# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 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 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.

“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**  
February and March 2019

### GET INVOLVED ON CAMPUS

**Ladies Night Out**  
Coffee with Cool Women

### DIVERSITY & INCLUSION UPDATES

**Phenomenal Women**  
Diversity Summit  
Diversity Day 2019

### FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Emmanuel Eneyo  
Dr. Sinan Onal  
Dr. Andrew Greenwood

### PAST & CURRENT EVENTS

**Monthly Holidays & Observances**

### MENTORING MATTERS

**BUILD Mentoring Pair Updates**

---

**Embracing Diversity & Inclusion**

---

2
SIUE'S SMITH EARN SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY ABROAD IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Hayley Smith is one of five students nationwide to have received a $2,000 INSIGHT Into Diversity Global Engagement Scholarship. The scholarship will support a 16-day study abroad experience in Northern Ireland from May 14-29. Read More

SIUE ALUMNUS DEVOTES 10 MONTHS OF SERVICE AS AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEER

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville alumnus Hank Niemerg is dedicating 10 months of service, relating to community and spirituality. Niemerg completed a bachelor’s in computer science from the SIUE School of Engineering in 2018. During his 10-month tenure as an Augustinian Volunteer, he is living in Lawrence, Mass. Niemerg is serving as a substitute teacher at Saint Augustine School and assisting with after school activities. Read More

SIUE ANNUAL DANCE MARATHON FUNDRAISING EFFORT IS MUSIC TO SICK CHILDREN’S EARS

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s seventh annual dance marathon raised a total of more than $40,000 for the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals in the St. Louis area as part of the nationwide “For the Kids” (FTK) movement. Read More

SIUE EAST ST. LOUIS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CELEBRATE “BLACK HAIRITAGE” WITH DR. MAKESHA HARRIS LEE

“Black hair does not solely identify us, but is part of our identity,” said Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Makesha Harris Lee, EdD, assistant director for Pre-Collegiate Programs. “These are high school students who will go on to college and adulthood. They will run into decisions about their hair, and they will deal with their relationship to their hair.” Read More
SIUE’S SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES COLLABORATIVE WINS INNOVATION AWARD

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Successful Communities Collaborative (SSCC) captured the Illinois Council on Continuing Higher Education’s (ICCHE) Innovative Initiative Award. Mary Ettling, director of the Office of Educational Outreach, accepted the award at the ICCHE Conference at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. “Community engagement is crucial to SIUE’s mission to serve the public good,” said Ettling. “The Office of Educational Outreach is pleased to provide support to the SSCC, faculty, students, and community partners engaged in the program.”

SIU SDM CELEBRATES NATIONAL CHILDREN’S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

The Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine hosted nearly 300 local children throughout February in honor of National Children’s Dental Health Month. “This community offering is an opportunity for us to educate children on basic oral principles, and identify any issues going on with their teeth that parents need to be aware of,” said Katie Kosten, DMD, assistant professor and director of community dentistry. “For our dental students, it’s a great opportunity for them to practice their clinical skills, build rapport and service the community in a meaningful way.”

SIUE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS WINS SEVEN COLLEGIATE ADVERTISING AWARDS

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Marketing and Communications Department received seven awards in the 2018 Collegiate Advertising Awards competition. SIUE matched its standing from each of the past two years when it also received seven total awards. Entries are judged on creativity, layout/design, typography, production, quality and overall effectiveness. SIUE earned gold awards in three categories and silver awards in four categories, including an award for the Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan in the Brochure-Multiple Pages category.

BLACK MOBILITY AND TERROR

As a part of the SIUE Black Studies lecture series, Dr. Tisha Brooks presented “Black Mobility and Terror in Jordan Peele’s ‘Get Out.”’
embracing diversity & inclusion

MONTH IN REVIEW

SIUE HOSTS HIGHER EDUCATION DIVERSE BUSINESS FAIR
The free business opportunity afforded small, minority-, women-, persons with disabilities- and veteran-owned businesses access to higher education and community college buyers in one, convenient location. “It could be seen like speed dating. Vendors come to present what services they can provide,” offered SIUE Procurement Officer Starla Nixon. “We all have one goal, and that is to help diverse members make connections with other universities, community colleges and other IPHEC awardees.” Read More

SIUE’S BLACK FACULTY AND STAFF ASSOCIATION’S INAUGURAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA TO BENEFIT BLACK STUDENTS
For the purpose of supporting and retaining black students, the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) held its inaugural Scholarship Gala that raised more than $4,000. “The purpose of our Scholarship Gala was to engage black faculty, staff, alumni and community leaders in assisting to raise scholarship funds for black students in need,” said Lakesha Butler, PharmD, BFSA president, and clinical professor in the School of Pharmacy. “The mission of BFSA is to provide support and advance the interests of black faculty and staff at SIUE, and an important interest of BFSA is to support our black students.”

