Notable Initiatives and Continued Good Work

The Cejka Foundation Gift, through the Social Equity and Title IX Office and other account oversight office members, also provided financial support for the Humanities Training for Law Enforcement initiative, co-facilitated by Veronica Watson (above), professor in the Department of English and convener of the Frederick Douglass Institute Collaborative (FDI). In her FDI role, Veronica also served as the liaison for the IUP community in the presentation of multiple virtual town halls through the “Let Me Read You Your Rights” series. In addition, she presented through the IUP Libraries and Indiana Free Library on her book, The Short Stories of Frank Yerby. We appreciate Veronica’s continued partnership in her diversity, equity, and inclusion work.

Support and Reminders:

✓ Members of the IUP community have the right to be free from all forms of sex and gender based harassment, discrimination, and misconduct. Employees and university-related personnel are required to immediately report concerning incidents, regardless of how they learn of the alleged misconduct.

✓ The Incident of Concern Reporting link can be found at the bottom of every IUP webpage. Reports submitted are addressed through a coordinated university approach and are for non-emergency incidents only. Anonymous reporting is available for certain University Police and sexual misconduct incidents.

✓ The 2020-21 employee and university affiliate training initiative is concluding, with new hires continuing to be assigned as their payroll paperwork is processed. The addition of a diversity and inclusion course was well received and will be continued in next year’s annual required assignments.

✓ Need some help, but not sure where to find it? The Where to Turn for Help document is available online (iup.edu/socialequity) and lists resources.

Work Begins on Walking Audit Findings

Last fall, two small inclusion-focused groups of students took an observational walk around campus led by Social Equity/Title IX graduate students, Austin Marsico and Nabiha Islam, and accompanied by Dr. Driscoll and Elise Glenn. The students provided insightful, valuable suggestions on what would make them feel included on campus, what reflects who they are—and who we are as IUP. Action steps are now being taken across campus to begin implementing their ideas. A committee comprised of students and staff are working to be sure that our students are heard and seen.
The Social Equity and Title IX Office assists in fostering a campus environment that values individual differences and promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion. Reaching this goal across educational and employment opportunities at IUP is best accomplished if all are involved—and each member of the campus community can contribute to the mission.

The office defines avenues for reporting issues or problems, programming to support the message that moves us forward, and education and training to equip us all with the tools to contribute to positive change.

### Noteworthy Programming and Events

The Social Equity and Title IX Office hosts and supports campus-wide programs, celebrations, dialogues and trainings. Funding is also provided to the diversity commissions and councils: the President’s Commission on the Status of Women, LGBTQIA+ Commission, Hispanic Heritage Council, and the Native American Awareness Council. All commissions were represented and involved in the April 9 “Intersectionality Works: Allyship, Coalition, Solidarity” mini conference featuring guest presenter, Melinda Quinn Brennan.

The three conference sessions received positive feedback and this effort will continue next year. Special thanks to Austin Marsico, Tedd Cogar, and Jonathan Warnock for coordinating the conference.

Many campus entities have offered outstanding and significant programs this semester. Of special note, the Pan-African Studies Program hosted several interesting sessions and presented at MCSLE Lunch & Learns. Health and Wellness Promotion and Student Wellness and Engagement presented engaging activities and awareness events related to marginalized groups.

The Department for Disability Access and Advising (D2A2) is accepting nominations for the Coppler Disability Awareness Award. The award honors and gives recognition to an IUP student who has displayed exemplary and creative contributions within the past year toward disability awareness, advocacy, accessibility, support, and/or education. For further information, please contact D2A2 at disability-access@iup.edu.

On-going notable weekly series programming offered by the Center for Multicultural Student Leadership and Engagement (MCSLE) has included: Building Bridges, Student Leadership Toolkits, Leadership in a Multicultural Society, Six O’Clock presentations, J.E.D.I. discussions, Queer Conversations workshops, Diversity Peer Educator panels, and the Meet Up social opportunities.