embrace diversity & inclusion

A MESSAGE FROM...

Dr. Venessa A. Brown
associate chancellor and chief diversity officer

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.

MONTH IN REVIEW
An overview of SIUE news from August 2018

GET INVOLVED ON SIUE CAMPUS
iCare
Women’s Studies

CURRENT EVENTS
Monthly Observances
Upcoming community events

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS
Welcome New Faculty!

INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSITY & INCLUSION UPDATES
Fall 2018 Book Clubs
Diversity Day

MENTORING MATTERS
Meet & Greet
SIUE WELCOMES CLASS OF 2022
SIUE welcomed the class of 2022 in celebratory style. The future leaders who will contribute to SIUE’s mission to “shape a changing world,” attended an Academic Convocation ceremony hosted by Chancellor Randy Pembrook and Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Denise Cobb. Following convocation, students carried a Class of 2022 banner through campus, accompanied by a drumline. They received cheerful greetings and words of encouragement from SIUE faculty, staff, alumni, current students and community members.

A RED CARPET FIRST DAY
With the looks of surprise, bewilderment, shyness and pleasure, SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School (CHS) students walked down a red carpet on their first day of school to the cheers and high fives of CHS and SIUE administrators, faculty and staff. “I wanted to welcome our new students and welcome back our returning students with encouraging words,” said Wendi Brown, who originated the idea of the CHS red carpet first day of school. “I really believe support is critical to students’ development,” said Venessa Brown. “Charter High School students need to know that SIUE stands with them all the way along the road to success.”

COUGAR CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY OPENS ITS DOORS
After much planning by many students, faculty, and staff, the Cougar Cupboard food pantry opened its doors. This free resource will benefit students in times of need throughout the year, helping them to meet their basic needs and attain their educational goals. The Cougar Cupboard will be open each week on Tuesdays (10am – 2pm) and Wednesdays (3pm – 7pm) during the Fall & Spring semester. These times will vary during breaks & holidays. Students are allowed to go once a month! Make sure to bring back the reusable bag donated by Student Government next month to receive an extra item!

The Cougar Cupboard relies solely on donations to remain open. There are several ways for individuals to donate:

- Food & other in-kind donations can be dropped off at the Kimmel Student Involvement Center (located in the Morris University Center on SIUE’s campus) Monday – Friday (8am - 4:30pm)
- Food can be purchased through an online food drive (the food is shipped to us for free) here
- Monetary donations can be made online through the Foundation (the account name is Cougar Cupboard Food Pantry)

Questions and student referrals may be sent to cougarcupboard@siue.edu.
PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENTS SHAPE A CHANGING WORLD DURING INAUGURAL TRAVEL STUDY TO UGANDA

“The trip allowed my heart and brain to grow, and made an everlasting impact on me,” said Mica Coleman, a SIUE student pursuing a master’s degree in public administration and policy analysis. SIUE public health students had the opportunity to live out the mission of shaping a changing world during a five-week travel study in Uganda, Africa. Mica and the rest of her group worked in local Ugandan neighborhoods, helped develop programs to address issues of malaria and HIV, and advanced life skills like enhanced communication, gratitude and patience.

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SIUE CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS WAYS TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH THE HUMANITIES

The SIUE Center for Spirituality and Sustainability hosted a workshop focused on “The Value of the Humanities in Teaching and Learning about Sustainability.” Fourteen regional educators and community workers joined the conversation. “The humanities are fundamental to education for sustainability, because the humanities tell us about ourselves,” said Connie Frey Spurlock, PhD, associate professor; and Lisa Martino-Taylor, PhD, assistant professor, both in the College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Sociology. “The challenge of sustainability is getting to the truth of the matter,” said Srinivasan Raghavan, sustainability manager at the University of Missouri-Columbia. “We can talk about trees and the environment, but we also need to address social justice and equality – that’s also being sustainable.”

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EMBRACING DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
CURRENT EVENTS
MONTHLY OBSERVANCES: SEPTEMBER 2018

SEPTEMBER IS
NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH
AND
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Sept. 2: Krishna Janmashtami, also known as Jayanti, Celebrates Krishna’s birthday, Vishnu’s eighth incarnation on earth. Learn More

Sept. 10: World Suicide Prevention Day is a global effort to remember those affected by suicide, to raise awareness, and to focus efforts on directing treatment to those who need it most. Learn More

Sept. 10-11: Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the Jewish New Year and covers 2 of the 10 High Holy days that conclude with Yom Kippur. Learn More

Sept. 12: Muharram is the first month of the Islamic calendar and commemorates the martyrdom of the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad. Learn More

Sept. 12: National Day of Encouragement is a day dedicated to uplifting those around us and making a positive impact, no matter the magnitude. Learn More

Sept. 13: Ganesh Chaturthi celebrates the birthday of Ganesha, the elephant-deity. Learn More

Sept. 15-Oct. 15: Hispanic Heritage Month recognizes the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans in the United States and celebrates their heritage and culture. Learn More

Sept. 16: Mexican Independence Day celebrates the day Miguel Hidalgo is believed to have made the cry of independence (El Grito de la Independencia) to motivate people to revolt against the Spanish regime. Learn More

Sept. 19: Yom Kippur “Day of Atonement” refers to the annual Jewish observance of fasting, prayer and repentance. Learn More

Sept. 21: Ashura is a day of fasting observed on the 10th day of the month of Muharram to celebrate Moses’ exodus from Egypt. Learn More

Sept. 21: International Day of Peace, established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution, provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to peace above all differences and to contribute to building a culture of peace. Learn More

Sept. 24-30: Sukkot is a week-long “Feast of Booths” commemorating the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land. Learn More
CURRENT EVENTS
UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

GOSHEN MARKET ON CAMPUS
hosted by Goshen Market Foundation
every Tuesday through October • 3:30pm - 5:30pm • The Quad
Edwardsville’s Goshen Market Foundation is bringing tasty treats, healthy produce, flowers and other homemade items to SIUE. Goshen Market customers can use their Illinois Link Card and receive matching coupons of up to $25 to purchase additional fruits and vegetables. MORE INFORMATION

EDWARDSVILLE ART FAIR
6165 Center Grove Rd
Edwardsville, IL 62025
Hosted by The Edwardsville Arts Center
The 5th annual Edwardsville Art Fair will have create-it-and-take-it free events for children, $15,000 in artist award money, local restaurants offering food and drink, musicians and performers all weekend long! MORE INFORMATION
**INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSITY & INCLUSION UPDATES**

The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion sponsors professional development discussions and book clubs throughout the year. Current selections are as follows:

- **White American Youth** takes the reader into the depths of the hate movement and sheds a valuable light on the mindset of those who can be lured into this dark world. Christian’s astonishing change of heart is a testament to our endless capacity for personal transformation.”
  - Lonnie Nasatir, Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League

- **The New Jim Crow** is a grand wake-up call in the midst of a long slumber of indifference to the poor and vulnerable. This indifference promotes a superficial ethic of success - money, fame, and pleasure - that leaves too many well-adjusted to injustice.”
  - Dr. Cornel West, “Foreword” in The New Jim Crow

**STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND COMMUNITY, JOIN US FOR A DAY OF CELEBRATING DIVERSITY THROUGH EDUCATION, ENTERTAINMENT AND CONNECTION ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2018!**

[Click Here for Updates]
SIUE WOMEN’S STUDIES
STITCH AND BITCH!
Thursday, Sept. 6
1pm-3pm
Peck Hall, 3407
Join SIUE Women’s Studies as we celebrate all things crafty! Our FREE Stitch and Bitch sessions are open to all (students, faculty, community). Bring whatever project you are working on and craft along in a safe and welcoming feminist environment. Not working on a project? Some basic tools will be available for use. Crochet, knitting, mending, cross-stitch, WHATEVER! Come and mingle with local feminists while crafting your heart out. Coffee will be available. Feel free to bring a snack to share if you would like! More Information

SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE
Wednesday, September 12
8:30am – 4:30pm
MUC Conference Center
A collaboration between iCare and campus partners intended to further knowledge, skills, and abilities in understanding contributing factors to suicidality and existing best prevention practices. Topics will include substance use, suicide prevention in the youth, mindfulness meditation, trauma informed care, and suicide awareness in the African American community. Registration fee is $80 for non-students and $10 for students. CEU credit is available.

Contact Cindy Cobetto at 618-650-2164, cgorsag@siue.edu or Lisa Thompson-Gibson 618-650-2842, lithomp@siue.edu

Register Here More Information

AN EVENING WITH FRANK WARREN
Wednesday, September 12
7pm – 8pm • Meridian Ballroom
“The Most Trusted Stranger in America” and founder of PostSecret.com travels around the country sharing a collection of highly personal secrets on artfully decorated postcards mailed anonymously from around the world. Join us as we hear from Frank about topics related to mental health, suicide prevention, and his work with PostSecret. Free to students, faculty, staff, and community members.
If you aren’t excited yet, check out this TED talk clip.
More Information

AFSP OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK AND MADISON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE CANDLELIGHT VIGIL
Sunday, September 16
4:30pm – 7pm • SIUE Gardens
Please join iCare, the Madison County Mental Health Alliance, and the AFSP in this fall’s Out of the Darkness Walk on the grounds of the SIUE Gardens. The walk will end with a Candlelight Vigil lead by the Madison County Mental Health Alliance. Click Here if you would like to make a pledge or develop a walking team.
For additional information contact Lisa Thompson-Gibson at lithomp@siue.edu or (618) 650-2842.

More Information
Dear New Faculty,

We want to take this opportunity to welcome you to a campus committed to diversity and inclusion and to a community of scholars committed to ensuring that our students are ready for the world. We are pleased to see the diversity among your group; different races, ethnicities, ages, gender identities, physical capabilities and beliefs are all represented in your cohort. Your diversity is an asset that supports our academic goals and prepares our students to be successful in a future where converging ethnicities can foster innovation and quality of life for the communities we serve. You are strongly encouraged to share your diversity with your students, colleagues, and the community so that we enhance our learning, understanding of differences and ultimately celebrate our similarities.

Thank you and welcome to SIUe!

The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion
Mentoring Matters commemorates mentoring on SIUE campus. In this section, you will find updates on programs being implemented on campus and highlights of mentors’ and mentees’ success stories.

Enjoy!

FACULTY AND STAFF MENTORING STUDENTS
MEET & GREET SCHEDULE FALL 2018

**SOFTBALL**
THURSDAY, SEPT. 6
3:15 – 4:30 PM

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**
FRIDAY, SEPT. 7
2:45 – 4:15 PM

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**
TUESDAY, SEPT. 11
11:00 – 12:30 PM

**BUILD MENTORING KICKOFF**
THURSDAY, SEPT. 13
3:00 – 4:00 PM
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
OFFICE INFORMATION

Visit our website at http://www.siue.edu/diversity where our Institutional Diversity & Inclusion Programming Calendar is always updated with campus and community events.

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

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/siueidi/
Instagram: @siueidi
Twitter: @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

MEET OUR TEAM

The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion is housed in the Provost Suite, third floor, Rendleman Hall, and is comprised of the Associate Chancellor for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. Venessa A. Brown; Office Administrator, Rachel Garrett; and graduate assistants.

DR. VENESSA BROWN
Dr. Brown is the Associate Chancellor for the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer at SIUE with a tenured faculty appointment as professor in the Department of Social Work. She previously served as Associate Provost in Academic Affairs and Executive Director of the SIUE East Saint Louis Center (ESLC).

RACHEL GARRETT
Rachel Garrett is the Office Administrator for the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. She earned her BA in English from Greenville College, in Greenville, IL., and worked at the SIU School of Dental Medicine in Alton for five years before joining the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion in August 2016.

TANADJA “TJ” BARBER
TJ Barber is currently pursuing a Master’s in Art Therapy Counseling at SIUE. A few of her hobbies include making art, reading and traveling. She is looking forward to supporting SIUE in its continuous efforts to create a safe, cultivating and multicultural environment.

CHANEL NEWSOME
Chanel Newsome is currently pursuing a Master’s in Kinesiology with an emphasis in Exercise and Sport Psychology here at SIUE. A few of her hobbies include dancing, working out and volunteering. Chanel is looking forward to expanding diversity on campus.