SIUE’S BLACK FACULTY AND STAFF ASSOCIATION’S INAUGURAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA TO BENEFIT BLACK STUDENTS
SIUE Chancellor Randy Pembrook agreed and congratulated the BFSA in its efforts to assist black students. “SIUE’s Black Faculty and Staff Association is an important constituency group on campus,” said Pembrook. “SIUE’s ongoing commitment to advancing diversity and inclusion is evident in the recent diversity and inclusion accomplishments, including granting constituency status to the BFSA.” Read More

SIIC and SIUE combine for accelerated bachelor of nursing
Southeastern Illinois College (SIC) and the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing (SON) have agreed to offer an accelerated path to a bachelor's in nursing (BSN) that would allow students to complete their general education courses at SIC, earning an associate's in nursing, then complete their baccalaureate nursing coursework online through SIUE. “SIUE administrators were positive, listened to our needs and concerns, and were nimble enough to have real agency for quick change. They were amazing to work with on this project,” said SIC President Dr. Jonah Rice. Read More

SIUE’s Black Faculty and Staff Association’s inaugural scholarship gala to benefit black students
For the purpose of supporting and retaining black students, the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) held its inaugural Scholarship Gala that raised more than $4,000. “The purpose of our Scholarship Gala was to engage black faculty, staff, alumni and community leaders in assisting to raise scholarship funds for black students in need,” said Lakesha Butler, PharmD, BFSA president, and clinical professor in the School of Pharmacy. “The mission of BFSA is to provide support and advance the interests of black faculty and staff at SIUE, and an important interest of BFSA is to support our black students.”

SIUE Chancellor Randy Pembrook agreed and congratulated the BFSA in its efforts to assist black students. “SIUE’s Black Faculty and Staff Association is an important constituency group on campus,” said Pembrook. “SIUE’s ongoing commitment to advancing diversity and inclusion is evident in the recent diversity and inclusion accomplishments, including granting constituency status to the BFSA.” Read More
MONTH IN REVIEW
MARCH 2019

SIUE CONSTRUCTION LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES 2019 GRADUATES

The Construction Leadership Institute (CLI) at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville celebrated 35 graduates as a part of the CLI Alumni Day and Graduation celebration. Read More

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

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Head Start/Early Head Start teacher, Sandra Goodwin, earned the 2019 Illinois Head Start Teacher of the Year award. “I was really shocked and humbled by it,” said Goodwin, home visitor with SIUE Head Start since 2010 and early childhood educator for approximately 17 years. “Teaching is something I have loved to do since childhood. I taught my sisters their ABC’s and numbers, and helped my mother get her GED (General Education Development).” Read More

SIU SDM WOMEN’S DENTISTS PANEL HIGHLIGHTS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

The Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine (SDM) hosted its annual Women Dentists Luncheon Panel in Roller Hall on the SDM campus. Sponsored by the SDM chapter of American Association of Women Dentists (AAWD), the event focused on navigating careers and family with the topic “Design Your Life.” “We want to provide the students with a platform to hear about navigating childcare, being a working parent, professional dental practice advice or answer whatever questions they may have. It has become one of the students’ favorite events throughout the academic year.” Read More

EAST ST. LOUIS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MAKE CONNECTIONS AT SIUE

“The event focused on connecting the students with faculty, staff and student leaders at SIUE as a way to get them plugged into the community,” said Dr. Makesha Harris Lee, assistant director for Pre-Collegiate Programs. “The day consisted of several sessions, beginning with a morning social that included an icebreaker game, panel discussion and an activity about self-identity and values...Later, the students took a campus tour and experienced the SIUE Student Government’s Tunnel of Oppression,” she continued. Approximately 30 CHS students enjoyed the day of activities, information and connections. Read More
SIUE DISCUSSES WAYS TO LESSEN IMPLICIT BIAS DURING ANNUAL DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION SUMMIT

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 SIUE’s Diversity and Inclusion Spring Summit, “Implicit Bias and Institutional Change: Who Am I at SIUE?”

“This conference is meant to build on SIUE’s efforts and commitment to diversity and inclusion,” said Venessa A. Brown, PhD, associate chancellor and chief diversity officer.

