Texas in Denton. Meanwhile, Short is assisting with summer camps and conferences at the University of Texas at Arlington.

“My internship experience is enhancing my academic journey and career preparedness by enabling me to take what I have learned in the classroom, and apply it to real situations both professionally and personally,” Young said. “I’m also learning how to engage with a diverse population of students and families, which is the most rewarding part of my experience.”

“This experience has already helped my growth as a new professional by throwing different obstacles at me and challenging me in new ways,” added Short. “I’ve learned how to take a risk and get out of my comfort zone. I have a strong passion for student success and bridge programs, because these two areas helped me tremendously in my undergraduate career. I see myself working within that specialty upon graduation.”

In Georgia, LaShata Grayson is completing an internship at Augusta University, working with student organizations, and fraternity and sorority members. “As I am doing the work of a young student affairs professional, it is all clicking together from what I have been learning in the CSPA program,” said Grayson, of Gary, Ind. “My internship experience has been the icing on the cake as I develop into a better version of myself.” (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)
SIUE HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START PARENT SELECTED AS ILLINOIS PARENT AMBASSADOR

Courtney Parker, a Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Head Start/Early Head Start mother, admits to being highly engaged with the learning and schooling of her four girls. However, the Belleville woman was not expecting to advocate for Head Start parents across the state.

Parker was chosen to participate in the Illinois Head Start Association (ILHS) Parent Ambassador Program. Ambassadors will learn the basics of advocacy, speaking skills and how legislation is crafted. Ambassadors will also participate in developing policy proposals and the IHSA advocacy agenda.

“I was surprised when I learned I had been selected,” said Parker. “I believe I was chosen, because I’m very passionate about my children’s education, and I love trying to help others when they need it.”

“Courtney is a go-getter,” said Kathy Cotton, SIUE Home-Based instructor who taught all of Parker’s girls. “She is determined to do whatever it takes to make sure her children do well educationally. She does a lot of volunteering in the classrooms and enjoys going on Head Start field trips. I expect her to be an excellent parent ambassador. She’s outspoken and wants to see things improve. She’s given us several great suggestions on increasing parent participation.” (SIUE News Archive: June, 2019)

SIUE HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START SUPPORTS PARENTS IN LITTLE WAYS THAT MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Now, in addition to picking up their child from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Head Start/Early Head Start Discovery Center for Little Scholars, parents can also receive a bag filled with such things as diapers, toiletries and cereal.

On the first day of classes, Tuesday, Sept. 3, Discovery Center began handing out the “Happy to Help Bags.”

Families in need can alert staff during hours of operation, or receive one when they fill out an enrollment application. Families are not limited to as many bags that they can take. Each bag offers variety. (Alestle Archive: October 2019)
SIUE SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING CENTER HELPS FILL VOID IN TRANSGENDER ACCESS TO CARE

Transgender voice therapy is a much-needed service, but accessing treatment can be difficult. Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s accredited speech-language pathology and audiology program, housed in the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior, is doing its part to ensure transgender access to care by training its student clinicians to offer assessment and treatment services under the direct observation and supervision of clinical faculty in the Speech-Language-Hearing (SLH) Center on campus.

“We felt there was a definite need in the Metro East community to serve this marginalized population and help people find their voice,” said clinical supervisor Tedd Masiongale, MA, CCC-SLP. SpeechPathologyMastersPrograms.com has recognized SIUE’s speech-language pathology program as an SLP Program Promoting Transgender Access to Care.

“Learning how to provide these services has made me better equipped, because this is a service that is needed in our field,” said Tess Spengler, speech-language pathology graduate student clinician. “I worked directly with a client receiving transgender services during the spring 2019 semester. We developed a customized plan of treatment in order to have the greatest impact on communication in her daily life. Treatment focused on developing and using a voice that matched her identity.” (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)

SIUE SOPHOMORE DREAM BECOMES REALITY DURING STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville sophomore Jessie Charpentier, of Edwardsville, fulfilled a lifelong dream this summer while studying abroad in Florence, Italy. The psychology major studied Italian renaissance history alongside six fellow SIUE students from May 21-June 21.

Charpentier says her desire for travel was inspired at a young age by the Lizzie McGuire Movie, which features a teenager’s Italian adventure. Charpentier decided to ensure that dream could become reality by pursuing her education at SIUE, having researched its affordability and boundless international learning opportunities.

“Going to SIUE meant studying abroad could become a goal, not just a dream,” Charpentier said. “At SIUE’s Springboard to Success, I talked face-to-face with a student who had studied abroad and wasn’t drowning in debt. It was an encouraging conversation.”

For more information on SIUE’s vast study abroad opportunities, visit SIUE Study Abroad. (SIUE News Archive: July 2019)
Higher education has expanded to become a more global endeavor with increased competition. That’s why Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Effie Hortis, assistant director of first year services in the Office of Academic Advising, believes institutions need to be global campuses that connect, network and share resources.

As appointed chair of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA): The Global Community for Academic Advising 2020 International Conference, Hortis is a leader in the global endeavor. She will present on the topic of Student Autonomy: Advisors Creating Positive Change for Students at the 2019 NACADA International Conference being held in Hasselt, Belgium from July 8-11. Hortis will assume her appointment as chair of the 2020 NACADA International Conference at the close of the Belgium gathering. It will be held in Athens, Greece in 2020. Attending and presenting at conferences greatly contributes to professional development, according to Hortis.

“It’s always an excellent opportunity to collaborate with and learn from fellow higher education professionals and researchers,” she noted. “It’s also an invaluable opportunity to expand your network and share similar interests and expertise on academic advising globally.” (SIUE News Archive: July 2019)

Two leading early childhood experts and faculty members in the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Education, Health and Human Behavior (SEHHB) Department of Teaching and Learning have been competitively selected to serve as Illinois Gateways to Opportunity Faculty Fellows.

As Faculty Fellows, Stacie Kirk, PhD, professor and early childhood education program director, and Anni Reinking, EdD, assistant professor, will help shape how early childhood professionals in Illinois will be evaluated for years to come.

The Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies worked with the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) to arrange Illinois faculty into teams that will improve assessments pertaining to credentials for early childhood professionals. The assessments will focus on seven Gateways Content Areas. The initiative began in May 2019 and will conclude in May 2020. (SIUE News Archive: July 2019)
ILLINOIS SBDC FOR METRO EAST AT SIUE AND ILLINOIS WBDC OFFER NATIONAL WBE CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

The Illinois Metro East Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is collaborating with the Illinois Women’s Business Development Center (WBDC) to bring a specialized “Is WBE Certification Right for You” workshop to Edwardsville from 3-5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12 at Town & Country Bank in Edwardsville. This session brings together local WBDC Associate Director Jacinta Witherspoon and SBDC business advisors to support women small business owners.

“This is an opportunity that women business owners will not want to miss,” said Jo Ann Di Maggio May, SBDC director. “Chambers of Commerce, BNI (Business Network International) Groups, and other business-building and networking organizations are encouraged to invite their members.”

By aiding entrepreneurs and companies in defining their path to success, the SBDC network positively impacts the Metro East by strengthening the business community, creating and retaining jobs, and encouraging capital investment. It enhances the region’s economic interests by providing one-stop assistance to individuals by means of counseling, training, research, and advocacy for new ventures and existing small businesses. When appropriate, the SBDC strives to affiliate its ties to the region to support the goals and objectives of both the SIUE School of Business and the University at large. To learn how the SBDC can help your small business. (*SIUE News Archive: August 2019*)

SIUE EAST ST. LOUIS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS CONVERSATION ON BLACK MALES

The SIUE Charter High School is a school-of-choice for families in the East St. Louis School District 189. The mission of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter High School is to prepare students who are career- and college-ready upon graduation. To achieve this mission, the school and its staff will positively impact the educational and economic lives of East St. Louis, Illinois youth through individualized instruction in core academic subjects, exploration of career interests and aptitudes, assistance in realizing students’ talents, high academic goals, and expectations that graduates will become competitive employees for the 21st century. The event dealt with the Netflix miniseries, “When They See Us”. (*SIUE News Archive: August 2019*)
SIUE RESEARCHER COLLABORATES WITH SOUTH KOREAN TEAM TO VALIDATE NON-ANIMAL SCREENING MODEL FOR HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

While student activity is quieter on campus through the summer months, faculty research continues full swing at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. This summer, the lab of Kyong Sup Yoon, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences, was bustling with important activity as he hosted colleagues from South Korea’s Dongguk University.

It marked the second of a three-summer visit during which Yoon and his graduate students are validating a newly developed Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) official non-animal testing method for the detection of hazardous chemicals, including endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs). The project is led by principal investigator Yooheon Park, PhD, of Dongguk University.

“My current research to develop a non-animal test method reflects one of the Buddhist teachings: Do no harm to all living creatures,” Park said. “Once developed, our method, accompanied with a detailed Test Guideline, will be used by many government, industry, and independent laboratories to identify hazard and/or determine the safety of chemicals. This will promote the generation of dependable data for human and animal health, and environmental risk assessments.” Yoon and Park hope to pursue new projects that will produce synergic outputs through their institutional collaboration. *(SIUE News Archive: August 2019)*

SUSTAINABLE GROUPS CONVENE ON SIUE CAMPUS TO TALK ABOUT CLEAN ENERGY, JOBS, AND JUSTICE

A serious threat looms large in the Metro East – and that danger is the “Killer Heat.” The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), along with other organizations, gathered on Tuesday, Aug. 27 at the Center for Spirituality and Sustainability on the campus of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to inform the public about the threat of extreme heat, and talk about The Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA).

More than 50 people attended the meeting that focused, in part, on the UCS’s new report, “Killer Heat in the United States.” The report laid out a stark choice of whether to continue on the path of not reducing emissions, with devastatingly hot consequences, or begin now to reduce heat-trapping emissions.

Specified throughout the two-hour meeting was the importance of the Clean Energy Jobs Act (Senate Bill 2132 and House Bill 3624). The highlights of the Jobs Act included promoting jobs and economic opportunity, putting Illinois on a path of 100 percent renewable energy by 2050, reducing the equivalent of 1 million gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles from the road, and achieving a carbon-free power-sector by 2030. *(SIUE News Archive: September 2019)*
PART THREE OF SERIES ON IMPLICIT BIAS COMES TO SIUE

As part of the Diversity and Inclusion Institutional Leadership Team’s “Implicit Bias and Institutional Change” series, faculty and staff members discussed how implicit bias can impact behavior in a professional setting and how it can be combated in Friday’s session.

Friday’s session, titled “Who Am I in the Delivery of Services: Implicit Biases Inside and Outside the Classroom” was the third of four events, Diversity Day being the fourth, in the implicit bias series.

After establishing the impact implicit biases can have on behavior, and demonstrating how these behaviors affect others in a work environment at SIUE, Boddie asked participants how their newfound awareness of implicit biases might impact their services.

Susan Hume, professor and chair of the geography department, said she is more aware of her students’ needs and how she conveys materials now that she is aware of her own potential implicit biases.

“For me, [when] teaching in the classroom, being aware of my own implicit bias makes me more aware of how I’m delivering material. I used to say at the beginning of the semester that ‘I give you all the tools you need to be successful in this class,’ … and yet, I came to the realization two or three years ago after fifteen years of teaching that not everybody knows how to use the tools,” Hume said. (Alestle News Archive: September 2019)

SIUE’S DR. TEMKO WARNS AGAINST THE DANGERS OF ONLY FOCUSING ON DIVERSITY

As an advocate, activist, teacher and one-time politician, Ezra Joseph Temko, PhD, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, is driven by his commitment to community and desire to effect positive social change.

One key way the professor believes change will come about is by pairing inclusion with diversity.

“The goal is not just to have diversity in our communities, but for our community members to be respected, be supported and to thrive,” emphasized Temko, who partly describes himself as being Jewish and a member of the LGBTQ community. “If we all did our best to live with loving-kindness, our world would be the better for it,” said Temko.

“SIUE’s upcoming Diversity Day is thus appropriately themed ‘From Awareness to Action,’” added Temko. “I hope that SIUE community members take advantage of the opportunities they have at SIUE to learn more about issues of diversity and inclusion, and about different people’s experiences, needs and dreams.” (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)
SIUE SCHOOL OF NURSING DNP PROGRAM
RANKED #6 NATIONALLY
The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing’s Doctor of Nursing Practice Program has been ranked sixth nationally by registeredNursing.org, a nursing advocacy organization.

DNP programs were assessed on several factors which represent how well a program supports students during school, towards licensure and beyond. The SON graduate program’s goal is to prepare expert nurses for leadership in professional nursing practice and patient-centered healthcare delivery. The DNP program educates nurses for the highest level of clinical practice, focusing on their advanced nursing practice specialty area or in healthcare administration. SIUE offers an online post-master’s DNP, as well as a family nurse practitioner DNP. The nurse anesthesia DNP is a mix of online and face-to-face learning. The SON inspires students and faculty to embody the creativity to teach, the curiosity to learn, the courage to serve, and the compassion to care for others in this diverse and complex world, forever exemplifying nursing excellence in action. (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)

POVERTY AS PART OF APPLIED HEALTH’S SIMULATION

More than 60 SIUE students went through a few hours with their newly acquired identities, and more importantly, financial net worth, determining how to eat, shop, work, get to school, pay bills and survive. The School of Education, Health and Human Behavior (SEHHB) Department of Applied Health’s Nutrition Program and the Food and Nutrition (FAN) Club held a poverty simulation on Thursday, Oct. 10 in the Multifunction Room in Evergreen Hall. During the simulation, students role-played the lives of low-income families to empathize with what life is like month-to-month for those living in poverty, according to Jennifer Zuercher, PhD, RD and assistant professor in nutrition, one of the event coordinators. (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)
SIUE’S BEZHANOVA AWARDED MEDAL FROM UKRAINIAN ACADEMY OF LITERATURE AND ART

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Department of Foreign Languages and Literature’s Olga Bezhanova, PhD, associate professor of Spanish, has been awarded the Medal for the Contribution to Ukrainian Art and Scholarship from the Ukrainian Academy of Literature and Art. She was recognized for teaching an interdisciplinary course on totalitarianism and Ukrainian art, along with her outstanding promotion of Ukrainian art throughout Hispanic countries.

A Ukraine native, Bezhanova has taught courses on Hispanic culture, literature and history at SIUE for the past decade. Along with promoting Hispanic literature and culture, she has been an active participant in the literary scene of her native country by publishing English translations of contemporary Ukrainian prose and serving on the juries of several literary contests in Ukraine.

In her continuing endeavor to promote Ukrainian art throughout the world, Bezhanova will be presenting “The Revolution of Dignity and Birth of Democracy in Ukraine” at the Edwardsville Public Library on Wednesday, Nov. 6. During her presentation, she will discuss the numerous achievements and failures throughout the country’s journey to democracy and explain their ongoing relevance. (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)

SIUE’S DR. LAKESHA BUTLER FEATURES ON PHARMACISTS FOR HEALTHIER LIVES’ WEBSITE

Lakesha Butler, PharmD, clinical professor in the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy’s Department of Pharmacy Practice and president of the National Pharmaceutical Association, addressed the need for immunizations in the video, “Immunizations: What You Should Know,” on the Pharmacists for Healthier Lives website’s new Impact Stories page.

“I went to a homeless clinic and provided immunizations,” said Butler. “I found myself having to provide a number of education sessions on dispelling the myths of what immunizations do and don’t do.”

- Dr. Lakesha Butler

(SIUE News Archive: October 2019)
SIUE’S LOCKE BRINGS STEM EDUCATION TO INDONESIA

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville STEM Center Director Sharon Locke, PhD, helped bring an understanding of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education to Indonesia during two weeks in October. She was invited to three institutions to present on the history and theory of STEM education, while providing hands-on learning activities for faculty members and university undergraduate students. “STEM education is an area of tremendous interest in Indonesia and other southeast Asian countries,” said Locke, an associate professor in environmental sciences. “University faculty members are trying to understand how they might integrate STEM lessons into schools and into training for pre-service science and math teachers.”

At the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Regional Centre for Quality Improvement of Teacher and Education Personnel (QITEP) in Mathematics (SEAQiM), in Yogyakarta, Locke presented workshops on teaching STEM as part of mathematics courses to 30 junior high school teachers from Indonesia as well as Laos, Thailand, Mynamar and East Timor. The SEAQiM Center in Mathematics is one of 26 centers across southeast Asia. At Sunan Kalijaga University, Locke presented a practical STEM activity for faculty members and undergraduate pre-service teachers. At Sanata Dharma University, she provided a half-day workshop for science and math teachers, a lecture and lesson on STEM for undergraduate pre-service teachers, and a workshop for science and mathematics faculty.  

SIUE News Archive: October 2019

WOMEN IN STEM PANEL COMES TO SIUE

The fields of science, technology, mathematics and engineering are often thought of as male-dominated, so three female STEM graduates visited campus Monday to talk to students about their experiences in the workforce. Two of the panelists — Ashley Wilkerson and Alison Okeke — are graduates of SIUE, while the third — Katie Troll — went to the University of Missouri Science and Technology.

The panel was hosted by the Joint Engineering Student Council and the Society of Women Engineers, and organized by senior mechanical engineering major Holly Liebel, and Crishawonna Nash, a senior computer science major. The panel mostly focused on information that would be useful for any young professional. According to the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, the percentage of women in STEM fields compared to men has increased by 5.9 percent from 1993 to 2015. However, as of 2015, women still only account for 28.4 percent of the total STEM workforce. “Be willing to learn. If you’re willing to learn anything, I feel like you can do anything,” Okeke said.  

Alestle News Archive: October 2019
CLOTHESLINE PROJECT RETURNS TO CAMPUS

Community members came together to share their stories about sexual violence and assault as well as support for survivors during the Clothesline Project event in the Goshen Lounge.

The event is held in the fall and spring semesters. During the fall, it is held in October, because October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, according to Samantha Dickens, director of the Prevention, Education and Advocacy Center.

During each event, paint, markers and other art supplies are available for attendees to write a message with their experience or support on a plain white T-shirt. The shirts are then hung up on clotheslines until the event ends. Dickens said the event began as a national campaign for domestic violence and sexual assault awareness.

There were 39 T-shirts on the clotheslines by the end of the event, Dickens said.

“Clothesline is a really great opportunity for students to give a few minutes of their time — because we know a few minutes is often all they have — to express their support,” Dickens said. “It means a lot to people who are survivors or know survivors to see these kinds of messages because a lot of what they see or hear is really negative and not supportive.” Dickens said that all the T-Shirts are only displayed during the event, but some of them will be out at other events held by PEACe throughout the year. (Alestle News Archive: October 2019)

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY OF EDWARDSVILLE STUDENTS SPEAK FOR LIFE AT FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS PROTEST

The protest included speakers and demonstrators from both sides of the river, including Illinois state Rep. Charlie Meier (R-Okawville) and U.S. Rep. Mike Bost (R-Murphysboro).

Several priests were in attendance, and signs included statements like “I am the pro-life generation,” “defund Planned Parenthood” or “pray to end abortion,” along with one sign featuring graphic images of a dismembered fetus. Many of the signs called upon the Fairview Heights city council or mayor to shut the clinic down before it opens, and some speakers accused Planned Parenthood of advocating abortion for financial gain.

“Pregnancy is not a disease and a baby is not some tumor that needs to be removed from a woman’s body.” (Alestle News Archive: October 2019)
SIUE FACULTY EXAMINE THE ORIGINS OF THANKSGIVING

As Thanksgiving nears, two faculty members of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Department of Historical Studies and Native American Studies, provided an opportunity to discuss some of the historical facts surrounding the holiday.

Robert Paulett, PhD, associate professor; and Rowena McClinton, professor, served as facilitators of the topic, “Understanding Thanksgiving and its Connection to Native American History,” on Friday, Nov. 15 in the Morris University Center, Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion (CSDI).

“We want to provide a brief introduction to the history of Thanksgiving and the origins of the Pilgrim story we all learned, which became defined over the next century into the holiday we know today,” said Paulett.

After the discussion, senior psychology major Angel Williams said she was glad to have learned a little more on the subject. “The subject matter wasn’t new,” she added. “But it was more in depth than what I learned in high school. In high school, we just learned about the good things. Hearing it now, does give me bad vibes, but it’s still a holiday that most people will celebrate.” (SIUE News Archive: November 2019)

THE SIUE EAST ST. LOUIS LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER GETS BETTER WITH TIME

The words “new and improved” may seem cliché and trite in some instances, but they are the most accurate way to describe the progress at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Center’s Learning Resource Center (LRC).

LRC’s evolving story has become more compelling because of the advancements in recent years, according to LRC Director Rebecca Harper. The LRC’s improvements are: updates, programming and staff. Getting better equipment and access to quality materials for LRC patrons were high on Harper’s list. The (LRC) is organized as a public library focusing on youth and adult community outreach, programs, and collections.

Another popular part of LRC’s offerings this summer was free computer basic instruction and resume building workshops.

The SIUE East St. Louis Learning Resource Center (LRC) is organized as a full-service public library focusing on youth and adult community outreach, programs, and collections. The library also contributes to the success of higher education opportunities and career development provided by the East St. Louis Higher Education Campus (ESLHEC). The LRC supports the diverse range of students and public patrons on the ESLHEC, and encourages them to succeed and learn new skills provided by the LRC community collection and programs. (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)

SIUE FACULTY EXAMINE THE ORIGINS OF THANKSGIVING
1619 COMMEMORATION
Four hundred years ago, the first Africans landed in Old Point Comfort, Virginia. Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Black Studies Program and the Office of the Provost presented its 1619 Commemoration recognition with an opening ceremony at noon Sept. 30 in the Morris University Center, Goshen Lounge. (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)

BLACK STUDIES LECTURE SERIES
As a part of the SIUE Black Studies lecture series, Dr. Elizabeth Cali presented Pauline Hopkins, “A Radical Race Editor.” This took place in September at the ovejoy Library Friends Corner. (SIUE Black Studies 2019)

YUSEF SALAAM, WRONGFULLY CONVICTED OF “CENTRAL PARK JOGGER” RAPE SPEAKS AT SIUE

Calamities, tumults and grave injustices do not have to stain the soul and crush the spirit, according to Yusef Salaam, one of the “Central Park Five” wrongly convicted of the rape of “Central Park Jogger” Trisha Meili. Salaam talked about hope and purpose during his presentation on Monday, Nov. 4 at the Morris University Center’s Meridian Ballroom at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

SIUE’s Campus Activities Board (CAB) sponsored the event that drew more than 400 people.

“CAB decided to bring Dr. Yusef Salaam to campus, because with the many tragedies that occur daily to black and brown children, it is important that modern society remain hopeful for better times,” said CAB chair Tamryn Williams, a junior majoring in industrial engineering. “The first step to change begins with having difficult conversations and listening to how others have overcome difficult situations.” (SIUE News Archive: November 2019)
VR LAB EXPANDS LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Students at SIUE are receiving more advanced training than ever before with the Department of Teaching and Learning’s Virtual Professional Practice Lab. The Virtual Professional Practice Lab is a resource for students to train for difficult situations. When students sit down in front of the TV, they’re faced with virtual avatars they can communicate with as practice for real interactions.

(Alestle Archive: November 2019)

SIUE CHS TO BRIGHTEN HOLIDAYS

Reading, writing and angelic donations? Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter High School (CHS) students can expect to experience all three. For the past month, CHS has been accepting donations and funds for its sixth annual Angel Tree giving campaign to benefit students.

(Alestle Archive: December 2019)
SELFIES WITH SANTA
The latest technology, good grades and best wishes for family and friends were some of the requests Southern Illinois University Edwardsville students, staff and faculty asked Santa Claus for Christmas this year. The SIUE Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) hosted its second annual “Selfies with Santa” from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2 in the Morris University Center Meridian Ballroom foyer. SIUE’s personal contact with the North Pole was Dominic Dorsey II, director of the Office of Accessible Campus Community and Equitable Student Support (ACCESS), who was accompanied by one of his elves, Berthine Blanc, ACCESS office support associate. (SIUE News Archive: December 2019)

SUICIDE PREVENTION
The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention held its annual Out of the Darkness Walk at the SIUE Gardens to commemorate National Suicide Prevention Week. The Walk consisted of a vigil, which allowed attendees to remember and honor loved ones they had lost. (SIUE Office of Equal Opportunity, Access and Title IX Coordination)

SIUE GETS NEW VAWA GRANT THROUGH 2022
SIUE has received a $260k grant for 2019-22 from the Department of Justice through the Violence Against Women Act. The grant will fund education and victim services for domestic violence and stalking. The University will continue to fund campus education on sexual assault. (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)
CAMPUS ORGANIZATION PUT LEFTOVER FOOD TO USE

The SIUE chapter of the Food Recovery Network is benefiting both the local community and SIUE students this holiday season. Formerly known as the Campus Kitchen, the Food Recovery Network recently conducted its yearly food drive. The Food Recovery Network is a sustainable organization that aids in eliminating food waste by partnering with Dining Services and restaurants outside the university. Food that has already been prepared is packaged and donated to those in need instead of being wasted.

Student volunteers develop partnerships, plan menus, run cooking shifts, organize drivers, garden, glean, and teach nutrition education to children and families. Student volunteers work several hours a week to create and distribute 70-90 meals. (SIUE News Archive: November 2019)

SIUE BRINGS LOW-WASTE, SUSTAINABLE PLAN TO CAMPUS

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Winter Welcome student program will be the pilot event for the University’s Cougars Care Initiative.

Held in January, Winter Welcome’s purpose is to introduce new students to the SIUE community by holding informational sessions and socializing events, among other activities. Winter Welcome 2020 will be the first event on SIUE’s campus that will be a part of the new Cougars Care initiative.

Cougars Care is a low-waste initiative created by New Student Transitions Coordinator Kelly Moroney. The initiative consists of approximately 13 goals that Moroney and her graduate assistant, Josie Clark, developed after researching sustainable practices and event planning tips. (SIUE News Archive: December 2019)

SIUE PUTS ITS HEART INTO SUSTAINABILITY

A successful sustainable initiative at the beginning of the semester has thrilled and encouraged its co-founders to continue the work at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

“‘I am pleased at the participation and the outcome of the Cougars Care initiative that we introduced during SIUE’s Winter Welcome earlier this month,’” said New Student Transitions Coordinator Kelly Moroney. The main idea is to reduce the amount of waste created through program planning and implementation, while teaching students different ways to live sustainably.”

“Cougars Care taught students more about what sustainability means, and how they can get involved in sustainability efforts across campus,” said Moroney. “Numerous students came up to me during the program and said how cool it was that we were doing sustainable things like composting, being mindful of the kind of packaging we used, and checking what went into creating the products that are purchased.” (SIUE News Archive: January 2020)
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter High School (CHS) students welcomed an anonymous donor on Wednesday, Feb. 5 in their first gymnasium, which was made possible by a generous gift.

“Your gift makes such a difference, and one thing we value at SIUE is partnerships,” said SIUE Chancellor Randy Pembrook. “You can see how the Multipurpose Room looks and feels different.”

“The idea for converting the Multipurpose Room from a meeting space to a recreation space was suggested at one of the Chancellor’s East St. Louis Question and Answer sessions,” noted Walker. “The only place for ball activity was outdoors, and not useful for much of the year due to weather.

“The new space can still be used as a meeting space for both on- and off-campus groups, but its retrofit will also allow it to be used for basketball, and any other sport that uses court space. The space will benefit the ESLC grants programs, Charter High School, and various other on- and off-campus organizations. It can now be used for recitals, meetings, banquets and recreation.” (SIUE News Archive: February 2020)
SIUE DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS DELVES INTO THE FIRST AMENDMENT THIS WEEK

Applying one of the country’s oldest rights to the ever-changing nature of speech, expression and community is a topic of discussion during Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Department of Mass Communications’ celebration of First Amendment Week, Monday-Friday, April 6-10.

“Social media can do three things better,” said Poepsel. “The first is to treat the employees whose jobs it is to get rid of illegal content better. Give them more breaks, better pay and hire more of them. Second, change the algorithms, so that they are not funneling people into nastier and nastier corners of conversations of the web. It’s a public square, and we do need to keep those public spaces clean. Finally, try to maintain the same policies globally. Do not be one Facebook in China and another one in the U.S.” (SIUE News Archive: April 2020)

SIUE SENIOR’S GLOBAL DREAM BECOMES REALITY THANKS TO NADOHE AWARD

International travel and service are life-changing experiences for those aspiring to shape a changing world. Embarking on such a journey as a college student is perhaps the best time in life to gain cultural experience and undergo personal transformation. But, funding such expeditions can prove challenging.

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville senior public health major Tatyana Curtis, of Sycamore, is now able to fulfill her global travel dreams and build skills toward a career as a nurse epidemiologist thanks to her receipt of a Global Engagement Award from the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE). (SIUE News Archive: February 2020)

SIUE CONFERS MORE THAN 1,100 DEGREES AT FALL COMMENCEMENT

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Chancellor Randy Pembrook oversaw the 2019 fall commencement exercises Friday and Saturday, Dec. 13-14. Ceremonies in the First Community Arena at the Vadalabene Center on campus for the 1,186 eligible graduates began Friday afternoon and concluded Saturday afternoon. All of the ceremonies can be viewed at siue.edu/tv.

“On behalf of SIUE, I want to extend our excitement for the nearly 1,200 students graduating this weekend,” Pembrook said. “At this very special time of year, the accomplishments of these students add to the joy that family and friends are feeling. We know that in joining over 100,000 fellow Cougar alums, these graduates will become an essential part of the workforce in the Metro East. Congratulations and best wishes for commencement and the holidays.” Fall commencement began Friday afternoon as Rebecca Phillips, who earned a bachelor’s in nursing, was the student speaker. (SIUE News Archive: December 2019)
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.
GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS
SPRING 2020

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.
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 campus wide 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.
SIUE HOUSING PROMOTES SUSTAINABILITY

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville University Housing residents moving out this spring semester had the opportunity to donate excess food and goods before leaving campus, making for a lighter car ride home and a more sustainable May closing.

This spring, University Housing residents donated 2,848 pounds of textiles to the USAgain program. This is equal to 6,835,200 gallons of water and 16 cubic yards of landfill space saved. (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)

SIUE FOOD SUSTAINABILITY INTERN WORKS TO PROMOTE GREEN CAMPAIGN

“Sustainability is important, because lives depend on it,” said Profaizer, a senior majoring in nutrition. “We are the first generation to experience overcrowding. If we don’t take small steps in the right direction, we’ll have bigger consequences.”

This is the first year that SIUE has had an intern with the Food to University Internship Network, a project supported by the Missouri Coalition for the Environment and the St. Louis Higher Education Sustainability Consortium, of which SIUE is a member. “One thing we could do that would be quick and easy,” Profaizer added, “is to have signs around campus like, ‘Think Green.’” Profaizer believes people would do more in the area of sustainability, if they better understood it and its benefits. (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)

SIUE’S DOMINIC DORSEY CHAIRS NEW DISABILITY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dominic Dorsey, director of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s office of Accessible Campus Community and Equitable Student Support (ACCESS), was appointed to chair the Illinois Board of Higher Education’s (IBHE) newly formed Disability Services Advisory Committee. The group will play a vital role in reviewing current policies and practices in serving students with disabilities in Illinois higher education.

“We are thankful for the wisdom of IBHE Board Chair John Atkinson for valuing and recognizing the need for our presence,” continued Dorsey, “and we are eager to join the existing committees in making a positive impact.”

This committee was created in 2004, and its accomplishments to date include such projects as training, conferences, transition support programs, data collection and accessibility awareness programs. (SIUE News Archive: December 2019)
**INCLUSIVE CONVERSATIONS**

The Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion hosted their first inclusive conversation Fall semester in September. As they highlighted concerns and education around the topic of “Microaggressions”, students, staff, and faculty was able to openly discuss their campus concerns, and talk about ways that we can all come together. CDSI will be hosting more inclusive conversations throughout the semester on October 4th, October 18th, November 1st, November 15th, and December 6th. *(Brejani Owens: September 2019)*

**PROPOSING QUESTIONS AND SEEKING ANSWERS**

**BIAS EXAMINATION**

Timothy Lewis, an African-American political science professor, said he has witnessed implicit biases in his students firsthand. Even so, he said that most of his experiences with students have been positive. This sparked a campus-wide discussion on implicit biases. *(Alestle News Archive: November 2019)*

**CHANCELLOR’S Q&A**

Two upcoming Q&A sessions will be held with Chancellor Randy Pembrook and other administrators. These meetings are open to all students, faculty and staff, who are invited to discuss any questions or concerns they may have. The first was held Monday, Dec. 2 in the Maple and Dogwood rooms and the second was held December 17 at the SDM in Alton, Illinois. *(Alestle News Archive: November 2019)*
SIUE ALUMNUS JAMES ROBBINS LEADS EAST ST LOUIS CENTER’S VETERANS UPWARD BOUND

Armed with 20 years of service to veterans with the goal of training them for academic and employment success, James Robbins is working to help advance Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Center’s Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) program participants.

“Veterans Upward Bound prepares veterans of all eras for postsecondary education, by providing counseling, advisement, basic skills review/enhancement and referral to a variety of services and resources,” said Robbins, VUB program director. VUB’s goal is to serve 125 low/first-generation college student veterans from the Illinois counties of Madison, St. Clair and Monroe, the Missouri counties of St. Louis City and St. Charles, and St. Louis City.

With a focus on empowering people and strengthening communities, the SIUE East St. Louis Center is dedicated to improving the lives of families and individuals—from pre-school through adult—in the Metro East region. The Center offers programs that give the community renewed hope and an opportunity to reach educational, career and life goals. It does so by providing comprehensive programs, services and training in the areas of education, health, social services and the arts. (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)

SHARING THEIR STORIES: SIUE VETERAN ROTC CADETS REFLECT ON VETERAN’S DAY

The first snow of the season dampened Veterans Day events this year, as the annual parade in Edwardsville was canceled. However, SIUE veterans and ROTC cadets recognized the day in their own ways and reflected on their experiences.

Amanda Depew, of Centralia, Illinois, joined the Air Force at 23 years old when she was already a wife and mother. Depew said she initially enlisted because she was looking for more stability for herself and her family. Depew comes from a military family, with her parents, grandfathers and all of her uncles having served, which contributed to her decision to enlist. As one of the few women in the armed forces, Depew said she experienced unique challenges but was able to form deep and lasting bonds with those who served alongside her. “I enlisted into a career field that was male-heavy, so that had its challenges,” Depew said. “But eventually it was just like I had a group of big brothers ... and a lot of us are still in contact to this day.”

The challenges Depew faced did not end when she left the service, however. According to Depew, her biggest challenge since leaving the Air Force has been readjusting to civilian life. “It’s definitely different there than it is here, so that’s my main challenge actually — doing this transitioning,” Depew said. “And I’ve been out since 2007, so imagine 12 years later still trying to fit in.” (Alestle News Archive: November 2019)
SIUE HOSTS ANNUAL DIVERSE VENDOR FAIR

It was a shopping-networking expedition that could result in needed products and services for Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and will boost exposure for quality minority-owned retailers. Representatives from six minority and women owned companies set up displays during SIUE’s annual Diverse Vendor Spotlight Event on Thursday, Nov. 14 in the Morris University Center, Mississippi/Illinois Rooms. The Office of Vice Chancellor for Administration organized and hosted the fair. (SIUE News Archive: November 2019)

SIUE LOVEJOY LIBRARY DISPLAYS THE LIFE OF THE SIUE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AND FORMER EAST ST. LOUIS MAYOR GORDON BUSH

Photographs that depict the long and illustrious political, military and civic career of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Distinguished Alumnus and former East St. Louis Mayor Gordon D. Bush were unveiled during a reception in his honor held Tuesday, Sept. 10 at Lovejoy Library.

“I have tremendous appreciation for this exhibit. It is a great honor and a blessing,” said Bush. “It further inspires me to keep going. I’m hoping that others will see that, and they too will get involved in some fashion to help East St. Louis and the University.”

Bush is also active on numerous boards and organizations, including the NAACP, Shriners International and the United States Army Reserves Officer Association. In 2006, the Gordon D. Bush Elementary School in East St. Louis opened in his honor.

“SIUE and East St. Louis have a long history, and I’m glad to have been a part of it. I would like to see the leaders of both entities come together again, as well as bring in students, to find ways to better the City of East St. Louis.” (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)
QUILT UNVEILED TO STUDENT ARTISTS AT SIUE ESTL CENTER

There was plenty of finger pointing and squeals, but it was done in amazement and joy. Students from the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Center’s (ESLC) Project Success program viewed their finished work of art on Friday, Sept. 13.

Celebrated artist and SIUE alumna Edna Patterson Petty unveiled the quilt that the students took weeks to complete this summer. The Children’s Quilting Project: Healing through Art was made possible through a grant from the SIUE Meridian Society. The creative activity was a collaboration between SIUE, Project Success and the Greater East St. Louis Community Fund (GESLCF).

Celebrated artist and SIUE alumna Edna Patterson Petty unveiled the quilt that the students took weeks to complete this summer. The Children’s Quilting Project: Healing through Art was made possible through a grant from the SIUE Meridian Society. (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)

GIVE KIDS A SMILE A DAY
Give Kids a Smile Day offers FREE comprehensive dental care, including examinations, x-rays, cleanings, fluoride treatments, fillings, sealants, stainless steel crowns and extractions. Because Give Kids a Smile Day is held on a holiday when school is not in session, an annual average of more than 200 children receive care from dental professionals at the SDM. The volunteer dentists and staff offer an annual average of more than $50,000 in care for the children who participate. (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)

MAKING HIS WAY
Intelligent. Communicator. African American. SIUE senior Dalyn Wells used these few words to describe himself. While Wells says he delights in being part of the SIUE community, which is comprised of many diverse people.
Wells is majoring in mass communications, with a focus in advertising and strategic media. His minor is in English and creative writing. Wells was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at the age of two. He uses both a walker and scooter for his mobility. (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)
SIUE NOYCE SCHOLARS RECAP SUMMER OF APPLIED EXPERIENCES

Whether aspiring to be a pediatric physician, intensive care nurse, wildlife rehabilitator, or otherwise, gaining experience in educating and communicating with young students and community members is valuable for an individual’s career preparedness.

This summer, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Robert J. Noyce Teacher Scholarship program afforded those opportunities to seven students pursuing degrees in science-related fields, who have an interest in education. Participants recapped their experiences during the Noyce Summer Scholars Showcase held Thursday, Sept. 19 in the Morris University Center.

The Noyce program is funded by the National Science Foundation and provides $2,500 summer scholarships to qualified SIUE freshmen and sophomores and local community college students who are interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) teaching careers. The students receive training in delivering STEM activities to youth and then complete 200 hours of service, teaching in an informal K-12 learning environment. (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)

SIUE INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY PROGRAM CELEBRATES GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

For 50 years, international students have been welcomed, supported and celebrated at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. SIUE’s International Hospitality Program (IHP) applauded that fact and re-emphasized its mission at its 50th anniversary, held Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Morris University Center, Conference Center.

SIUE Chancellor Randy Pembrook, PhD, and Director of the Office of International Affairs (OIA) Mary Weishaar, PhD, presented certificates to the IHP founding members and members representing the different decades. The celebration was entitled, “Global Welcoming,” according to Gaby Renteria-Poepsel, OIA international student programming advisor.

“Since its inception in 1969, the International Hospitality Program (IHP) has served as a community organization whose mission is to enrich the lives of their member families and international students at SIUE,” said Renteria-Poepsel. “From what we know about the history of IHP, as SIUE’s enrollment grew, students from various countries chose the Edwardsville campus to pursue their academic interests and those new international students faced many challenges, changes and adjustments.” (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)
CSDI CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE

The Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion is holding its first full month of events for National Hispanic Heritage Month, which spans Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. So far, the center has hosted a celebration of Mexican independence and culture, the Our Lady of Guadalupe Dancers, a viewing of the film “And the Earth Did Not Move” with Spanish professor Carolina Rocha, a discussion on how to support undocumented students, a cultural dinner celebration and a panel discussion of Latinx students’ experiences at SIUE. (Alestle News Archive: September 2019)

MUSLIM WOMEN ARE MORE THAN THEIR RELIGION AND HIJABS

In the face of exhaustive stereotypes portrayed in the media about Muslims, Rodaina Tarek Mousa, an English literature graduate student from Alexandria, Egypt, encourages others to look beyond her appearance and advocates for social justice. “It’s been so much of an eye opener, how many people that have no idea what Egypt is. They see Egypt and think of camels, pyramids and deserts, but they don’t see beyond that.” Proving Egypt consists of more than its stereotypes, Mousa encourages others to consider the abilities of Egyptians. (Alestle News Archive: September 2019)

DIFFERENT FAITHS HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN NOT

While 2019’s Celebration of World Faiths focused on the importance of taking care of the Earth in various different religions, many speakers conveyed another valuable lesson: the importance of getting in touch with one’s spiritual side, regardless of religious affiliation.

The event featured the Assisi Declarations on Nature, formed when leaders from Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism gathered to discuss how their faiths could help protect and save an ailing Earth. (Alestle News Archive: October 2019)
SIUE STUDENTS GATHER TO PROTEST PREACHER FOR ‘HATE SPEECH’

The Quad preacher was a no-show on Wednesday, but that didn’t stop counter-protesters from calling for his removal from campus. Tom Rayborn, of Alton, Illinois, has come to SIUE for years, standing on the Stratton Quadrangle to preach to the student body. On his permit application to SIUE, he states that his intent is to “preach the Gospel, talk with students about religious topics, [and] distribute religious material.” Students have complained that Rayborn uses a megaphone to insult students, calling them “demons” and stating that they are going to hell.

Freshman Elly Bollinger and a few other students held a demonstration on Oct. 16 that was intended as a silent counter-protest to Rayborn, but became contentious. Other students joined them. “We don’t think he should be able to shout at students like that,” Bollinger said. “It’s verbal harassment, and we should be able to feel comfortable on our own campus.” (Alestle News Archive: October 2019)
SIUE XFEST BRINGS IMAGINATIVE PERFORMANCES

SIUE’s Xfest, one of the only university festivals of its kind, has garnered a positive reputation for presenting experimental, alternative and avant-garde performing artists from around the country. Xfest is celebrating its 10th anniversary from Monday, Sept. 9-Friday, Sept. 13 by bringing back some of its favorite artists. (SIUE News Archive: August 2019)

SIUE G.R.E.E.N. LEADERS HOST MIDWEST REGIONAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE SYMPOSIUM

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Living Architecture Regional Center of Excellence (LARCE) hosted researchers, inventors and industry advancers on Monday, Sept. 23 for the Midwest Regional Green Infrastructure Symposium.

The one-day event featured a Living Architecture Seminar with presentations and panel discussions on topics of policy advocacy, maintenance challenges and best practices, cost-effectiveness, funding, incentives, and eligibilities, along with research advancements.

The Green Infrastructure Foundation is a charity that partners with communities to shape healthy, resilient, and sustainable places using living green infrastructure. (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)

LEGACY PROGRAM OFFERS LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR STUDENTS

New on campus, the Legacy program is a way for students who want to expand upon their leadership skills to get involved and grow.

This program meets every two weeks and changes up the topics of discussion based on student needs. These activities and discussions usually revolve around topics such as leadership skills, communication, and involvement on campus. The program is designed to expand students’ resources pertaining to leadership.

While this is their first year starting this program, they expect it to expand and pick up more students in future years. Jared AuBuchon, a student administration graduate student working with the Student Leadership Council, thinks this was the perfect time for Legacy to start. (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)
FREE DENTAL CARE AT SIU SDM’S VETERAN’S CARE DAY, NOVEMBER 14

The SIU School of Dental Medicine (SIU SDM) will provide free dental care to veterans on Thursday, Nov. 14 during its second annual Veteran’s Care Day at the SDM’s main clinic in building 263, 2800 College Ave. in Alton.

“At the SIU SDM, it’s important that we meaningfully demonstrate how appreciative we are of our veterans’ sacrifice and service,” said Katie Kosten, DMD, director of Community Dentistry. “We understand that the selflessness of those who serve our country is the exact reason we enjoy our freedoms. We are honored to say thank you to our veterans with the services that the SDM is capable of providing.”

A year ago, nearly $22,000 worth of free comprehensive care was provided to 33 patients during 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, will provide free exams, x-rays, cleanings, fillings and extractions at no cost. Patients should note that treatment needs will be evaluated and prioritized, and all necessary care may not be able to be provided in this one day. At the conclusion of each appointment, all veterans will have the opportunity to become patients of SIU SDM if they need ongoing care. (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY BRINGS AWARENESS

1 in 3 college students reports having symptoms in line with at least one mental health disorder. Oct. 10, World Mental Health Day is promoting global awareness and education of mental health. The day aims to bring attention to the reality of mental health and advocate against stigma. (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)

SIUE CELEBRATES OCTOBER AS LGBTQIA+ MONTH

A series of events will be held this month to celebrate LGBTQIA+ History Month at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)
SIUE LGBTQIA+ Community Celebrates National Coming Out Day

Several members of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s LGBTQIA+ community celebrated National Coming Out Day on Friday, Oct. 11.

National Coming Out Day is held each year on the anniversary of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, held on Oct. 11, 1987. This year was the 31st annual celebration. SIUE’s observance of National Coming Out Day concluded weeklong events celebrating LGBTQIA+ History Month.

SIUE celebrates Diversity Day, Monday-Tuesday, Oct. 14-15 on all three of its campuses, which also includes Alton and East St. Louis. It will involve educational and active engagement sessions. *(SIUE News Archive: October 2019)*

SIUE Marketing & Communications Earns Design Awards

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Marketing and Communications (UMC) graphic design team has received four University & College Designers Association (UCDA) awards. The UCDA Design Competition recognizes the best of the exceptional design work by communication professionals to promote educational institutions (secondary, vocational or higher education), and supports the exchange of ideas and information relating to the unique role of these designers. *(SIUE News Archive: August 2019)*

SIUE Hosts Food Recovery Network Food Drive

The Food Recovery Network, formerly the Campus Kitchen at SIUE (CKSIUE), is hosting its annual “Give Thanks, Give Food” food drive, according to Carolyn Compton, assistant director for community engagement with the Kimmel Student Involvement Center. The food drive will collect nonperishable and canned food donations through Sunday, Nov. 10 that will be used to make Thanksgiving meal grocery bags for Community Care Center clients in Granite City. “This annual food drive has served as a way to acknowledge the increased food needs many experience during the upcoming holiday seasons,” said Compton. “This food drive provides an additional resource to nonprofit organizations and the clients who Food Recovery Network of SIUE serves each week.” *(SIUE News Archive: October 2019)*
Denise Taliaferro Baszile, PhD, of Miami University in Ohio, is the associate dean of Diversity and Student Experience and professor of curriculum and cultural studies, was the featured speaker at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s 37th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Luncheon on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

“We all know King is admired for his courage, his brilliance and his integrity. But King’s most powerful gift was his wisdom, and his call to the work of justice.”

- Denise Taliaferro Baszile, PhD

“King knew that on some days the dream would appear as a nightmare, and that the road to justice would be littered with hate, misunderstanding and failures,” said Baszile. “He also knew that the ability to inspire and be courageous are most potent when done collectively.

“On the road to becoming more human, we will have to rethink our revolutionary approach,” she said. “To do right in a complicated world, our best strategies are probably not going to involve overthrow, rebellion, war, marches, shouting each other down and the like. It is about living everyday life with a revolutionary state of mind that prioritizes the kind of justice supported by community, imagination, education, purpose, well-being, love and joy.

