Welcome to Embracing Diversity and Inclusion, a Newsletter celebrating diversity at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. This newsletter aims to showcase the diversity and inclusion initiatives in our community. It features everything from national data on diversity to coverage of campus sponsored events and activities.

"Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is a student-centered educational community dedicated to communicating, expanding and integrating knowledge. In a spirit of collaboration enriched by diverse ideas, our comprehensive and unique array of undergraduate and graduate programs develops professionals, scholars and leaders who shape a changing world."

If you would like to contribute or have any questions about the Embracing Diversity and Inclusion Newsletter, please contact Dr. Venessa A. Brown at 618-650-5867 or vbrown@siue.edu.
SIUE’s Sustained Dialogue Creates Safe Places, Develops Leaders, Promotes Peace

“When I first came to college, I had no idea what I was walking into,” said freshman Bree Marciniak, of Collinsville, who took part in the co-curricular course. “But I was relieved when I took part in this program and was able to open up and talk. We are all struggling with something. The classes taught me how to listen better. There is a difference between hearing and listening. Listening makes you grow.” Read More

SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School Students Participate in National Student Walkout in Support of Parkland Victims

CHS senior student leaders organized a balloon memorial and moment of silence from 10-10:17 a.m. at the Of the River Mounds and Bridges stainless steel statue on the East St. Louis Higher Education Campus. Seventeen students each held a balloon. The name of each victim of the Parkland school shooting was read before the balloons were released. Students also carried posters protesting gun violence and supporting gun reform. Read More

SIUE Spotlights Phenomenal Women at Annual Luncheon

“The luncheon honors and celebrates women from all walks of life who have made contributions to diversity and inclusion at SIUE, the region, nation and world,” said Venessa Ann Brown, PhD, associate chancellor and chief diversity officer, who hosts the annual luncheons. “Through the annual recognition of these contributions, the Phenomenal Women’s Luncheon hopes to inspire others to embrace and promote diversity within their own lives and the lives of others.” Read More

Creating a Campus Climate Change

The Create Change event helped students express themselves through artistic dialogues in an effort to improve the campus climate at SIUE. According to Kay Geyer, art therapy counseling graduate student of St. Louis and one of Create Change’s student organizers, “The idea originated from a group of students who recognize the power of art to create change and want to create platforms for other students to do that on campus as well. So, it was a collaborative idea among the group.” Read More

EMBRACING DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
Faculty & Staff Mentoring Students with Disabilities Meet & Greet

The Faculty & Staff Mentoring Students with Disabilities Program is a collaboration between the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and Disability Support Services. The goal is to help enhance the relationship between faculty, staff and students with disabilities. In March we held a meet & greet for the faculty, staff and students. The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion has other mentoring programs as well such as Faculty and Staff Mentoring Student Athletes, which includes Men’s and Women’s Basketball and Softball. If you are interested in becoming a mentor or creating a mentoring program in collaboration with our office, please contact Chanel Newsome at chnewso@siue.edu.

Diversity and Inclusion Speaker
Amy Hunter Challenge to SIUE Audience – Talk to Each Other

Breaking down barriers among those who differ is possible through developing better understanding and making intentional connections, according to diversity and inclusion speaker Amy Hunter. Hunter gave her presentation, “#metoo: Understanding the Intersectional Identities in Higher Education” to a packed SIUE classroom of students, faculty and staff.

SIUE’s Makesha Harris Reveals Black Hair Matters

“Through research, knowledge sharing, and building understanding, student affairs and higher education leaders are better positioned to combat discrimination, marginalization, and stereotypes in the college environment,” Harris stated. “It is the responsibility of higher education leaders to be aware of and acknowledge the relationship hair has to developing identities of black women, and to build strategies for addressing the stereotype threats on their campuses.”

SIUE students, faculty and staff met during their biweekly dialogue to discuss issues in the campus community. Here’s an overview of some of the topics covered:

- Support for culturally based organizations on campus
- Peer mentoring for minority students
- How to effectively prepare minority students for college

EMBRACING DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
Passover (March 30th-April 7th): A Jewish holiday that celebrates the time when Moses led the Children of Israel from Egypt and enslavement. The story is set out in the Book of Exodus in the Old Testament. Read More

Holocaust Remembrance Day or Yom Hashoah (April 11th-12th): Commemorates the lives and heroism of Jewish people who died in the Holocaust between 1933 and 1945. Read More

National Child Abuse Prevention Month: A time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families. Read More

Arab American Heritage Month: This observance aims to combat harmful political rhetoric and promote positive images of Arab Americans, as well as celebrate their culture and contributions. Read More

Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month: An annual campaign to raise public awareness about sexual assault and educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. The 2018 SAAPM Theme is, “Protecting Our People Protects Our Mission.” Read More

Autism Awareness Month: An excellent opportunity to promote autism awareness, autism acceptance and to draw attention to the tens of thousands facing an autism diagnosis each year. Read More

- World Autism Awareness Day (April 2nd): A day to celebrate the unique talents of those with autism, while putting a huge focus on the warm embrace and welcome that these skills deserve through community events around the globe.