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

INCLUSIVE, CAPABLE, TENACIOUS: PHENOMENAL WOMEN SHINE AT SIUE

The 2019 Phenomenal Women awardees were celebrated at the 5th annual Phenomenal Women’s Luncheon. Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s fifth annual Phenomenal Women’s Luncheon honored 15 women, comprising faculty, staff, students and community members, for their incredible positive impact as people and leaders.

“Through the annual recognition of phenomenal women’s contributions, we hope to inspire others to embrace and promote diversity within their own lives and the lives of others,” said Venessa Brown, PhD, associate chancellor and chief diversity officer.

“This event underscores SIUE’s core values, particularly those related to inclusion, excellence and citizenship,” added Chancellor Randy Pembrook, PhD. “I thank you for all you do, and the tremendous difference you make at SIUE. We appreciate it so much!”

Read More
SIUE 2nd Annual Diversity Day is October 15, 2019

Please mark your calendar!
SIUE 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 SIUE’s campuses in East St. Louis, Alton and Edwardsville in mind, this multi-event day will showcase the multitude of ways in which membership in the global community is core to our values and mission.

Engagement Session Opportunity
We are seeking engagement session presenters for our 2019 Diversity Day. Engagement sessions are 60 minutes long, and should be focused on a topic related to diversity, equity, and/or inclusion. If you would like to present at the 2019 Diversity Day, please click below. Proposals will be accepted until Wednesday, May 1, 2019. Please contact Dr. Venessa A. Brown, Associate Chancellor and Chief Diversity Officer if you have questions.

Submit Diversity Day Engagement Session Proposal

Please share the 2019 Diversity Day date with colleagues and friends:
# PAST EVENTS

## Major Holidays & Observances: March 2019

**National Women’s History Month** honors women as significant agents of historical change. The 2019 Women’s History Month theme was “Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Nonviolence,” honoring “women who have led efforts to end war, violence, and injustice and pioneered the use of nonviolence to change society.” [Learn More](#)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 1</td>
<td>Zero Discrimination Day highlights the urgent need to take action against discriminatory laws against people living with HIV/AIDS. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 2-20</td>
<td>Nineteen-Day Fast is a designated nineteen-day period each year during which adult Bahá’ís fast from sunrise to sunset each day. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 5</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday is a day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. Also known as Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday, and Carnival Day as this day is observed in many ways worldwide. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 6</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 11</td>
<td>Clean Monday is the beginning of Great Lent for Eastern Christian churches, which starts 40 days before Orthodox Easter (Pascha). <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 17</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day is the feast day of the patron saint of Ireland. In the U.S., a secular version is celebrated by people of all faiths through appreciation of all things Irish. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 20</td>
<td>Vernal Equinox occurs when night and day are nearly the same length, marking the first day of spring. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>Holi is a spring festival in India and Nepal dedicated to the god of pleasure, also known as the festival of colours or sharing love. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>Purim is the Jewish “Feast of Lots” that marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>Nowruz is an Iranian festival celebrating the first day of Spring and the Iranian New Year. Also celebrated as New Year’s Day in Baha’i tradition. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is a call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>Transgender Day of Visibility is a time to celebrate transgender people around the globe and raise awareness around the discrimination trans people still face. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>Cesar Chavez Day honors Mexican American activist, Cesar Chavez. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 31</td>
<td>Zero Discrimination Day highlights the urgent need to take action against discriminatory laws against people living with HIV /AIDS. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 2-20</td>
<td>Nineteen-Day Fast is a designated nineteen-day period each year during which adult Bahá’ís fast from sunrise to sunset each day. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 5</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday is a day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. Also known as Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday, and Carnival Day as this day is observed in many ways worldwide. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 6</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 11</td>
<td>Clean Monday is the beginning of Great Lent for Eastern Christian churches, which starts 40 days before Orthodox Easter (Pascha). <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 17</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day is the feast day of the patron saint of Ireland. In the U.S., a secular version is celebrated by people of all faiths through appreciation of all things Irish. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 20</td>
<td>Vernal Equinox occurs when night and day are nearly the same length, marking the first day of spring. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>Holi is a spring festival in India and Nepal dedicated to the god of pleasure, also known as the festival of colours or sharing love. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>Purim is the Jewish “Feast of Lots” that marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>Nowruz is an Iranian festival celebrating the first day of Spring and the Iranian New Year. Also celebrated as New Year’s Day in Baha’i tradition. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is a call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>Transgender Day of Visibility is a time to celebrate transgender people around the globe and raise awareness around the discrimination trans people still face. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>Cesar Chavez Day honors Mexican American activist, Cesar Chavez. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### National Child Abuse Prevention Month
Honors the importance of working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families. [Learn More](#)

### Genocide Awareness Month
Honors victims and survivors of past and contemporary genocides. [Learn More](#)

### Autism Awareness Month
Aims to increase global understanding and acceptance of people with autism. [Learn More](#)

### Arab American Heritage Month
Aims to combat harmful political rhetoric and promote positive images of Arab Americans, as well as celebrate their culture and contributions. [Learn More](#)

### Sexual Assault Awareness Month
Raises public awareness about sexual violence and educates communities about prevention. The theme, “I Ask”, champions the message that asking for consent is a healthy, normal, and necessary part of everyday interactions. [Learn More](#)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 2</td>
<td>World Autism Awareness Day</td>
<td>Is a day to celebrate the unique talents of those with autism. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 14</td>
<td>Ram Navami</td>
<td>Is the Hindu celebration of the birthday of Rama, the seventh incarnation of Vishnu. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 14</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td>Commemorates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem before Easter/Pascha Sunday. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 18</td>
<td>Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday)</td>
<td>Commemorates the Last Supper and is celebrated the Thursday before Easter. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 19</td>
<td>Day of Silence</td>
<td>Is a day-long vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of LGBTQIA+ students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 19-21</td>
<td>Theravada New Year</td>
<td>Is the celebration of the Buddhist New Year in Theravada countries. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 21-27</td>
<td>Passover (Pesach)</td>
<td>Is the eight-day “Feast of Unleavened Bread” celebrating Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 21</td>
<td>Easter</td>
<td>Observes the resurrection of Jesus. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 24</td>
<td>Armenian Martyr’s Day</td>
<td>Commemorates a day to remember the martyrs of the Bahá'í Faith, Bahá'u'lláh, publicly proclaimed his mission as God’s messenger for this age. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 14</td>
<td>Vaisakhi (Baisakhi)</td>
<td>Is a festival in reverence of the god Shiva that is celebrated at the 13th night or 14th day of the waning moon in the Hindu calendar. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 19</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>Is the beginning of Great Lent for Eastern Christian churches, which starts 40 days before Orthodox Easter (Pascha). <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 19-21</td>
<td>Festival of Ridván</td>
<td>Commemorates the 12 days when the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, Bahá'u'lláh, publicly proclaimed his mission as God’s messenger for this age. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 20</td>
<td>Day of Silence</td>
<td>Is a day-long vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of LGBTQIA+ students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 24</td>
<td>Armenian Martyr’s Day</td>
<td>Commemorates the genocide of some 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923 in Turkey. <a href="#">Learn More</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LATE NIGHT ROCKS
April 11, 2019 • 8-11pm • MUC
hosted by Campus Activities Board (CAB)
Come join the last Late Night at the MUC for the year! There will be an inflatable climbing rock wall, rock painting, a name that “Rock N Roll” tune game, and a make your own ice cream sundae bar-featuring rocky road ice cream! If you need special accommodations, please contact the Late Night at the MUC chair, Kara Meyer.
More Info

COFFEE WITH COOL WOMEN
April 18, 2019 • 4pm • PH3407
hosted by Women Studies
Come hang out with Katie Czeschin, a professional biochemist at Millipore Sigma and who is active in the local St. Louis cycling community, hangs out with makers and other folks who do STEM for fun, cleans up streams and maintains trails, and trains her dog in experimental physics and existential philosophy. More Info

SPRINGFEST 2019
April 22-26, 2019
Are you ready to show your Cougar Pride for this year’s SpringFest? Get involved on campus by engaging in a series of events during this week and show your Cougar Pride! More Info
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

BLACK HISTORY AT SIUE INCLUDES DR. EMMANUEL ENEYO
During Eneyo’s long and productive career at SIUE, he has worked to ensure that students receive a quality education, supported black engineering students in their pursuit to the finish line and advocated for more black faculty. “I cannot be satisfied with any achievements I receive,” said Eneyo. “My concern is for others and how to make things more inclusive, especially for the underprivileged and the next generation.”

Read More

SIUE’S ONAL RECEIVES HOPPE RESEARCH PROFESSOR AWARD
“Dr. Onal was the lead researcher on the National Science Foundation grant award that created the motion capture analysis lab,” said Jerry Weinberg, PhD, associate provost for research and dean of the Graduate School. “His research study of children with ASD is exactly the kind of impactful, multidisciplinary project that the National Science Foundation had in mind when it created the program that provides the funds.”

Read More

GREENWOOD RECEIVES SIUE’S VAUGHNIE LINDSAY NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARD
“Music is an incredible force for social change. We Shall Overcome was a key anthem that solidified civil rights protestors,” said Jerry Weinberg, PhD, associate provost for research and dean of the SIUE Graduate School. “Only through Dr. Greenwood’s work and similar studies can we gain a comprehensive understanding and appreciation of eras of important social and political change.”

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

Why did you want to become a mentor?
In general, I enjoy working with students one-on-one. Often, as instructors, our interactions with students occur in a large classroom. It is easier to get to know a student and offer advice in a mentoring role. Once you get to know a student, you can serve as a mentor for classroom and non-classroom experiences. It is very satisfying to relate to a student on a more personable level. Specifically with the Build Mentoring Program, it is educational for me to experience a different perspective on education at SIUE.

What do you like most about the mentoring relationship you have with Brianna?
The one-on-one interactions with Brianna are very enjoyable. It is also satisfying to know that I can help make a difference in a student's experience at SIUE. I enjoy letting the students see that professors and students are not as dissimilar as it may seem. Seeing students succeed and meeting their goals alone would be enough of a reward. Brianna has worked very hard to excel both in and out of the classroom. I think she has been very successful in both regards.

How has your relationship evolved?
When you first start working with any mentee, both people tend to be a bit reserved. This is understandable and is human nature. As Brianna and I have interacted more, I think we have both opened up. This allows for more of a mentoring relationship as it leads to more sharing and a willingness to express experiences and concerns. This includes classroom concerns as well as experiences outside of the classroom.

What would you tell someone who is interested in being a mentor?
If it sounds appealing to you at all, do it. I know that it is difficult to connect with all of our students individually when we work with such a large population. Thus, while it is rewarding to many, it is just not often possible. Serving as a mentor is a great way to work with a student on many different levels.

It is very valuable for both the mentee and mentor. That being said, not all people are the same, so mentors will need to be open-minded when mentoring different people. And if a mentee decides they do not want to reach out as much as others, it is okay. Your job is to be there if the student wants advice and/or guidance.

If you are interested in mentoring opportunities, click here for more information.
This month we feature Dr. Susan Hume and Dalyn Wells. Susan, the mentor, is an Assistant Professor and Department Chair in SIUE’s Department of Geography. Dalyn, the mentee, is a member of BUILD.

Why did you want to become a mentor?
I volunteered to become a mentor with a specific student in mind. Dalyn Wells took my GEOG 201 World Regions course in Spring 2016, during his first semester at SIUE. I didn’t see him again until he took another Geography course in Spring 2018 from one of my colleagues. Dalyn and I would sometimes exchange greetings in the hallway of Alumni Hall between classes, but we never really had a chance to have a longer conversation. When I saw the invitation to become a BUILD Mentor last August, I immediately thought that this was my opportunity to reconnect with him.

What do you like most about the mentoring relationship you have with Dalyn?
The relationships I have with students are usually in the classroom, through senior assignment or URCA supervision, etc. It has been nice to get to know a student who I’m not evaluating in any way. It’s been a long time since I was an undergrad, so Dalyn gives me insight into what it is like to be an undergraduate student today. Also, since I am a Geography professor and Dalyn is a Mass Communications major and Creative Writing minor, I have had a chance to learn about other CAS departments, undergraduate programs, and career options from a student’s perspective. I think this relationship makes me a better teacher, mentor, and Department Chair for other students.

How has your relationship evolved?
On the surface, Dalyn and I seemingly have nothing in common. He is a young, African American man and I am a middle-aged white woman. Dalyn is a very personable guy, though, and we always find things to talk about. We get together twice a month. At first we just chatted in my office or outside on a nice day. Now we meet for lunch or an early dinner in the MUC. I ask him about his classes, projects, papers, and how he did on his last exam. We also talk about his career plans and strategies for achieving his goals. Sometimes he shares his frustrations and I can offer an empathetic ear. I can also offer insights from my perspective so he can better understand where his professors are coming from. When I learned that Dalyn likes to write poetry, I was happy to give him my copy of Kevin Young’s 2018 book, Brown: Poems. He’s an African American poet of my generation. While I’ve never taken a poetry course, I love how Young so elegantly paints pictures with words, and in a way that is accessible to anyone. I hope he inspires Dalyn’s poetry writing.

What would you tell someone who is interested in being a mentor?
Being a mentor is about asking a lot of questions, really listening to what a student has to say, offering encouragement, and sharing advice. The BUILD Mentoring program has given me an opportunity to really get to know and appreciate an SIUE student who otherwise would have continued to be just a passing acquaintance. I would recommend the experience to any faculty or staff member who is willing to make the commitment.

If you are interested in mentoring opportunities, click here for more information.
Visit our website at 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.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.