“It is these micro-revolutions that will prove Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s words that it is ‘Always the right time to do right.’” (SIUE News Archive: January 2020)
Another highlight of the luncheon was the award presentations. The following were honored for their outstanding achievements and contributions:

Community Humanitarian - Angela I. Gray, social worker, Alton High School, East Alton
Scholarship - Jullianne Faye Bigueras, senior, English secondary education, Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands
High School Essay - Taylor Jones, O’Fallon Township High School, O’Fallon
High School Poetry - Brianna Davis, Parkway West High School, St. Louis
High School Visual Arts - Delaney Holliday, Belleville West High School, Belleville
Pride, excitement and interest drew people to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s opening ceremony of Black Heritage Month, themed “Black and Unified,” on Monday, Feb. 3 in the Morris University Center, Meridian Ballroom.

“The Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion hopes that our efforts to develop a unified voice and vision for Black Heritage Month will further contribute to SIUE’s commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.”

(SIUE News Archive: February 2020)
SIUE EMPLOYEES APPLAUSED FOR PROVIDING SUPPORTING SERVICES AMID COVID-19

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has undergone major operational changes as the institution has worked to ensure everyone’s health and safety amid challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the campus closed and downsized operations, individuals deemed essential to keep campus functioning have demonstrated their pride and devotion to the University through continued in-person supporting services work.

Seasoned employees serving in such crucial areas note that recent challenges have led to the formation of new ideas, creative problem-solving, and increased teamwork as offices persevere and overcome.

Choosing to focus on the bright side doesn’t diminish the magnitude of challenges arising with changes and requirements, including abiding by social distancing and personal protective equipment mandates, recentralizing duties to ensure all employees are paid on time, while simultaneously creating alternate work methods to meet employee needs, providing services to vendors and processing purchase requisitions. The list goes on.

Numerous dedicated employees are working hard, preparing for and dreaming of a future when campus resumes its vibrant, student-filled atmosphere.

Campus announcements and updates related to SIUE’s response and continuous adjustments amid COVID-19 and the roll-out of Governor J.B. Pritzker’s Restore Illinois plan are available at siue.edu/coronavirus. (SIUE News Archive: May 2020)
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 AND LOCAL AUTHOR TEAM FOR “LINKING LITERACY AND STEM” CONFERENCE

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Education, Health and Human Behavior Department of Teaching and Learning hosted the state-wide College Instructors of Reading Professionals (CIRP) Early Career Conference on Saturday, April 27.

CIRP members and Early Career Award winners attended the conference that centered on the topic of “Linking Literacy and STEM: Incorporating Trade Books with Oral, Written and Visual Strategies.” Conference organizer Stephanie McAndrews, PhD, professor and literacy program director, presented alongside local award-winning children’s book author Jennifer Ward. (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)

EDWARDSVILLE NAACP PRESIDENT DISCUSSES CAREER IN EDUCATION, DEDICATION TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

Lifelong educator and SIUE alum John E. Cunningham exemplifies SIUE’s values in several ways. As the guest on SIUE Chancellor Randy Pembrook, PhD, discusses Cunningham’s career and his passion for public service, among other topics. Cunningham earned a bachelor’s from SIU Carbondale and a master’s in educational administration from SIUE in 1976. He devoted his career to education, and served in numerous positions between East St. Louis School District and Alton School District before his retirement in 2009.

Throughout his career and in his retirement, Cunningham has always been an active member of various civic organizations.

With a career in education that spanned more than 52 years, Cunningham has seen the shift in technology and how it alters the way students learn, federal policies that influence students’ lives, and an increased emphasis on keeping schools safe. The theme of his presidency, he notes, has been focused on increasing the participation of minorities in the governance of our community.

“This is done by volunteering, serving on committees throughout the community, partnering with other organizations, attending local meetings and ultimately running for public office,” Cunningham says.

“You won’t be represented if you are not at the table or in the room at all, and it’s important for us all to be stakeholders in our community.” (The Intelligencer: May 2019)
SIUE EAST ST. LOUIS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TURN THE SPOTLIGHT ON THEIR CITY

Life in East St. Louis – as experienced and written by a few students at the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter High School – will soon be on stage.

“This year, the students decided to write their own scenes about life in East St. Louis,” said Kathryn Bentley, associate professor in the Department of Theater and Dance, about the second year of her Sankofa Residency at the Charter High School (CHS). Bentley’s weekly drama workshop gives students the opportunity to express, explore and expand their relationship with writing, acting and themselves.

The eight-week residency includes a near-peer mentorship model. It is being supported by the College of Arts and Sciences’ (CAS) Targeted Funding Initiative (TFI) utilizing funding acquired through the College’s Winter Session courses and is supplemented with other CAS internal funds. The TFI has provided more than $700,000 to faculty and staff. (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)

CONVERSATIONS TOWARD A BRIGHTER FUTURE PROGRAM BRIDGES COMMUNITY THROUGH SHARED STORIES

A room full of creatively shared stories, featured through a variety of mediums, brought a sense of community to those involved in the Conversations Toward a Brighter Future 2.0 program. A Summit featuring the creations of 62 students from eight participating local high schools was held at the Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities (MJCH).

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded SIUE a two-year $100,000 Humanities Access Grant for the creation of the interdisciplinary curriculum focused on digital storytelling. Conversation Toward a Brighter Future is an expansion of an earlier program founded at the MJCH Foundation, and is led by SIUE’s Interdisciplinary Research and Informatics Scholarship (IRIS) Center in partnership with the Madison County Regional Office of Education. (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)
SIUE CELEBRATES TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Education, Health and Human Behavior (SEHHB) is celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week, May 5-11. It’s a time to honor the incredible difference educators make in their daily work. Amanda Luce is a self-contained special education teacher at Eastwood Elementary in East Alton. She earned both a bachelor’s and master’s in special education from SIUE in 1995 and 2007, respectively.

“I chose special education, because I have always had a passion for helping what I consider to be an underdog,” Luce explained. “Society views children, or people in general with disabilities, as the underdog in certain situations. I wanted to work with children that might be perceived that way, because I don’t believe that has to be the case. You can teach to their abilities, and strengthen them and their education.”

Student teacher Daija Nellums, of Marion, has found the perfect mentor match in Luce. “She has been such a positive role model for me,” said Nellums, a special education major slated to graduate from the SEHHB on May 11. “She’s been uplifting and inspiring. She has no problem allowing me to take ownership in the classroom and assume the teacher responsibilities.” (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)

SIUE STUDENTS BRING CALM TO LOCAL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville psychology students taught the importance of forgiveness to middle and high school students at the Conversation Toward a Brighter Future conference held April 20 and May 2, and hosted by the Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities (MJCHF).

Seniors Ashley Monier, of Troy, and Abigail Haloftis, of Waterloo, led a short lesson and interactive exercise on forgiveness using the principles of the Compassion Approach to Learning Meditation (CALM) program. The program is presented under the guidance of Jeremy Jewell, PhD, professor of psychology, and clinical child and school psychology graduate program director.

The Conversation Toward a Brighter Future conference invites student leaders from Madison County schools to share ideas and projects that help foster a positive school climate around the four pillars of the MJCHF—respect, dignity, understanding and forgiveness.

“This exercise demonstrated how the weight of anger and grudges weigh us down, and how learning to forgive can lighten the load they carry, so to speak,” Haloftis said. “We concluded our presentation by encouraging the students to take what they had learned and work to incorporate the lesson into their daily lives.” (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)
SIUE SBDC HOSTS INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR $15 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR MINORITY BUSINESSES

Hilary Scott-Ogunrinde, of St. Louis, was one of more than 60 people attending the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity’s Office of Minority Economic Empowerment’s informational meeting on funding opportunities for minority-owned businesses. Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Illinois Metro East Small Business Development Center (SBDC) hosted the session on Tuesday, May 14 at the East St. Louis Higher Education Campus.

The informational meeting is one of several being held around the state following Gov. J.B. Pritzker’s May 1 announcement to provide $15 million to minority-owned businesses, located in underserved populations, with resources to help create jobs, build capacity, increase revenues and expand regionally. The announcement marks the first time the program has been funded.

A total of $10 million is designated for small minority-owned businesses, with a cap of $500,000 per applicant, and $5 million is reserved for minority-owned incubators with a cap of $250,000 per applicant, according to Derrick Champion, deputy director of the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment. Jo Ann Di Maggio May, director of the Illinois Metro East SBDC, also spoke to the audience, offering confidential, no-cost counseling services to entrepreneurs and existing business owners. (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)

SIUE SBDC DIRECTOR DIMAGGIO MAY HONORED FOR WORK WITH SMALL BUSINESSES

Jo Ann DiMaggio May, director of the Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for the Metro East at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, received two awards at the Illinois Entrepreneurship and Small Business Growth Association (IESBGA) Conference in Champaign held May 15-17 at the Hyatt Place Hotel.

Among seven Illinois SBDC Network Shining Star awards, DiMaggio May and her center were honored in the promotion/public relations category for her “tremendous promotional and public relations efforts for the Illinois SBDC.”

“It is an honor to work in such a supportive business environment, where collaboration is understood and received with open arms,” DiMaggio May said. “Recognition for my center’s efforts shows that the Illinois SBDC for the Metro East is making an impact helping entrepreneurs and small businesses. This truly reinforces the reason I work hard every day.”

She also received the IESBGA Roger Luman Program Excellence Award for outstanding achievements for innovative and best practices in programs and services provided to entrepreneurs and small businesses for the HUBZone (Historically Underutilized Business Zone) Outreach event. (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)
SIUE MERIDIAN DERBY TOPS OFF ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EVENT AT FAIRMONT PARK

The eighth annual Meridian Derby was held Tuesday, May 7 at Fairmount Park Racetrack’s Top of the Turf in Collinsville. Approximately 225 people, arrayed in their derby finest, enjoyed an afternoon of food, fun, fellowship and horseracing. TheBank of Edwardsville, Busey Bank sponsored the event.

A sample of projects that the Meridian Society supports include:

- The Children’s Quilting Project: Healing Through Art: unites local artist volunteers from the community and children from the SIUE East St. Louis Project Success program to create a quilt,
- Opera Edwardsville and SIUE Opera Theater Outreach: a cultural and educational program that enhances opera experience, and inspires future generations of artists and audiences offering music with plots based on fairy tales, and relevant topics such as anti-bullying, and
- Development and Implementation of a Drugs of Abuse Prevention Education Badge for Boy Scouts: The SIUE School of Pharmacy and Boy Scouts of America are developing the badge to educate youth on the dangers of misuse and abuse of prescription drugs and over the counter medications.

(SIUE News Archive: May 2019)

SIUE JOINS ILLINOIS INNOVATION NETWORK

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has joined the Illinois Innovation Network (IIN), a group of hubs across the state that aims to boost Illinois’ economy through entrepreneurship, research and workforce development. IIN now has 15 hubs, including all of Illinois’ public universities, and spans the entire state.

“SIUE is pleased to participate in the IIN and to join Illinois public higher education institutions to address our local communities’ and state’s most pressing challenges,” said SIUE Chancellor Randy Pembrook, PhD. “The collaborative possibilities that grow out of the IIN will leverage the strength of the state’s intellectual resources to advance discovery and innovation, while enhancing student learning opportunities and research collaboration.

“Importantly, it creates new partnerships, energy and momentum to address the state’s workforce and economic development needs, so we can retain talent and enhance our citizen’s lives. At SIUE, our mission is to ‘shape a changing world,’ and we believe that together we can address challenges and position Illinois as a national leader.” (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)
SIUE EAST ST. LOUIS CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS BEGINS SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

There will be singing, dancing, drumming and more at the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Center for the Performing Arts Enrichment Summer Camp being held Monday, June 3-Friday, July 19. Hollywood is the theme for the enrichment program.

The summer camp is for students ages 7-17. It will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday - Friday at the East St. Louis Higher Education Campus, 601 James R. Thompson Blvd. in East St. Louis.

“We are planning a production that will incorporate some of the sights, sounds and style of Hollywood,” said Jack Williams, coordinator of the SIUE East St. Louis Center for the Performing Arts program. “Our students are going to enjoy learning the performances, and the community will love our longstanding end of summer performance show.”

GuitarStudents will be able to choose from a variety of music classes such as piano, guitar, violin, chimes and African drumming, and select such dance classes as hip-hop, Dunham Technique, West African dance and jazz. (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)

SEHHB BRINGS HISTORY ALIVE FOR SIUE EAST ST LOUIS CENTER PROJECT SUCCESS STUDENTS

The Project Success Program is a comprehensive after-school tutorial enrichment childcare program, which services children ages 5-14. The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services funds the program. It is designed to serve children who are in protective custody and are referred by the Department of Children and Family Services caseworkers. The program provides services to children living within the St. Clair County and Madison County areas. (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)
SIUE ALUMNA CONTINUES TO SUPPORT LUNGSMARTER’S ASTHMA AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Rita Cook, of Alton, watched Jaris Waide, of Godfrey, grow up and live a robust and active life. So when the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville alumna learned of the disabilities Waide suffered because of a severe asthma attack, Cook was eager to help Waide’s non-profit LungSmarter Foundation promote asthma education, and raise money for asthma-related medical equipment for the Godfrey Fire Protection District.

Waide, founder and president of LungSmarter, hosted her 19th annual LungSmarter asthma awareness event held May 4 and May 18 in Godfrey. This year’s event netted approximately $8,000 in donations and pledges. The events included instructions on what to relay to emergency officials when calling for someone suffering from an asthma or breathing-related attack, and CPR demonstrated by Godfrey fire fighters. Waide also hopes to raise at least $50,000. So far, she has raised approximately $40,000. (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)

SIUE AND MCCD HOST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and Madison County Community and Economic Development (MCCD) co-hosted the Metro East Economic Development Seminar for elected officials on Friday, June 7 on SIUE’s campus.

The goal of the seminar was to support economic development throughout the Metro East. It provided an opportunity for elected officials to come together to focus on principles of economic development, and consider how they might best position themselves to support their communities.

Presentation and discussion topics included resources for finding and using data, strategies for encouraging small business engagement, best practices for being development friendly, tourism as an economic driver, and the importance of building livable communities.

“Our department is committed to helping communities throughout Madison County reach their economic development goals,” said MCCD Director Trudy Bodenbach. “We do that best by support their efforts with resources, data and educational opportunities. Partnering with SIUE for this event allowed us to provide training to our local communities, as well as reach beyond our county borders to provide this opportunity to elected officials in an 8-10 county region.” (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)
NEW RXCELLENCE PROGRAM
The SIUE School of Pharmacy (SOP) is creatively connecting with high school students in the region to inspire and share the possibilities within the pharmacy profession with the launch of its new Rxcellence program. Through the program, current pharmacy students are visiting high school classrooms to engage students with a greater understanding of how the (STEM material they’re learning can be applied to real world pharmacy.
(SIUE News Archive: May 2019)

SIUE GIVES LINDENWOOD-BELLEVILLE STUDENTS TRANSFER OPPORTUNITIES
After Lindenwood University-Belleville announced it will be closing its doors come Fall 2020, SIUE began taking steps to show Lindenwood-Belleville students that SIUE is a feasible option for them.
(Aleistie News Archive: July 2019)

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)

INAUGURAL SIUE SUMMER SUCCESS PROGRAM
24 incoming freshman attended the inaugural residential program offered through The Office of Retention and Student Success. Running from July 7-Aug. 9, the office devised and designed the program with the goal of helping first-generation college students be successful in the transition from high school to college. (SIUE News Archive: August 2019)
SIUE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING SUMMER CAMP’S ROBUST EXPERIENCES HELP TEENS FIND THEIR BEST FIT

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Engineering’s (SOE) Summer Camp exposes high school students to the broad array of options within each of its academic disciplines, to help them find their best fit, and get excited about their future career. The SOE’s 2019 Summer Camp features hands-on activities and field trips related to civil, electrical, industrial, mechanical, mechatronics or robotics engineering, construction management and computer science. The SOE is welcoming 51 students, grades 9-12, from across the country for two week-long camp sessions being held June 2-7 and June 16-21.

“It’s always exciting to see our campers apply their enthusiasm, creativity and innovative spirit to the numerous experiential activities we provide at camp,” said SOE Associate Dean Chris Gordon, PhD. “Campers come from across the country to experience the School of Engineering’s unique facilities, programs, partnerships and expertise. Several campers return to campus as freshmen with a head start on pursuing the program area that excites them the most.”