Day of Silence: A Protest of Anti-LGBT Bullying (April 27th): A student-led national event where folks take a vow of silence to highlight the silencing and erasure of LGBTQ people at school. Read More

Disability Support Services changing name to welcome more students

“That got me thinking about how alienating and divisive the word ‘disability’ can be. We needed an office title that accurately described what we do without socially stigmatizing those who use our resources or prevent individuals from seeking us out at all,” Dorsey continued. “People are not broken or disabled. They are just diverse learners who do things differently.” Read More

SIUE’s International Studies Day Promotes Global Careers

International Studies Day featured distinguished international and regional leaders who spoke on issues impacting our region, global career opportunities, and international advocacy. The event’s keynote speaker was Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, a career diplomat with the United Nations and an inspirational champion for sustainable peace and development. He spoke on “The United Nations – Essential or Irrelevant in Today’s World?” Read More
Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month: What began as a seven-day period of observance designated by Congress in 1979 has evolved into a full-month celebration of pride and remembrance for the Asian and Pacific American community. Read More

Jewish American Heritage Month: A national month of recognition of the more than 360-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture, JAHM acknowledges the achievements of American Jews in fields ranging from sports and arts and entertainment to medicine, business, science, government, and military service. The 2018 Theme is Jewish Contributions to American Music. Read More

Older Americans Month: Celebrates the many ways in which older adults make a difference in our communities. The 2018 theme, Engage at Every Age, emphasizes that you are never too old (or young) to take part in activities that can enrich your physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Read More

Educational Culture Tour
A group of SIUE students, faculty, and staff traveled by bus to Brooklyn/Lovejoy, IL--the oldest black incorporated town in America--to learn about the relationship between SIUE (specifically Lovejoy Library), abolitionist Elijah P. Lovejoy, and the nearby community of Brooklyn/Lovejoy. While there, the group visited the historic Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church and Antioch Baptist Church. Faculty tour guide Associate Professor Prince Wells III shared insight as someone who grew up in Brooklyn/Lovejoy. The group also visited the Elijah P. Lovejoy monument in Alton, IL.

Thanks to all who made this experience happen, and we hope to see you next year!

Click Here to Learn More
Dear Readers,

We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge faculty efforts towards sustaining a campus committed to diversity and inclusion and to a community of scholars committed to ensuring that students are ready for the world. Please take some time to view the highlighted stories below and support our faculty as they support the academic goals of SIUe and help prepare students for success.

Thank you!

The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion

SIUE Researcher Gains National Attention for Study on Child Health and Paternal Investment

Marlon Tracey, PhD, assistant professor in the School of Business’ Department of Economics and Finance, is making headlines for a study published in the January 2018 edition of the Journal of Health Economics. The article entitled “If looks could heal: Child health and paternal investment” details research results that hold implications regarding “the role of a father’s time in enhancing child health, especially in fragile families lives thus far.” Read More

SIUE East St. Louis Center’s Vera Jones Wins Tribute to Success Award

“I help identify barriers that may prevent someone from taking the next step toward achieving their life plan,” said Jones. “Through collaboration and partnership with local social service agencies, many of the barriers are removed, which allows an individual to concentrate on completing short term certification or a training program, register for school to further their educational goals, or work towards obtaining full-time sustainable employment.” Read More

School of Dental Medicine’s Joy Receives ADEA Fellowship

The ADEA and ADEAGies Foundation annually provide the opportunity for a dental educator to become familiar with a broad range of timely issues facing dental education through a unique learning experience. “Being awarded this prestigious fellowship is an honor both personally and professionally,” Joy said. “I hope to be able to translate my experiences into practical policies and assessment protocols for the SDM.” Read More

Weissinger Named SIUE Teaching Excellence Award Winner

“This award provides encouragement, that my observations of what it means to be a professional and a professor are accurate, and that my skills as a sociologist are sharp,” said Weissinger, who joined the SIUE faculty in 2012. “To the best of my ability, I provide students with the type of education I would want - knowing what I know now, as a person with three degrees.” Read More
Congratulations!
SIUe Class of 2018!
Click Here for Spring Commencement Schedule

GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS

Black Graduation Celebration
Tuesday, May 1, 2018 • 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Morris University Center, Meridian Ballroom
The Kimmel Student Involvement Center, the SOAR Office, and the Office for the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs will host a pre-commencement event to celebrate African and African American students.

Always a Cougar Cookout
Thursday, May 3, 2018 • 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm  Birger Hall
sponsored by the Alumni Association and Student Affairs

Attention Graduates!
It’s time to celebrate! You are invited to the FREE Always a Cougar Cookout event taking place on Thursday, May 3 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Birger Hall.

Enjoy free food, a zip line, a bungee trampoline, music, yard games, giveaways, a best decorated cap contest, and more!
There will be free Class of 2018 shirts for the first 400 graduates that attend.

Spring Commencement will be held on
Friday, May 4, and Saturday, May 5, 2018.
Check the schedule for specific times and locations.

For those family members and friends who are unable to attend Spring Commencement, SIUE is pleased to offer a live video stream of the ceremonies.

For more information, please contact kkarnes@siue.edu
Visit our website at http://www.siue.edu/diversity where our Institutional Diversity & Inclusion Programming Calendar is always updated with events and MCC hours.

The Multicultural Center is located on the 2nd floor in the Morris University Center (MUC)

HOURS:
- Monday 10am - 3:00pm
- Tuesday 10am - 2:00pm
- Wednesday 10am - 3:00pm
- Thursday 10am - 3:00pm
- CLOSED FRIDAY

Keep in touch with the Office of Institutional Diversity & Inclusion! Check out news & events on our social media websites:

https://www.facebook.com/siueidi/

@siueidi

@_siueidi

See something missing from this newsletter, that you feel should be acknowledged by the SIUE community to celebrate diversity & inclusion? We want to hear from you! Please contact the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion at siueidi@siue.edu or call (618) 650-5382

Have a Great Summer!
We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

- The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion