EMBRACING DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

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SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School Participates in Pre-Collegiate Program

More than 100 SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School (CHS) students filed off buses and onto the SIUE campus for a day of gathering valuable information about college and their futures. “We want to introduce Charter High School students to the college environment and get them inspired to come to SIUE or to any college,” said Makesha Harris, SIUE academic advisor and coordinator of the program with SIUE academic advisor Efronsini Hortis. Some of the program highlights and presenters for the day included:

- “Introduction to Academic Advising” by SIUE Academic Advisor Ashleigh Goedereis
- Career Exploration by SIUE advising staff members
- SIUE Campus & Residence Hall Tours
- October Career Fair

“For some of our students, this was their first time on a college campus. I am ecstatic that our students are being introduced to college at such young ages.” Your Future Starts Today is the fourth event of the year, according to Harris. The Pre-Collegiate Program held three other college-related activities at CHS earlier this year. “Efronsini and I will continue to work closely with CHS,” added Harris. “This program is a great way to get Charter High School students involved with SIUE and vice versa.”

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For more information on SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School, visit http://www.siue.edu/esl-charter-school/index.shtml

SIUE Students Use Spanish Course to Highlight Heritage in Fairmont City

Sixteen SIUE undergraduates studying Spanish for Heritage Speakers hosted a variety of educational activities for local patrons, ranging from lessons on famous Hispanic artists to showing family films and leading bingo games. Students organized, planned and implemented their own projects to expand their knowledge and integrate it at the local level, engaging in service learning throughout Hispanic Heritage Month at Fairmont City Public Library. “Knowing about Spanish-speaking communities in our area enriches the information from the textbook and provides a more complete overview of the language and Hispanics in the U.S.,” said Carolina Rocha, professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Foreign Languages and Literature.

“Due to the expected population growth of the Hispanic population, many of our students will spend their working lives using Spanish in different professional contexts. We want to develop their oral and written Spanish for academic and professional purposes, as well as educate them on the Hispanic communities in the region,” she continued. Their high-impact community engagement practice demonstrated SIUE’s values of citizenship and excellence, as students enriched young patrons’ lives while immersing themselves in lived language.

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SIUE Discusses Race and Ways to Improve its Racial Climate

Conversations about race, building a more safe and equitable campus and the changing face of higher education were among the issues discussed at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s “Race Dynamics and Racism on Today’s Campus” conference, hosted by the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion.

“This is a particularly important time to be having this conversation on race and racism on campus,” said SIUE Chancellor Randy Pembroke in his welcome address to conference participants. “It is vital to discuss and work towards the kind of learning environment we want to have at SIUE,” Pembroke continued. “It is important that we stand up against racism and hate. We want to talk about policies and procedures, evaluate what we’ve done in the past few years, look at where we are making progress, and examine the areas where we still have work to do.” The goal of the session, according to conference host Venessa Brown, PhD, associate chancellor and chief diversity officer, was to do an institutional review in reference to the national climate, changing demographics in the country and across college campuses, and in light of recent racial incidents on the SIUE campus that go against the University’s values.

“My challenge to you today is to listen to each other, and for each of us to ask ourselves the question: “What role do I play in ensuring institutional change here at SIUE?”

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Conference Highlights Include:
“The Changing Demographics in Higher Education,” as reported by SIUE professors Jerrica Ampad and Megan Robb

Small group discussions to rate where SIUE is on the Multicultural Organization Development (MCOD) scale, with stage one as being an exclusionary organization and stage six as being a multicultural organization, facilitated by Terra Cole Brown and Jessica Harris
Administration respond to white supremacy flyers: 'We denounce these organizations and their positions'

The white supremacist organization Identity Evropa posted flyers in buildings across campus including the Engineering Building, the Art and Design Building, Peck Hall and Alumni Hall. According to the Anti-Defamation League, Identity Evropa is a white supremacist group focused on the preservation of “white American culture.” In response, Chancellor Randy Pembrook sent an email to students, faculty and staff to address the posters. “We denounce these organizations and their positions,” Pembrook said in his email. “While the University respects freedom of speech, we recognize that these hateful efforts are clearly made to intimidate SIUE’s black, Hispanic, LGBTQIA, Muslim and other underrepresented students, faculty and staff and are in violation of SIUE’s values of an accepting and inclusive environment.” Associate Director for the Kimmel Involvement Center Michelle Welter said there are consequences for posting flyers without approval, but it is difficult to tell the difference between the approved and unapproved flyers. Considering the recent incidents on campus, Pembrook said it is important to continuously emphasize the values that SIUE upholds and to condemn hate and division against minority students in situations like these. In order to make campus inclusive for everyone, it is crucial to address racism students are experiencing and show that even instances like this are not welcome. “We’re going to continue the dialogue, we’re going to keep denouncing hate because there is no place on this campus or in our society,” Waple said. The administration will continue to take situations like this and improve how they are addressed to the campus and how they affect the students. 

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Dred Scott Book Author Gives SIUE Book Club Members Insights into the Man

Mary Neighbour’s book Speak Right On: Conjuring the Slave Narrative of Dred Scott was selected for the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion Fall 2017 Book Club. Renee Fussell, instructor in the Department of Applied Communication Studies, is facilitating the biweekly discussions. The book is one-fourth biography and three-fourths fiction, first released in 2006 then again in 2015 because of the shifting racial climate in the country. “I wrote the book because of how sad, perplexed and outraged I felt that we knew so little about the man behind the case,” said Neighbour. The writer then began to build on the little information that had been recorded about Scott. She started researching, among other things, the era that Scott lived in, the subject and various types of slavery, and Scott’s owners. The author divulged that she did not just want her audience to read about slavery, but to understand it on another level. “Imaging enslavement can lead to insights about our current state of racial relations and broaden our capacity for honest, personal connections,” Neighbour said. The book club will continue talking about Speak Right On, on the following Fridays: Nov. 3 and 17, and Dec. 1. from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Morris University Center, Multicultural Center, room 2060.

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Diversity & Inclusion Observances in November Include:

Native American Heritage Month (November 1st - 30th)
A time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. Heritage Month is also an opportune time to educate the general public about tribes, to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and in the present, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges.
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Nontraditional Student Week (November 6th - 11th)
Nontraditional Student Week is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate exclusively the nontraditional student population. The number of nontraditional students attending college on campus and online is the fastest growing demographic, according to the Department of Education, NCES. How a college or university chooses to provide for their nontraditional students can make the difference between a successful adult learner program and an unsuccessful program. SIUE appreciates our nontraditional students as they balance the responsibilities of work, school, and family.
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Veterans Day (November 11th)
Veterans Day is intended to honor and thank all military personnel who served the United States in all wars, particularly living veterans. This day marks the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 that an armistice between Germany and the Allied nations came into effect.
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National Dutch American Heritage Day (November 16th)
A celebration of Dutch American heritage and the contributions they and their ancestors have made to the economic, social, political, and cultural life of the United States. In 1991, the U.S. Congress officially designated November 16th as Dutch-American Heritage Day to celebrate the long-standing friendship between the United States and The Netherlands.
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International Day of Tolerance (November 16th)
This day marks the anniversary of a Declaration of Principles on Tolerance adopted by UNESCO’s Member States in 1995. The Declaration affirms that tolerance recognizes the universal human rights and fundamental freedoms of others. The Declaration qualifies tolerance not only as a moral duty, but also as a political and legal requirement for individuals, groups and States. People are naturally diverse; only tolerance can ensure the survival of mixed communities in every region of the globe.
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Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 30th)
"The Transgender Day of Remembrance seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence. I am no stranger to the need to fight for our rights, and the right to simply exist is first and foremost. With so many seeking to erase transgender people -- sometimes in the most brutal ways possible -- it is vitally important that those we lose are remembered, and that we continue to fight for justice." – Gwendolyn Ann Smith, founder of TDOR
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DIVERSITY & INCLUSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATING NATIVE AMERICAN & ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE

Nov. 2
1-2:30
Goshen Lounge

Nov. 7
12:30-2:30
Goshen Lounge

MIDDLE EASTERN CULTURAL AWARENESS

Nov. 30
12:30-2:00
Goshen Lounge

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
OPEN CAMPUS COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

The Office of Institutional Diversity & Inclusion
Morris University Center | 2nd Floor | Room A

This Friday, November 3rd
1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Why is the Historical Monument Conversation Important?

Join faculty facilitators Katherine Poole-Jones and Erik Alexander in a conversation about the relevancy of historical monuments as a reflection of societal values. Which historical figures do you feel should be recognized, and how? Add your voice to the conversation!
Venerable Jue Huang will present Lovejoy Library with a 20 volume set of Encyclopedia of Buddhist Arts donated by the Fo Guang Shan St. Louis Buddhist Center in Bridgeton, MO.

These are the first comprehensive books about Buddhist art worldwide and Lovejoy Library is receiving the 8th set of these in the English language.

The Venerable will be describing the challenges and rewards of assembling such an all-encompassing set of reference books. She will answer questions after her remarks.

November 7th, 2017 | 12:30 p.m. | Friends Corner of Lovejoy Library
Light, vegan refreshments and hot tea will be provided.

Please contact Jeff Brown, Director of Development for Lovejoy Library with any questions. You may reach him at jesbrow@siue.edu or (618) 650-2741.
The SIUE Student Government will be sponsoring their 3rd Annual Veteran’s Day Luncheon. Student Government would like to invite all current active duty military and veteran students, faculty, staff and retirees to attend this luncheon. The event will include a fully catered lunch and keynote speaker.

We ask that all military and veterans RSVP to attend, no later than Monday, November 6th at Noon.

**November 9th | 11am - 1pm | Morris University Center Conference Center (2nd Floor)**

This event is free to all active duty and veterans as a token of our thank you for your service. However, space is limited and available on a first come, first serve basis. Register to attend [HERE](#). 

If you have any specific food issues, please let Ethan Massey with Student Government know via e-mail at [emassey@siue.edu](mailto:emassey@siue.edu).
Sister Circle is a program that brings together women of color who live in first-year residence halls monthly to connect with peers and discuss the opportunities and challenges that come with college. It began as a University Housing initiative during the 2014-2015 academic year and has since turned into a collaboration with Academic Advising. A key component of Sister Circle is its emphasis on Peer Mentoring, where peer mentors are selected through a comprehensive application process. Many of the session topics are also guided by peer suggestions.

Past Discussion Themes Include:

- self-care
- women of color in the media
  - forming friendships
  - navigating academia

Sister Circle Aims To...

- create a safe place in University Housing and Academic Advising for first-year students of color to connect and develop positive and healthy relationships
- provide direct and indirect academic support for students of color
  - facilitate culturally relevant discussion and reflection
- increase awareness and connect students to academic and campus resources

For more information, please contact:
Dr. Kalisha Turner | Arielle Weaver | Makesha Harris | sistercircle@siue.edu
Your voice matters. Add it to the campus conversation!

The Online Learning Community on Blackboard is a place for all SIUE students, faculty, and staff to access resources and engage in discussion on topics of diversity and inclusion.

1. [Login button]

2. [Launch Blackboard]

3. [My Organizations]
Visit our recently updated website at http://www.siue.edu/institutional-diversity-and-inclusion/-multicultural-center/index.shtml where our new Multicultural Center Google Programing 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 8am - 4:30pm
Tuesday 8am - 4:30pm
Wednesday 9am - 4:30pm
Thursday 8am - 4:30pm
Friday 8am - 4:30pm

Keep in touch with the Multicultural Center!
Check out news & events on our social media websites:
facebook.com/siuemcc
@siuemulticulturalcenter
@siuemcc

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