Current SIUE SOE students serve as camp counselors, offering mentorship, helping with activities and ensuring a comfortable atmosphere in which all campers can thrive. (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPERIENCE EXCITEMENT OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DURING ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SUMMER RESEARCH ACADEMY

SIUE’s Center for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Research, Education and Outreach, with the Department of Environmental Sciences, is co-hosting the Summer Research Academy, a free learning opportunity that is building knowledge and offering hands-on research experience. The outreach offering stems from STEM Center Community Impact Fellow Kyong Yoon, PhD, assistant professor in the College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Environmental Sciences.

Yoon is leading the high school participants in conducting research on how fruit flies react to pesticide treatments. With the help of graduate students Jenese Roberts and Carl Namini, Yoon is offering participants the opportunity to work in his lab as they would in an undergraduate research program at SIUE. “This opportunity offers high school students unique exposure to University-level research, and gives them a chance to see students just a few years ahead of them academically getting to conduct important work in an SIUE lab,” said Matthew Johnson, instructional design and curriculum specialist with the SIUE STEM Center. (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)
SIUE’S DANETTE GRIFFITH HELPS FOSTER CARE YOUTH BUILD BRIGHTER FUTURES

A Cahokia youth struggled with self-worth as a foster child. Today, the 20-year-old finds himself gainfully employed with a positive self-image and outlook. The transformation, in part, is due to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Center’s (ESLC) Building Futures program, according to Director Danette Griffith.

“Building Futures is a statewide program, designed to help young adults, ages 17-20, when they phase out of the foster care system to have obtained credentials and work experience,” said Griffith. “The ultimate goal is to help young adults secure living-wage employment and learn how to financially support themselves when they are no longer in the foster care system.”

“Key goals for the program are to eliminate barriers for Department of Children and Family and Services (DCFS) youth,” continued Griffith, “and assist them in getting to a place of self-sufficiency, by helping them find and retain living wage employment, affordable housing, and meet their educational or vocational training goals. This program is important, because there is a negative stigma attached to youth in the foster care system. We want them to understand that everyone has a starting point, and no matter the situation, with the right amount of guidance, support and internal belief, they can succeed.” (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)

SIUE’S PROJECT SUCCESS DIRECTOR GRIMES HELPS STUDENTS LEARN AND THRIVE

With a commitment to and background in youth education and mental health, Precious Grimes is working to continue and enhance the quality programming of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Center’s longstanding Project Success program. Grimes, Project Success director since January, believes the mission and goals of the program are needed now more than ever before.

Project Success is designed for children, ages 5-14, under the supervision of Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Its mission is to provide educational and socialization skills that reinforce positive-based behavior in the community. “DCFS children can experience more transition than most youth,” said Grimes. “Project Success provides a stable, nurturing learning environment needed for students to stay on track and even excel.”

“In addition, Project Success after-school programs help youth develop the protective factors they need to cope with any seemingly overwhelming challenges they may encounter,” continued Grimes, who earned a master’s in professional counseling from Lindenwood University in 2012. “Research has shown that after-school programs can help prevent delinquency and promote positive behaviors.”

“We plan to embed a clinical component with our programming to provide mental health assessments, psycho-educational workshops, and clinical group and individual therapy,” explained Grimes. “Youth often have complicated lives, and our staff will be able to engage in case management support.” (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)
The last day of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Center Upward Bound (UB) EC/BEM summer program was fun, enlightening, and packed with a video game demonstration, a successful blood drive, a step show and a luncheon awards ceremony.

One of the areas of study that students enjoyed the most this summer was science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), according to Akiya Perry, UB science tutor/counselor. UB students displayed their STEM skills with the various video games they created, designed and demonstrated. Another STEM-related subject that students studied was blood and how it is processed for storage, noted Perry.

UB students decided to host a blood drive on the East St. Louis campus conducted by the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center, and set a goal of collecting 20 units of blood.

“The blood drive had more participants from the community than was expected,” added Ware, “because of the due diligence of Ms. Perry and her class canvassing the community.”

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. Upward Bound is a college-preparatory program designed to serve low-income and/or potential first-generation college students who are currently in grades 9-12.  (SIUE News Archive: July 2019)
SIUE MERIDIAN SOCIETY HELPS EAST ST. LOUIS CENTER STUDENTS CREATE ART, INFUSE CALM

It was surprising to watch students rein in their excitement during the summer program, listen and follow instructions, work together, and focus to complete a work of art.

Students, ages 5-14, from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Center’s (ESLC) Project Success program participated in The Children’s Quilting Project: Healing through Art, made possible through a grant from the SIUE Meridian Society. The creative activity was a collaboration between SIUE, Project Success and the Greater East St. Louis Community Fund (GESLCF).

Celebrated artist and SIUE alumna Edna Patterson Petty, of East St. Louis, led the summer art classes at the ESLC campus. Assisting Petty were author Linda Jones, former GESLCF executive director, who read quilting books by national painter and mixed media sculptor Faith Ringgold.” (SIUE News Archive: July 2019)

SIUE ALUMNA NAMED THE DIRECTOR OF HUMILITY HOMES AND SERVICE, INC.
SIUE alumna Ashley Velez has been named executive director of Humility Homes and Services, Inc., which provides housing and support services. Velez earned a bachelor’s in social work with a minor in psychology in 2008, and a master of public administration in 2012, both from SIUE. (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)

SOP HELPS EMPLOYEES
More than 30 Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy (SOP) students helped the Madison County Employee Wellness Committee meet its May wellness goals by providing important blood pressure screenings and education to 176 Madison County employees. (SIUE News Archive: May 2019)
SIUE ECC LEARN THROUGH GARDENING

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: June 2019)

SIUE UPWARD BOUND PROVIDES WELL-BEING

Some of the students are dealing with issues that limit their growth academically, mentally and emotionally. Additional help and activities are being offered to program students this summer because of UB’s surplus in funds -- including adding two clinical therapists to staff for the summer. (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)

SIUE CO-SPONSORS ST. LOUIS WOMEN IN SUMMIT

The conference features the contributions of women, who are creating and promoting geospatial technologies across industries. The summit will include presentations and a panel discussion with established geospatial professionals in the multiple areas. (SIUE News Archive: June 2019)

ESTL LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER OFFERS FINANCIAL LITERACY

Banking 101 was the first of a three-part financial assistance workshop, which was held as part of LRC’s Lunch and Learn series. Carrollton Bank sponsors the financial education Lunch and Learn series as part of its mission to bring financial empowerment and education to the community. (SIUE News Archive: August 2019)
SIUE UPWARD BOUND VISITS CHS
For the first time, pre-collegiate programming is being offered at Collinsville High School (CHS), under the direction of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Center (ESLC) Upward Bound (UB) program. (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)

SIUE UPWARD BOUND PROGRAMS CLOSE OUT A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER
Students in the SIUE East St. Louis Center Upward Bound Math and Science (UBMS) Cahokia-Madison and Upward Bound Scholar’s Academy (UBSA) were awarded with medals, ribbons and trophies. (SIUE News Archive: July 2019)

SIUE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DONATES LITTLE FREE LIBRARY TO COUGAR VILLAGE
Keeping with its mission to engage, educate and empower Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Cougars for life, the Alumni Association’s latest act of service includes the building and donation of a Little Free Library in Cougar Village. (SIUE News Archive: July 2019)

$1M NSF GRANT TO SIUE SUPPORTS LAUNCH TO YOUTH SCIENCE NETWORK
The National Science Foundation (NSF) has granted $1-million to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville for the launch of a community project that will engage middle and early high school students in environmental citizen science. (SIUE News Archive: August 2019)
ODYSSEY SCIENCE CAMP INSPIRES
Odyssey Science Camp has a long history of engaging young learners entering grades 2-7 through hands-on activities and thrilling STEM experiences, in order to inspire and ignite a passion for continued exploration. The SIUE STEM Center’s 2019 camp, transformed participants into explorers, voyagers, math movers and shakers, super sleuths, and geared up robot experts.  
(SIUE News Archive: July 2019)

SIUE UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM STUDENTS TAKE CHARGE ON CAREER DAY
It was a career activity of a slightly different kind. Students sat at tables as the interviewers, asking questions of doctors, nurses, lawyers, judges, engineers, educators, entrepreneurs and more. For 15 minutes, three to four students sat at tables and peppered professionals with these questions and more.  
(SIUE News Archive: July 2019)

SIUE UPWARD BOUND’S SUCCESS
There were applauds, shouts and cries of exaltations for jobs well done – and expectation of what is to come. Students in of SIUE East St. Louis Center Upward Bound were awarded with medals and ribbons.  
(SIUE News Archive: July 2019)

SIUE EAST ST. LOUIS CENTER UPWARD BOUND PROGRAMS TO RECEIVE IDOT AWARD MONEY
SIUE’s Upward Bound (UB) program will receive $5,000 in award money, thanks to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) winning the grand prize in the 2019 America’s Transportation Awards.  
(SIUE News Archive: October 2019)
The history between the two has been long and beneficial. Both hold a mutual vision and desire to see their shared space grow and thrive. To that end, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Successful Communities Collaborative (SSCC) and the City of Edwardsville held their partnership kickoff celebration Monday, Sept. 9 in SIUE’s Lovejoy Library Friend’s Corner. The three projects on tap are Earth Edwardsville, Parking Downtown and an Ice Rink and Teen Center.

“Edwardsville is a special place for both the community and the campus,” said Edwardsville Mayor Hal Patton. “You don’t hear about a growing university and a dying community, or vice versa. I see us growing together, and I’m excited about working with SIUE’s Successful Communities Collaborative.”

SIUE Successful Communities Collaborative (SSCC) is a cross-disciplinary program that supports one-year partnerships between the University and communities in Illinois to advance local resilience and sustainability based on community-identified environmental, social, and economic issues and needs. Our mission is to connect Illinois communities with the dynamic resources of students and faculty of SIUE.

(SIUE News Archive: September 2019)

SIUE AND EDWARDSVILLE COMMUNITY LEADERS LAUNCH A HOMETOWN ALLIANCE

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Successful Communities Collaborative (SSCC) will host a kickoff celebration of its newest community partner – The City of Edwardsville. A press conference and introduction meeting will be held from 1-2:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 9 at SIUE’s Lovejoy Library Friend’s Corner. Featured speakers include Randy Pembrook, SIUE chancellor; Denise Cobb, PhD, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs; Hal Patton, Edwardsville mayor; Mary Ettling, interim director of the SIUE Office of Educational Outreach; and Connie Frey Spurlock, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Sociology and SSCC faculty director.

Through SSCC, students and city officials will work together to make the dynamic City of Edwardsville an even better place to live, learn, work and play. SSCC’s partnership with Edwardsville will match projects with SIUE disciplines, engaging both faculty and students. (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)
SIUE IRIS CENTER COLLABORATES TO OFFER “HUMAN LIBRARY”
Several area high school students asked how difficult it is to overcome some negative perceptions of being an African American woman and how challenging it is to be a new father. They were participating in the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Interdisciplinary Research and Informatics Scholarship (IRIS) Center’s Conversation Toward Brighter Future 2.0 program, which involved talking about age and intergenerational relationships as part of a Human Library Summit, held Oct. 4 at the Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities (MJCH). (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)

GIVE 30 MENTORING PROGRAM BUILDS INFLUENCER BASE FOR AT-RISK YOUTH
The Madison County Regional Office of Education (ROE) hosted two information and training sessions on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 5-6 at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Lovejoy Library in hopes of gaining additional mentors to enhance the impact of its Give 30 Mentoring Program. The program’s goals include helping young people be successful, foster respect and identify a meaningful career; helping a child stay in school and understand responsibility; explaining right from wrong; and motivating youth to do the right thing. (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)

SIUE HEALTH CAREERS DAY ENCOURAGES PUBLIC AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS TO CONNECT
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s School of Education, Health and Human Behavior (SEHHB) is teaming up with the Edwardsville Public Library to bring Health Careers Day to the residents of Edwardsville on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the library, located at 112 S Kansas St. The event is open to all ages, and attendees will be able to speak to individuals in fields such as dental medicine, art therapy, exercise science, medical technology, nursing, nutrition, pharmacy, psychology, public health, social work and speech-language pathology. (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)

SBDC FOR METRO EAST AT SIUE OFFERS MINIMUM WAGE WORKSHOP
The Illinois Metro East Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at SIUE is collaborating with accounting firm CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP and the Troy/Maryville/ St. Jacob/Marine Chamber of Commerce to bring a special “Minimum Wage Updates for Employers” Workshop to Collinsville on Friday, Oct. 18. The session unites local CPA Kalee Werle with other business resources at the Collinsville City Hall Council Chambers to support small business owners. (SIUE News Archive: September 2019)
HAITI-ED PROJECT FEATURED ON KMOV-TV: GRADUATE STUDENT DONATES BACKPACKS TO STUDENTS IN HAITIAN COMMUNITIES

“Do not let circumstances dictate your future.” Southern Illinois University Edwardsville international graduate student Westenior Valmera hasn’t just taken that phrase to heart, he’s using it to inspire and support Haitian children through a non-profit and scholarship program he created.

Valmera aspires to help educate children in Haiti and find ways to establish a sustainable program to help Haitians living in poverty.

“I want everyone, and mainly young people in Haiti, to understand that the future of our country is in our hands, so they should do something good now for their community,” he said. “Follow your dreams and be a barrier breaker!” (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)

MEN’S AND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL GIVE BACK DURING OFF SEASON

While enjoying the summer off-season, SIUE women’s basketball continues to give back to the community. The Cougars spent a recent afternoon preparing and serving meals at Spirit of Sharing Soup Kitchen at St. John’s United Church of Christ in Collinsville, Illinois.

“We are thankful for the opportunity to serve and give back in the community,” SIUE Head Coach Paula Buscher said. “Our student-athletes are fantastic representatives of SIUE and SIUE women’s basketball.”

Each Tuesday, a hot meal is served at First United Presbyterian Church from 5-6:30 p.m. and on Thursdays at St. John’s UCC from 5-6:30 p.m. (SIUE Cougars 2019)
LOCAL ELEMENTARY ROBOTICS TEAM VISITS SIUE’S SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Last October, the First Lego League (FLL) Robotics Team at St. John Neumann School had an opportunity to spend an afternoon with Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Department of Civil Engineering (CE).

The team consists of fourth through eighth graders interested in developing their skills in engineering and robotics. St. John Neumann School’s program encourages students to go on field trips and share their project ideas with experts in the field.

The team plans to participate in this year’s FLL competition, which features different challenges regarding robotics. Part of the competition requires teams to solve a problem in the community. For this task, one of the team’s groups plans to design a gas-free car, and the other plans on designing a portable ramp for wheelchairs. Another part of the competition asks teams to design and program a Lego robot that can complete various tasks.

Vaughn provided a brief walking tour of the CE labs and guided discussions about different engineering topics. Next, the team met with SIUE Solar Car team captain Sydney Stogner to see a solar car in person and gain insight on the materials used in its creation.

“The students were most excited to see the solar car,” noted Spillers. “They were impressed by the size of the car and the fact that it can actually run on the highway.”

“The SIUE student teams learn a lot by working on their projects, and they enjoy sharing their enthusiasm with other students,” explained Vaughn.

“The idea of ‘college’ is abstract to most kids, and giving them a chance to visit a university campus allows them to visualize themselves as future students,” added Spillers. (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)
CONGRESSMAN SHIMKUS COLLECTION FEATURED AT SIUE LOVEJOY LIBRARY

Students, political scientists and historians will have easy access to research the long tenure of Congressman John Shimkus (R-15th District-Collinsville) following the completion of his 24-year career in the U.S. House of Representatives. Shimkus and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Chancellor Randy Pembrook announced Friday, Nov. 8 that records, correspondence, photos and more will be housed in the “Shimkus Collection” at the Elijah P. Lovejoy Library on campus.

“We have already begun the process of identifying the material that University officials believe is appropriate for the collection,” said Shimkus of the 450 archival boxes that his staff is going through. “My staff will screen everything to ensure privacy laws and regulations are followed. As my offices in Washington, D.C., and in the 15th Congressional District wind down and eventually close at the end of my current term, items will be transferred to the library.”

“Congressman Shimkus has been a dedicated public servant for four decades,” said Pembrook to an audience full of local, regional and national legislators, judges, Shimkus family members and staff workers. (SIUE News Archive: November 2019)

INTERVARSITY LEADS DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ACKNOWLEDGING ETHNICITY

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship asks students to examine and share their feelings about their ethnicities in a four-week series called Beyond Colorblind.

InterVarsity kicked off the fall semester with the Beyond Colorblind Proxe Station, which allowed members of the organization to interact with other members of the SIUE community and spark an important conversation about what it means to be colorblind in terms of race and ethnicity.

The goal of this display was to get people thinking and talking about ethnicity and the impact of being ‘colorblind,’ according to senior marketing major and president of SIUE’s chapter of InterVarsity Kaitlyn Campbell, of Heyworth, Illinois.

“Being colorblind is ignoring people’s race and ethnicity or thinking that they’re not relevant to who they are,” Shaw said. “And a lot of people say, ‘Oh, I don’t see your color, I just see you.’ And it’s all good intentioned, it really is, but we believe that your ethnicity is part of who you are and how God made you.” Each of the four weekly meetings has focused on a specific topic within the broader theme of ethnicity. (Alestle News Archive: October 2019)
SIUE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND BOY SCOUTS SEEK SOLUTIONS TO COMBAT OPIOID ABUSE

Recognizing the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy’s (SOP) ability and desire to serve the public, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) requested a partnership initiative to address the growing epidemic of opioid abuse among adolescents.

As a result, Jessica Kerr, PharmD, SOP interim associate dean, and Chris Herndon, PharmD, professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, along with fourth-year students Jazmine Rosales of Elgin and Paris Smith of Chicago, developed curriculum. The program launched this month, and uses active learning to educate scouts on the dangers of misuse and abuse of prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications.

The training modules will take approximately 1.5 hours to complete in total at different times and will be coordinated with BSA den meetings. A facilitator’s handbook is available for den leaders, parents or pharmacy students to lead den meetings and provide the education to the scouts. Facilitators will learn how to create an atmosphere in the meeting to promote discussion about social/legal consequences of drug abuse. They will engage in a game to help further the discussion in a face-to-face manner. The collaborative project received funding through a Meridian Society award. As an auxiliary organization of the SIUE Foundation, the Meridian Society invests in SIUE community-based projects. (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)

SIUE AND WASHINGTON PARK RESIDENTS WORK TO BUILD A COMMUNITY GARDEN

Young people and adults gathered on a vacant lot in Washington Park on Saturday, Sept. 28. Some brought black trash bags and shovels. Others carried coolers. All had a vision of the village’s first community garden being created in partnership with sociology and construction departments at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

“It is important to bring the community together, and have a safe place for people to come and spend time,” said LaTaysha Jackson, junior and president of the SIUE Sociology Club. “It can provide a healthy alternative to junk food. Also, since SIUE is involved, the community garden will be a platform to unite people for the same positive impact in the community.” (SIUE News Archive: October 2019)
SIUE DEPARTMENT OF THEATER AND DANCE PRESENTS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Department of Theater and Dance (DOTD) will present its longstanding series, “Dance in Concert,” which opens at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13 in Dunham Hall Theater. This will be the series 50th anniversary celebration. (SIUE News Archive: November 2019)

IL SBDC FOR METRO EAST AT SIUE CELEBRATES HOUSE OF NINJAS GRAND OPENING
House of Ninjas, LLC, a family-owned ninja warrior obstacle course training facility for youth and adults, will celebrate its grand opening on Saturday, Nov. 16, at 1334 Central Park Drive in O’Fallon. (SIUE News Archive: November 2019)

SIUE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION A SUCCESS
Learning activities, arts and crafts, exhibits, field games, and food led more than 250 people to the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Early Childhood Center (ECC) 50th Anniversary Alumni Open House and Family Play Day on Saturday, Nov. 2.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Jeffrey Waple, PhD, greeted guests in opening remarks for the day. In addition, welcoming guests were Dabbs MacLean and former ECC Director LaVernn Wilson, who served from 1971-2000. “ECC has served as a model for early childhood education for many, many years,” said Dabbs MacLean.

“We have had a continuous waiting list, because families share their ECC experience with other families. Many of the early childhood teachers who work for local school districts were student employees at the ECC.” (SIUE News Archive: November 2019)
SIUE PROJECT MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM DRAWS REGIONAL BUSINESS CROWD

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Business hosted more than 120 companies from the St. Louis region at the 2019 Project Management Symposium Friday, Nov. 22, in the Morris University Center’s Meridian Ballroom.

Approximately 450 individuals attended the symposium that provides a forum for St. Louis metropolitan area business decision-makers to exchange ideas and knowledge with peers, School of Business faculty, and area experts on complex management issues.

“This year’s Symposium provided all participants an opportunity to create new networks and engage with other professionals on topics that reflect the ever changing industry of project management,” said Kristine Jarden, director of executive education in the SIUE School of Business.

Sponsors included Alipro, Ameren Missouri, Centene Corp., Daugherty Business Solutions, Edward Jones, Enterprise Holdings, Federal Reserve Bank St. Louis, Metro St. Louis PMI and Sketch. (SIUE News Archive: November 2019)

SIUE ALUMNUS DARRYL TYLER PROVIDES BUSINESS ADVICE TO BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS

It was readily apparent to see that Darryl Tyler was popular with the crowd who had assembled in the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Learning Resource Center (LRC). However, the room full of women were not focused on the tall, stylish SIUE alumnus for his fashion sense alone – but for his vital business advice.

Tyler, vice president/commercial banking officer at Carrollton Bank and owner and designer of Tailored Gents Custom Clothiers in Clayton, Mo., presented “How to Start a Business: A Step-by-Step Guide” at LRC’s Lunch and Learn workshop on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Tyler told the audience how he started his company, learned how to grow his clientele and how to market his business.

Illinois SBDC for the Metro East at SIUE Director Jo Ann DiMaggio May, who was part of the audience, also offered sage bits of business advice. (SIUE News Archive: December 2019)
SIUE CLUB HOCKEY COLLECTS TEDDY BEARS FOR SSM CARDINAL GLENNON CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Club Hockey Team collected 277 stuffed animals in its second annual teddy bear toss event against the University of Kentucky on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the East Alton Ice Arena. The club surpassed its goal of donating 200 teddy bears to SSM Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital in St. Louis.

“SIUE scored its first goal midway through the first period to tie the score 1-1, which is when the stuffed animals went sailing onto the ice. The Twin Bridge Lightning youth hockey team assisted with picking up the bears from the ice surface.

“It was an amazing sight to see so many teddy bears and stuffed animals being tossed onto the ice for a good cause,” said Recreation Programs Assistant Director Natalie Hawkins. “The SIUE club sports program is committed to giving back to others when they need it most.”

SIUE’s Club Football, and the Competitive Cheer and Dance Club were a few of the other club sports teams that donated teddy bears and attended the game with their families and friends. (SIUE News Archive: January 2020)

SIUE EAST ST. LOUIS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL OFFERS ADVICE AND HAIRCUTS

In between the buzz of his clippers, barber Kelvin Hardy listens and offers bits of advice to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter High School (CHS) students. (SIUE News Archive: February 2020)

SIUE SPEECH LANGUAGE HEARING CENTER PARTNERS WITH CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL TO PROVIDE COLLABORATIVE CARE

Thanks to St. Louis Children’s Hospital’s Collaborative Care for Speech Differences in Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Disorders Continuing Education Program, clients like four-year-old Holden are making great strides in speech development through top-notch, accessible, consistent and collaborative care offered in the SIUE School of Education. (SIUE News Archive: February 2020)
FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INVITED TO ATTEND SIUE SHECODE EVENT

The computer science field is rapidly growing, presenting boundless career opportunities. But, males greatly outnumber females in the industry. The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Engineering Department of Computer Science (CS) wants to ensure females are a part of the field’s surging growth and success.

“At SheCode, we aim to boost young women’s interest in the field before they pick a college major,” said Dennis Bouvier, PhD, professor in the CS department. “By providing strong female mentorship and experience in beginning computer programming, we hope SheCode will give young women the motivation to consider pursuing a future degree and career in computer science.”

“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. “I enjoy making the connection between everyday interactions they have with technology and the fact they can one day be the leaders who create future technologies.” (SIUE News Archive: February 2020)

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING HONORS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Engineering (SOE) celebrated outstanding students, faculty and alumni for their academic excellence, service and leadership during its 14th Annual Awards Banquet held Tuesday, Feb. 18 in the Morris University Center’s Meridian Ballroom.

“The advancement of the SIUE School of Engineering is propelled by the outstanding contributions and accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff and alumni,” said SOE Dean Cem Karacal, PhD. “We are proud to celebrate their incredible work and realize the significant potential our engineering community has for future achievement.”

SIUE alumna Ashlee Peno earned the honor of Outstanding Alumna in Civil Engineering and was the event’s keynote speaker. She earned both a bachelor’s and master’s in civil engineering in 2004 and 2005, respectively. Peno is the chief structural engineer responsible for managing the engineering design division at Special Inspections and Designs. (SIUE News Archive: February 2020)
SBDC CLIENT JEWELRIDE INCREASES CLIENTELE THROUGH MEDICAID APPROVAL

JewelRide, a client of the Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for the Metro East at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, has become a Medicaid approved provider, now offering their services to Medicaid recipients.

Their services include medical and hospital appointments, dialysis visits, senior transportation, assisted living transfers, pharmacy/drugstore prescription pick-up, errands, and tailor-made transportation needs.

It is extremely difficult for people in any society to reach their full potential when they lack access to healthcare,” Mupereki shared. “We are excited for the opportunity to extend our inspired services to patients covered by Medicaid. It provides a chance for people, regardless of socioeconomic status, to seamlessly enjoy our customer care experience on their path to better health.

(SIUE News Archive: February 2020)

SIUE’S GUPCHUP NAMED BOARD CHAIR FOR SOUTHWEST ILLINOIS UNITED WAY

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Gireesh Gupchup, PharmD, director for university-community initiatives and professor of pharmacy, has been named 2020 auxiliary board chair for the Southwest Illinois Division of United Way of Greater St. Louis. He succeeds Jay Korte, director of client relations at The Korte Company, who has held the chair position since 2018.

In addition to his role as board chair for the Southwest Illinois Division, Gupchup also serves on the board of directors for United Way of Greater St. Louis. His other leadership roles include secretary of the Board of the Hospice of Southern Illinois and president-elect of the Land of Goshen Rotary Club, as well as serving on the board of directors of Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois’ military affairs committee.

United Way’s Southwest Illinois Division, which serves Madison, Macoupin, Jersey, Greene and Calhoun counties, also welcomed the following as new board members: Paul Abert, of Town & Country Bank; Joann Barton, of Busey Bank; Don DeGonia, of Plumbers & Gasfitters 360; Lisa Fowler, of First Mid Illinois Bank & Trust; Brittany Johnson, of the Edwardsville Intelligencer; Jennifer Kahl, of Machinists Union 660; Alan Meyer, of 1st MidAmerica Credit Union; Kent Scheffel, of Lewis & Clark Community College; Amber Scott, of 1st MidAmerica Credit Union; and Bob Will, of 100 Black Men. (SIUE News Archive: February 2020)
ITC AND SWITIC TO HOST DISCUSSION ON EXPORT NEEDS AND TRADE INITIATIVES

The Illinois SBDC International Trade Center (ITC) at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, in partnership with the Southwestern Illinois Trade and Investment Council (SWITIC), will host “Export Needs and Trade Initiatives for Southern Illinois: Dialogue with the Business Community” from 10 a.m.-noon Wednesday, March 11 in the Birger Hall boardroom on the SIUE campus.

Trade missions are about opening doors for businesses and entrepreneurs, and developing long-term opportunities in foreign markets. Participants will be provided an exclusive look at the new list of trade shows and missions for 2020-21, sponsored by the Illinois Office of Trade and Investment and other partners of the ITC. These shows cover various industries relevant to the region.

“In 2009 and 2019, the ITC led two trade missions to South America, bringing positive results to our region,” Bowman explained.  
(SIUE News Archive: March 2020)

ILLINOIS CDB APPROVES $400K TO SIUE FOR ART IN ARCHITECTURE

The State of Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB) has approved $408,742 for artwork in and around Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Science Buildings as part of the CDB’s Art-in-Architecture program. The Illinois General Assembly created the Art-in-Architecture (AIA) program in 1977. It is administered by the Capital Development Board. The program’s purpose is the “promotion and preservation of the arts by securing suitable works of art for the adornment of public buildings constructed or subjected to major renovation by the State or which utilize State funds, and thereby reflecting Illinois’ cultural heritage, with emphasis on the works of Illinois artists.” The works of art that have been created through the program create a permanent art collection for the people of the state of Illinois.

All professional artists living and working in Illinois are eligible to apply for commission opportunities. Artists are selected and commissions are awarded based upon the recommendations of a Fine Art Review Committee comprised of representatives from the Illinois Arts Council, Illinois State Museum, the project architect and a site representative.  
(SIUE News Archive: February 2020)
CHAIRMAN OF SIUE MASS COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT HELPS DEVELOP ‘MADISON CURBSIDE’ APP TO HELP PEOPLE FIND SMALL BUSINESSES WHO OFFER CURBSIDE SERVICES

From the Mass Communications department at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville has enjoyed a longtime reputation for turning out students who excel at fields such as journalism, broadcasting, advertising and other fields in communications.

Dr. Musonda Kapatamoyo, the chairman of the SIUE Mass Communications department, has joined forces with Jerry Grankaloff of Glen Carbon to develop Madison Curbside, an online app that helps users find various businesses that offer both curbside orders and pickups of items such as food and retail items, among others.

For more information about Madison Curbside, please log on to the site, www.madisoncurbside.com, or please email info@madisoncurbside.com. (RiverBender: April 27, 2020)

SIUE PHARMACY FACULTY CLINICIANS AND ALUMNI COORDINATE OPTIMAL DRUG THERAPY ON FRONT LINES

From what he wears, precautions he takes before entering the hospital, and how he interacts with medical teams and patients to his educational responsibilities and safety measures upon returning home, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy’s (SOP) Jared Sheley, PharmD, has changed his daily practices in every way.

Sheley’s colleague, SIUE alumna Dawn Dankenbring, PharmD ’11, Pharmacy Residency Program Director at HSHS St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, is also providing direct patient care to COVID-19 patients. She credits the hospital’s proactive development of a multidisciplinary COVID-19 Task Force with clearly defining processes of how best to manage the surge of positive patients.

Dankenbring notes a positive emerging in this unprecedented time is the collaboration among healthcare workers across the country, even between those who work for “competitor” hospitals and health systems.

To the public she urged, “Please understand that at this point in time, our best course of action continues to be prevention. As social distancing measures begin to lessen, it is important not to become complacent, and to continue to practice proper infection control precautions. (SIUE News Archive: April 2020)
SIUE STUDENT BOOSTS EDWARDSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY’S OUTREACH DURING PANDEMIC

When Edwardsville Public Library Director Jill Schardt wanted to respond to a growing need of patrons and area residents, she turned to the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Department of Social Work for help.

The result was securing SIUE alumna and graduate student Brejani Owens as the library’s first social worker. Owens, whose internship began Friday, Jan. 31 and will conclude Saturday, Aug. 8, has continued, but modified her job duties in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Owens was drawn to the field of social work because of her advocacy for disadvantaged, underrepresented and oppressed populations. The library volunteer earned her bachelor’s in social work from SIUE in 2019. She will complete a master’s in social work on Saturday, August 8. Owens was recommended for the library internship by Department of Social Work faculty members Kimberly Carter, PhD, associate professor, and Carol Wesley, PhD, practicum director and assistant professor.

“My main goals have always been to make my presence known at the library, and build rapport with area social agencies. I want to help as many people as possible. I expect the library to continue this extremely important work well into the future.” (SIUE News Archive: April 2020)

HOW THE CORONAVIRUS AND CHICAGO’S GUN VIOLENCE ARE RELATED

Roberto R. Aspholm and John M. Hagedorn

Why hasn’t violence in Chicago decreased since we have all been ordered to stay at home? Why are the poorest African American neighborhoods that have been plagued by violence now the hardest hit by the coronavirus?

The virus and violence have race and poverty in common. African Americans comprise roughly 30% of Chicago’s population but make up nearly half of its poor residents and 80% of its homicide victims.

Similarly, blacks represent at least 40% of Chicago’s coronavirus cases and 55% of its pandemic-related deaths. Part of this overrepresentation can be explained by black Chicagoans’ disproportionate rates of chronic health conditions, employment in “essential” economic sectors, reliance on public transportation and uninsurance, all of which increase one’s chances of infection and severe symptomatology.

But another key link between violence and the virus are large numbers of alienated young people on Chicago’s South and West Sides. Like in many other places, young people are ignoring the stay-at-home and social-distancing orders coming from elected officials, heightening the risk of viral infection and transmission. In Chicago, these young people are often the same ones involved in the city’s rampant gun violence that has persisted throughout the pandemic. (Chicago Sun Times, April 30, 2020)
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.
January 17, 2020
Seven SIUE Students Receive Get to Know Metro East Scholarships
“Seven SIUE students received $2,000 scholarships from the “Get to know the Metro East” campaign that awarded 12 scholarships to area college students...”

January 17, 2020
Despite Earthquakes, SIUE Faculty, Students Present Research in Puerto Rico
“When Southern Illinois University Edwardsville faculty and students from the Departments of Political Science and Environmental Sciences were selected to present at the 2020 Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from Jan. 9-11, none of them anticipated the earthquakes that would rock the small island during their visit...”

January 21, 2020
SIUE Retiree Still Rocking 50 Years After Founding Legendary Band
“University professor and founding member of a professional classic rock band. These might seem like divergent career paths, but not for Roger Boyd, PhD (’97 and ‘98)...”

January 21, 2020
SIUE Helps the Homeless on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
“The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence...”

January 21, 2020
AAC&U Adds SIUE to Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Centers
“The Association of American Colleges and Universities has added Southern Illinois University Edwardsville among 13 institutions to host Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) Campus Centers...”

January 22, 2020
STL TV Highlights New SIUE Esports Arena
“The SIUE Esports Arena continues to make headlines as a great new space for student gamers to perfect their technique and gather together as a gaming community...”

January 22, 2020
SIUE Alumna Cann to be Superintendent of Granite City School District
“Southern Illinois University Edwardsville alumna and instructor Stephanie Cann has been appointed to become superintendent of the Granite City School District for the 2020-2021 school year...”

January 22, 2020
SIUE Executive Education offers Spring Professional Development Workshops
“The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Business Executive Education program has professional development courses and workshops available for spring 2020...”
January 22, 2020
Esports Arena at SIUE Bolsters Video Gaming Opportunities for Students
“With intense expressions and fast fingers, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville students were in multiplayer gaming heaven, engaging in both casual and competitive video play in the newly opened Esports Arena, located in Bluff Hall...”

January 22, 2020
US News Ranks SIUE Nursing Online Master’s Among Nation’s Top 50
“When Southern Illinois University Edwardsville faculty and students from the Departments of Political Science and Environmental Sciences were selected to present at the 2020 Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from Jan. 9-11, none of them anticipated the earthquakes that would rock the small island during their visit...”

January 23, 2020
SIUE Hosts 37th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon Celebration
“The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s work for justice continues, but it has to take on new depths, according to Denise Taliaferro Baszile, PhD, of Miami University in Ohio...”

January 23, 2020
State Releases $10.5M for SIUE Health Sciences Building Design
“Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker today announced the release of $10,537,000 in planning funds to create preliminary designs for a Health Science Building (HSB) on the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville campus...”

January 23, 2020
SIUE Community Gathers for Good During MLK Day of Service
“SIUE students, faculty and staff gathered to honor the ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during a Day of Service held Monday, Jan. 20...”

January 24, 2020
SIUE Math Professor Emeritus Discovers Close Connection to Einstein
“What’s your Einstein number? For retired faculty member and chair of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Department of Mathematics and Statistics Chung Wu Ho, PhD, it’s four...”

January 27, 2020
SIUE Online Healthcare Informatics Program Among Nation’s Top 10
“The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville online master’s in healthcare informatics program has been ranked 6th nationally by intelligent.com in its 2020 Best Online Master’s in Healthcare Informatics Programs...”

January 28, 2020
SIUE School of Pharmacy’s Kerr Appointed Assoc. Dean, Kempland Named Experiential Education Coordinator
“Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy Dean Mark Luer, PharmD, has appointed Jessica Kerr, PharmD, as associate dean of professional and student affairs, and Monica Kempland, PhD, as experiential education coordinator...”
January 28, 2020
IL SBDC for Metro East Client Ms. Grace Cleaning Services Expands, Grows Brand
“Ms. Grace Cleaning Services Director of Marketing Angie Lee has worked with the Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for the Metro East at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and Director Jo Ann DiMaggio May since July 2019 to fulfill the company’s marketing, networking and labor needs...”

January 28, 2020
Future SIUE Student Wins $100K Michelin Scholarship
“Mt. Vernon Township High School senior Max Zinzilieta has won a $100,000 scholarship from Michelin USA. He expects to attend SIUE in fall 2020 to study computer science and linguistics...”

January 29, 2020
SIUE’s Angela Kim Inspires as Influential Pianist and Educator
“For Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Angela Kim, the piano is not only an instrument, but an extension of self...”

January 29, 2020
NSF Awards SIUE $300K to Create Safe, Inclusive Archaeological Field Schools
“The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded Southern Illinois University Edwardsville $300,000 in support of research aimed at preventing sexual harassment from occurring during undergraduate field-based courses...”

January 29, 2020
SIUE East St. Louis Center Upward Bound Programs Get a Boost from IDOT
“More programming, resources and opportunities will soon be available to students in Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Upward Bound (UB) programs thanks to money provided by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)...”

January 29, 2020
KMOX Highlights New NSF-Funded Research Led by SIUE’s Colannino
“A new research project funded by a $300,000 National Science Foundation award to SIUE will combat sexual harassment and create safer, more inclusive archaeological field schools...”

January 30, 2020
BizJournal Names SIUE Alumna Luitjohan Among Stand Out Business Leaders
“In a “salute to young professionals making a difference,” the St. Louis Business Journal has named its 40 Under 40 Class of 2020, and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville alumna Kimberly Luitjohan is among the rising business innovators receiving honors...”

January 30, 2020
Ameren Illinois Grant Provides Needed Assistance to SIUE’s WSIE FM Radio
“Ameren Illinois demonstrated its goal towards community mindedness by giving Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound a $2,000 grant...”
January 30, 2020
Page’s “Flow Chart” Exhibit is Learning Opportunity for SIUE Students
“When Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Assistant Professor of Ceramics Joe Page began the installation of his current art exhibit, “Flow Chart,” at the William and Florence Schmidt Art Center on Southwestern Illinois College’s Belleville campus, he turned the installation process into a learning opportunity for his students...”

January 31, 2020
SIUE’s Eighth Annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day Feb. 15
“The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is hosting its eighth annual “Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day” from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, in the SIUE School of Engineering building...”

February 3, 2020
Attend SIUE’s College Student Personnel Administration Visit Day, March 6
“Interested in pursuing a fulfilling career of inspirational student development? Attend the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s College Student Personnel Administration Program’s (CSPA) Visit Day being held Friday, March 6 and consider the possibilities of a career in higher education...”

February 3, 2020
SIUE Psychology Alumna Offers Ethiopian Women Hope for a Brighter Future
“When she’s unsure of exactly what her future holds, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville alumna Amanda Jondro is certain: “I want to keep standing up for those who do not have a voice...”

February 3, 2020
SIUE’s Educational Outreach Collaborates to Spread Understanding about Human and Sex Trafficking
“In every community there are dark, sordid, heart-breaking stories no one wants to tell, but must be brought to light to help combat the pungent reality of human and sex trafficking...”

February 4, 2020
Dr. Cynthia Spence Talks to SIUE about HBCU Partnerships
“These were just a few of the many questions posed by Cynthia Neal Spence, PhD, associate professor at Spelman College and director of the UNCF/Mellon Programs, who spoke Friday, Jan. 31 at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Center for Faculty Development and Innovation (CFDI)...”

February 4, 2020
SIUE School of Pharmacy Clinical Professor to Present Nationally on Drug Safety
“In the pharmaceutical world, ensuring safety in the way in which prescription drugs are distributed and understanding their adverse effects, is of the utmost importance for patient protection...”
February 4, 2020
SIUE’s Lewis Opens Students to the Beauty of Informed Politics
“Such current events topics as the Coronavirus, the presidential impeachment trial, Harvey Weinstein and R. Kelly offer ample content for Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Dr. Timothy Lewis’ political science classroom discussions...”

February 4, 2020
Black Heritage Month Opens at SIUE
“Pride, excitement and interest drew people to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s opening ceremony of Black Heritage Month, themed “Black and Unified,” on Monday, Feb. 3 in the Morris University Center, Meridian Ballroom...”

February 5, 2020
SIUE’s A Season for the Child to Present THE EVER AFTER, Feb. 29
“A Season for the Child, the family-oriented live theater season sponsored by the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Friends of Theater and Dance (FOTAD), will present THE EVER AFTER, by Nathan Hartswich, on Saturday, Feb. 29, at 6:30 p.m. in SIUE’s Dunham Hall Theater...”

February 5, 2020
SIUE Friends of Art Annual Auction March 20
“The Friends of Art and the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Department of Art and Design will hold their 43rd annual art auction at 7 p.m. Friday, March 20...”

February 5, 2020
Kindred Hospital Gives SIUE Head Start Discovery Center an Early Gift – New Coats
“Kindred Hospital of St. Louis’ gift to keep children warm was something that warmed the hearts of staff and administrators at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Head Start/Early Head Start Discovery Center...”

February 5, 2020
SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School Proudly Shows off its New Space
“Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter High School (CHS) students welcomed an anonymous donor on Wednesday, Feb. 5 in their first gymnasium, which was made possible by a generous gift...”

February 10, 2020
SIUE Black Faculty and Staff Association Hosts the State of the Black Union
“The conditions for blacks on campus are improving and yet in some areas stagnant, according to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) President Lakesha Butler, PharmD...”

February 11, 2020
SIUE Senior’s Global Dream Becomes Reality Thanks to NADOHE Award
“Southern Illinois University Edwardsville senior public health major Tatyana Curtis, of Sycamore, is now able to fulfill her global travel dreams and build skills toward a career as a nurse epidemiologist thanks to her receipt of a Global Engagement Award from the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE)...”
February 12, 2020
SIUE’s Black Heritage Month Gives Slaves a Voice
“Voices from the past were resurrected to give testimony to the reality, angst and cruelty of human beings in chattel enslavement in the U.S. at “A Reading of Slave Narratives” during Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Black Heritage Month...”

February 12, 2020
SIUE’s Redmond and His Writers Club Honor the Past in Poetic Offering of Black History
“The Eugene B. Redmond Writers Club, named for Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s emeritus professor of English, will present its annual Black History Month Celebration at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18 at the East St. Louis Higher Education Campus...”

February 12, 2020
The Pettys – Longtime Activists, Educators – Bring their Stories to SIUE
“The East St. Louis duo was featured during “Sitting at the Feet of an Elder” on Tuesday, Feb. 11 in the Lovejoy Library’s Friends Corner on the SIUE campus. Petty spoke about his experiences while working for peace and justice in the St. Louis region and abroad. During their discussion, the couple also noted the exploits of African Americans, mostly from East St. Louis...”

February 18, 2020
Creative Thinking and Problem-Solving at SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School
“It was a day of skill, wit, challenge, experimentation and fun that yielded a time of learning in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) that instructors hope will incite their students’ desire for learning well into the future...”

February 18, 2020
SIUE’s Snipes Talks about Atheism in Black Communities
“There are no African American atheists, right? If there are, they are immoral. These counternarratives were addressed in the presentation, “Ain’t I Black too: Counternarratives of Black Atheists in College,” given by J.T. Snipes, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, on Monday, Feb. 17 in the Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion (CSDI)...”

February 24, 2020
SIUE Grad Student Uses Diversity and Equity Training to Enhance Area District
“Southern Illinois University Edwardsville graduate student Caleb Romoser isn’t waiting until after graduation to implement his advanced degree training. He’s using his new knowledge in real-time to make a positive difference in an area school district by helping to combat racism...”
February 24, 2020
SIUE Holds Panel Discussion on Police and the African American Community
“From the pages of history to today’s headlines, the relationship between the African American community and the police has been an antagonistic one, according to Timothy Lewis, PhD, assistant professor in the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Department of Political Science…”

February 27, 2020
SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School Offers Advice and Haircuts
“In between the buzz of his clippers, barber Kelvin Hardy listens and offers bits of advice to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter High School (CHS) students…”

February 28, 2020
SIUE East St. Louis Learning Resource Center Hosts Job Recruitment Fair
“Mickel Perkins, of East St. Louis, walked into the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Center’s Learning Resource Center (LRC) on Tuesday, Feb. 26 armed with her resume, portfolio and high hopes of getting a job. She received a job offer on the spot…”

February 28, 2020
SIUE’s Lewis Examines Being Black in the Classroom
“Negative preconceived ideas, feelings of isolation and virtually no exposure to black scholars are struggles that black students face in college classrooms at predominantly white institutions (PWIs), according to Timothy Lewis, PhD, assistant professor in the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Department of Political Science…”

February 28, 2020
SIUE’s Black Heritage Month Closes with Soulful Sounds of Anita Jackson
“St. Louis-based Jazz artist Anita Jackson masterfully performed some favorite songs by noted artists on Friday, Feb. 28 during the closing ceremony of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Black Heritage Month program…”

February 28, 2020
SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School Revels in Black History
“Remembering the significant contributions made by people of African descent is why Black History Month is important, according to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter High School (CHS) freshman Zariah Palmer. The program, emceed by CHS senior Anasia White, consisted of readings, dances and displays that paid homage…”

March 16, 2020
Math and Creativity Add Fun to the SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School’s Second Annual Pi Day Festival
“Never before did Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter High School (CHS) freshman LaRhonda Anthony find math exciting, until she participated in mathematical games and activities during the second annual Pi Day Festival on Friday, March 13 at the CHS…”
March 17, 2020
SIUE Black Faculty and Staff Association Announces Spring Scholarship Winners
“A $750 scholarship was each awarded to freshman Jarae Tipton, and juniors Alishiana Ivy, Marcus Key and William Hughes. We are planning our second annual gala for early fall 2020. BFSA hopes to again award at least four $1,000 scholarships...”

March 20, 2020
SIUE to Comply with State Stay at Home Directive
“SIUE is complying with Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker’s order to “Stay at Home,” requiring another modification to its evolving work relations. When available, the Governor’s Executive Order will be posted at www.coronavirus.illinois.gov etc...”

April 1, 2020
SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start Uses New Grant to Help Children Manage Emotions
“Managing your emotions is not child’s play, but Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Head Start/Early Head Start is working to make the task simple enough for children to understand and apply, thanks to a $78,000 Violence Prevention grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Authority...”

April 2, 2020
Online Learning Gives SIUE Social Work Students New Opportunities
“What started out as trepidation for some social work students over the absence of classroom aides and structure, has resulted in those very students filling in the gaps and broadening their learning experience after their courses were transferred online via Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker’s “Stay-at-Home” order...”

April 6, 2020
SIUE Early Childhood Center and Head Start/Early Head Start Provide Important Food Service for Families During Closures
“Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.” This portion of a Fred Rogers famous quote is as true now as always. Such helpers are making a dramatic positive impact as people join together, virtually or at appropriate distances, to get through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic...”

April 8, 2020
Unique Student Teaching Experience Prepares SIUE Students to Adapt, Overcome
“The educational experience looks a bit different these days, as current and prospective teachers transition to online learning environments amid the COVID-19 pandemic...”

April 9, 2020
SIUE Nursing Student Travels to New York to Treat Coronavirus Patients in ICU
“The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing (SON)’s mission is to educate and develop care providers and leaders who will meet the health challenges of a diverse and complex world...”
April 9, 2020
SIUE’s Greenfield Lends Expertise to Support Plight of Centreville Residents
“When Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Department of Environmental Sciences Assistant Professor Ben Greenfield, PhD, learned that residents of nearby Centreville were living with raw sewage in their yards, he knew he needed to help…”

April 10, 2020
SIUE Counseling Services Amplifies Teletherapy Options and Outreach
“Life has changed in dramatic and unforeseen ways. As a result, perceptions, sensations, feelings, thoughts, behaviors and interactions outside of the norm are to be expected High doses of grace are needed as we think about ourselves and those with whom we are in personal and professional contact…”

April 13, 2020
SIUE’s Jack Coordinates New Partnership with Universities Studying Slavery Consortium
“In an ongoing effort to build, solidify and improve collegial and community relationships, an honest look at the past is needed, according to Bryan Jack, PhD, associate professor in Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Department of Historical Studies…”

April 13, 2020
Surviving School at Home: STL Public Radio Features Expertise of SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School’s Dr. Gina Jeffries
“Parents, teachers and students locally and across the nation are trying their best to juggle the new normal of e-learning and completing school at home amid the COVID-19 pandemic…”

May 4, 2020
Student Message
“As final exams begin, we want to extend our warm wishes for a successful week. We know that this is not the semester that anyone envisioned when we kicked it off in January…”

May 7, 2020
Aspiring Doctor Proves Dedication to Others by Collecting Food for Those in Need
“COVID-19 has made a lasting impact on my outlook on life,” explained Reinders, who is pursuing a bachelor’s in biological sciences, medical science specialization. “It reminds me that nothing can be taken for granted and showed me how important we all are to each other, during a pandemic and always…”

May 8, 2020
A Dream Come True: SIUE Pharmacy Grad Prepared to Lead Influential Career
With the May 2020 completion of her doctor of pharmacy degree, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy (SOP) graduate Deja Finley has achieved a childhood dream. Since she was 13, the pharmacist has aspired to “impact the world in a positive way through math and science…”
March 5, 2020
Spring Break Travel Advice
“With spring break around the corner, students, faculty, and staff may be planning or have already made travel arrangements for destinations far and wide. All travelers should thoroughly research their destinations and consult with their Travel Clinic and medical or nursing providers on medical concerns...”

March 6, 2020
COVID-19 Action Update
“As you are no doubt aware, concerns about COVID-19 (commonly referred to as coronavirus) require an abundance of caution and have resulted in certain CDC guidelines pertaining to the sanitization and disinfection of surfaces and facilities...”

March 10, 2020
COVID-19 Update
“With confirmed cases of coronavirus in Missouri and Illinois, we now more than ever must work together to focus on the health and well-being of our campus, and to limit the potential impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on our community. If you have general questions about COVID-19, you can call the Illinois Department of Public Health hotline (800) 889-3931...”

March 11, 2020
Members of the SIU System Community
“... the situation has changed multiple times throughout the last couple of days, this has been particularly challenging. However, our campus leadership has worked diligently to ensure we are best prepared to respond in a way that protects our students, faculty and staff. This must be our primary goal...”

March 11, 2020
SIUE Spring Break Extended Thru March 22
“As the challenges associated with COVID-19 continue to evolve, our concerns for members of our community are heightened. While we currently have no cases of COVID-19 on our campus, there is a confirmed case in St. Louis County, as well as confirmed cases in the state of Illinois...”

March 13, 2020
Governor’s K-12 Temporary Closure
“The University leadership is aware of Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker’s announcement of the temporary closure of all K-12 schools throughout the state. We respect the diversity of our community and understand that this announcement will have a profound impact for many...”

March 14, 2020
March 16-22 Instruction & Operations
“We appreciate your patience and flexibility as we address and adjust to the ever-changing landscape surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Southern Illinois University Edwardsville acknowledges our responsibility to help flatten the curve as it relates to the spread of COVID-19...”
March 15, 2020
HR Leave Policies - (Updated - 3-17-2020)
“Our recent messages acknowledged the priority of “flattening the curve” and addressing the needs of our community, particularly given Governor Pritzker’s announcement of the closure of K-12 schools in Illinois. We sincerely appreciate your patience and flexibility during this challenging time…”

March 15, 2020
Academic Course Delivery
...“Any program that requires internship, clinical placement, practicum, teaching practice, etc. should have plans to ensure students are able to complete the requisite hours through alternative placements, simulations or other means. Please work closely with licensure boards to ensure that students fulfill the requirements…”

March 16, 2020
Dining, Travel, Events
“We are continuously updating our FAQs as new information is available. Please visit our FAQ page often at http://siue.edu/coronavirus. Below is our current guidance as of March 16, 2020…”

March 17, 2020
Updated HR Info, Open Meetings, Campus Operations
“As we continue to monitor and prepare to respond to the rapidly changing developments related to COVID-19, please find several important updates for members of the campus community: …”

March 18, 2020
COVID-19 Update
“SIUE is committed to the health and safety of our campus community by implementing measures to increase social distancing in response to COVID-19. As we continue to monitor and respond to rapidly changing developments, please find several important updates for members of the campus community: …”

March 19, 2020
SIUE Spring Commencement Postponed
“It is with great disappointment that we must announce the postponement of all SIUE spring 2020 commencement ceremonies. This includes the SIU School of Dental Medicine…”

March 19, 2020
Message from Chancellor Randy Pembrook
... Students who are eligible to graduate in May, will be contacted for input as to how we can best recognize their achievements in reimagined formats during these unique and trying circumstances…”

March 20, 2020
Message from Chancellor Randy Pembrook
“SIUE is committed to the health and safety of our campus community by implementing measures to increase social distancing in response to COVID-19…”
March 21, 2020
Operations Update
“Governor J.B. Pritzker’s “Stay-At-Home” Order goes into effect at 5 p.m. today and continues through April 7...”

March 22, 2020
Campus Update
“These past days and weeks, everyone on our campus has experienced significant transitions, and we remain humbled and grateful. Whether in Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Administration or Advancement, our community has come together...”

March 23, 2020
Campus Update
“Welcome back! We could not be more excited to be resuming course delivery today. As SIUE transitions to an online and alternative course delivery model, we ask for your patience and flexibility with the software systems and with each other...”

March 24, 2020
Student Message
“Welcome to our temporary new normal. Now that you have begun taking classes online, we would like to share some helpful health tips: ...”

March 26, 2020
Withdrawal Deadline Extended
“As many of you are continuing to transition to new learning formats, SIUE has extended the deadline to withdraw with a grade of W as follows: ...”

March 31, 2020
Grading Guidance - Spring 2020
“Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is announcing a temporary suspension of certain academic policies for Spring 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. For courses and grades associated with the Spring 2020 semester only, Synopsis of the Plan...”

April 2, 2020
SIUE Stay-at-Home Update
“To the University Community, Thank you to everyone for your continued flexibility and commitment to making these last few weeks work in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor Tuesday announced a continuation of “Stay-at-Home” through April 30, which will require another modification to our evolving work relations...”

April 4, 2020
SIUE Student Positive for COVID-19
“We have learned that an SIUE student has tested positive for COVID-19. The individual is currently recovering in isolation at their off-campus residence...”
April 6, 2020
COVID-19 Health Tips
“We appreciate everyone following Governor J.B. Pritzker’s “Stay-at-Home” order and stemming the spread of COVID-19. National health experts are predicting that the coming weeks will be our most vulnerable. So, we remind you to protect yourself and others with several simple steps: ...”

April 6, 2020
Spring 2020 Synchronous Final Exam Schedule
“Academic Scheduling has posted the Spring 2020 Synchronous Final Exam Schedule on the Registrar’s website (www.siue.edu/registrar/). Due to the transition of all courses to an online format this semester, this final exam schedule only applies to courses with a synchronous (live) final, requiring a specific date and time...”

April 7, 2020
Supporting Students in a Time of Crisis
“Dear Colleagues:
As we all learn to navigate this new normal at SIUE, I am writing first to thank you. Faculty and staff alike have adapted to enormous change at a rapid pace, learned new and unfamiliar technologies, and dealt with upheaval in our own lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It’s been a lot ... and you are also caring about our students during this precarious time...”

April 8, 2020
SIUE Employee Leave Coverage Under FFCRA
“Thank you all for your continuing flexibility, commitment and patience as we work through the difficult situation caused by COVID-19. We know that you are all concerned about the effects that an extended reduction in University operations or COVID-19 illness could cause for you and your families. Hopefully, the information contained in this communication will help clarify pay and benefit leave opportunities considering the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (“FFCRA”)...”

April 10, 2020
COVID-19 Update
“During the past several weeks, we have shared nearly daily messages about SIUE’s response to COVID-19. By now, many of you in our campus community have been personally affected by the pandemic. Perhaps you know someone who has been exposed, tested positive or even lost a loved one to the disease...”

April 10, 2020
COVID-19 Updates
“We recognize that you are receiving many email messages, and it is difficult to locate important messages. Each Friday, we will send out a digest to highlight links to messages from the week or earlier messages about which there have been questions...”
April 10, 2020
Critical COVID-19 Messages
“Students,
Below, please find important messages from this week and links to some of the most
frequently asked questions.
For the latest SIUE information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, visit siue.edu/
coronavirus...”

April 17, 2020
University Recruitment and Hiring
“Dear Colleagues;
Just a friendly reminder to the SIUE community that Human Resources remains
actively engaged in meeting University recruiting and hiring needs as best possible.
HR continues to support recruitment and hiring efforts University-wide...”

April 17, 2020
Student Fee Refund Information
“Friends,
The following information regarding student fees for the spring 2020 semester was
shared with students today:
We hope this message finds you well, and that you are adjusting to the significant
changes in your learning environment. We all miss seeing you on campus and
sharing in the events of our community...”

April 17, 2020
Pass/No Credit Guidance
“Dear Students,
On March 31, 2020, the University made temporary changes to the Pass/No Credit
academic policy for the spring 2020 semester...”

April 21, 2020
Human Resources Updates
“Dear Colleagues,
Just a friendly reassurance to employees that you have full access to your health
benefits, so if you are sick, please stay home. Your health is too important to risk
leaving your home when you are sick. Remember that in addition to the CMS
health benefits already in place, you may also be eligible for leave and sick pay for
qualifying reasons under the Federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act...”

April 22, 2020
Summer Operations
“Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,
As we continue to experience the effects of COVID-19 on our country, our state
and our University, it has become clear that summer 2020 will be much different
regarding events, camps, conferences, course instruction, June Preview and
Springboard on our campus. It is with this understanding that we share with you our
plans for operations at SIUE for summer 2020...”
April 24, 2020
Fall Semester and Budget Planning
SIU System Faculty and Staff:
“I first want to thank all of you for your continued, outstanding work serving our students and communities under challenging circumstances. I remain impressed by the many ways faculty, staff and students across the system are reaching out across the state to help address critical needs, while also focusing on their teaching, research and studies...”

April 27, 2020
SIUE Financial Landscape
“Let me start by again thanking everyone – our faculty, our staff, our students – for your flexibility and your commitment to achieving a meaningful educational experience in the midst of these extraordinary circumstances. SIUE continues to distinguish itself in spite of current hardships...”

April 30, 2020
Stay-at-Home Extension Thru May
“To the University Community,
As you most likely know by now, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker has extended the “Stay-at-Home” Executive Order through May 31, which requires another modification to our evolving work relations...”

May 4, 2020
SIUE Chancellor’s Message to Students
“As we begin finals week, I wanted to again say thank you for your flexibility and resilience in spite of the circumstances relating to the COVID pandemic. Your ability to adjust to new circumstances is heartening. Under normal circumstances, we would have gathered together last night for finals breakfast – one of my favorite events of the year – to prepare for finals week. I hope your summer is a positive experience whether you are taking courses, preparing for fall or, for our graduates, moving on to the next phase of your life experience after SIUE...”

May 8, 2020
CARES Act Funding
“Summary
* SIUE has received funds through the federal CARES Act to support students who have experienced unexpected educational expenses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
* Students must have completed a FAFSA and be eligible for Title IV federal financial aid to receive a CARES Act grant...”

May 9, 2020
Textbook Returns and COVID-19
“SIUE Textbook Service is currently closed due to the shelter-in-place order issued by the governor of Illinois, we will re-open as soon as the shelter-in-place order has been lifted...”
May 13, 2020
COVID-19 Update: Madison County
“To the University Community,
Area legislative leaders have also requested the governor move our region to Stage 3 of the governor’s “Restore Illinois” plan. Should the governor change direction for our region, SIUE will comply...”

May 13, 2020
SIU President Fall Planning
“Dear SIU System Colleagues:
... I write with an update about the fall 2020 semester. In an earlier message, I indicated that our goal will be to operate as normally as possible, while remaining committed to the health and safety of our university and local communities. In order to do so, we will continue to follow the guidelines and directives set forth by the governor and health officials...”

May 15, 2020
SIUE Summer Planning
“Assuming that the area is in Phase IV of the Restore Illinois plan, the University plans to offer a small number of face-to-face courses during the second five weeks (July start date) of summer session. These courses will pilot many of the new approaches and protocols that will be more widely deployed during the fall 2020 semester...”

May 28, 2020
Operations Safety Plan for Returning to Work, Phase 3
“The Operations Safety Plan provides some specific and some broad actions that are intended to reduce the potential for the spread of COVID-19 as we enter Phase 3...”

June 1, 2020
Return to Work Update
“First: We’re going to take the next two weeks to plan how offices will safely open by June 15th. These transition two weeks will allow individual staff members and departments to work out their specific plans. We are encouraging employees who can work remotely to do so during Phase 3...”

June 1, 2020
Remote-Work Guidelines
“The guidelines are intended to guide the decision whether to have staff work from home, or other approved remote location, for all or a part of a regular workweek. Remote work is a voluntary work alternative that may be appropriate for some employees and some jobs...”

June 2, 2020
Return to Work Update
“First: A reminder that we have sanitizing wipes and disinfectant for offices while the supply lasts. We also have bulk hand sanitizer to refill any size sanitizer container...”
June 3, 2020
Return to Work Update
“Who would have thought that making all the transitions back in mid-March was the easy part? While working together to meet and respond to all the challenges that have taken place since then is inspiring, a bright light shines on the profound need that remains ahead of us. Obviously, there is still work to be done...”

June 4, 2020
Return to Work Update
“Friends and Colleagues – In today’s update, let me clarify and answer a few topics related to returning to work.
Stay-at-Home vs Phase 3 Cleaning?: Cleaning on all three campuses has been an ongoing effort since mid-march since many employees have remained on ground working...”

June 5, 2020
Return to Work Update
“Friends and Colleagues – In today’s update, let me clarify and answer a few topics related to returning to work and working remotely...”

June 8, 2020
Return to Work Update
“Friends and Colleagues – In today’s update, let focus on masks and the expectations.
Facemasks: I hope everyone agrees that it is everyone’s duty to help keep our community safer. So to protect others, a facemask to cover the nose and mouth is available to each employee (although anyone may use their own mask). For good hygiene and to reduce germ spread, masks should be washed daily...”

June 9, 2020
Return to Work Update
“Friends and Colleagues – In today’s update, I want to focus on how we collectively support and communicate expectations for the health of everyone in our community...”

June 11, 2020
Return to Work Update
“Friends and Colleagues – Today is the final distribution day for face coverings, surface disinfectant, and bulk hand sanitizer refill for all offices. Alton and East St. Louis campuses have received their supplies so if an office hasn’t received anything yet, please let me know. On the Edwardsville campus, a supply and refill station will be set up in the hallway of Peck Hall today Thursday, June 11th from 10:30 – 12:30. (The sanitizing wipes just arrived. They will be available at Peck this morning and we will deliver the rest to offices.)...”
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
Strategy for Success 1.2.3: 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

Strategy for Success 1.2.4: 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

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.
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.
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