On April 11th, the IUP community came together for an evening of unity and cultural exploration. An annual event of the Social Equity and Title IX Office, this year's celebration was hosted by the DEI Alliance with the theme of Global Met Gala.

The Gala opened with twelve students welcoming the guests in their own language, culture, or identity. Dinner included an array of ethnic and local food and was followed by student performances and dancing.

The DEI Alliance is a unified cohort of student organizations, each with a mission to support minority students by developing community, collaboration, and the creation of cultural visibility programs. Those specifically assisting with the Gala included: Collegiate Women in Progress; Colors in Unity; India Student Association; IUP Hillel; Lambda Sigma Upsilon Latino Fraternity, Inc.; Latino Student Organization; NAACP-IUP; and the South Asian Student Association.

The horizon leans forward, offering you space to place new steps of change. ~ Maya Angelou

2024 Unity Ball: A Joyful Celebration

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“Student spotlights this semester were: Marcia Briscoe, Alan Baumlner, Jeremy Risinger, Susan Graham, Marjorie Zambrano-Paff, Cathy Dugan, Ricardo Cortez, Jon Cooper, and Lynn Botelho.

Please email social-equity@iup.edu with nominations for next year's highlights.

19th Annual STEM Women’s Summit

Held on April 8th, this notable annual event included student research posters, networking, the presentation of the Patricia Hilliard-Robertson Memorial Scholarship, and a panel discussion featuring Kopchick College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics alums and regional scientists. A highlight of the day was the concluding Sneaker Art Workshop, a lesson in chemistry using hip hop culture. It was led by Ky the Chemist, aka IUP alumna and panelist member Jakyra Simpson.
Our office collaborates on campus-wide programs, celebrations, dialogues, and trainings. We thank the many student groups, offices, and departments for their efforts on all of the programming done this semester!

Of note, the Department of Psychology presented a special inter-disciplinary program in February on Integrating Anti-Racist and Anti-Oppressive Frameworks into Clinical Work; the Center for Teaching Excellence hosted semester-long activities, including a panel discussion in March on Open and Affordable Educational Resources; speakers Jessica Jopp and Kara French were guests of Women’s and Gender Studies and other campus sponsors for their presentations during Women’s History Month in March; the Kipp Gallery and the University Museum presented a diverse mixture of exhibits throughout the semester; and the Office of Student Wellness and Engagement partnered with the Student Government Association to create Project Connect, a new approach for our students to form community and greater ties at IUP.

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 is best accomplished if all are involved—and each member of the campus community can contribute to the mission.

The office oversees the reporting of 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.

Elise was honored to be a sponsor of the March 28th scholarship presentation hosted by Women’s and Gender Studies. Congratulations to this year’s recipients: Sarah Abuhandara, Xiaoyu Gao, and Anisha Grover (WGS and Social Equity awards) and Julia Marshall (WGS award).

The office was proud to again be part of the annual Take Back the Night event on April 10th, hosted by the Haven Project and Green Dot. The evening included opening remarks and activities in the Oak Grove, the march to the HUB, and a survivor support and speak out in the HUB Ohio Room. We thank all participating students and sponsors!

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The Social Equity & Title IX Digest is emailed every Monday morning and will return in September! Email social-equity@iup.edu with details of your event.

The NAACP-IUP (@naacpiup) is rallying students, staff, and administrators to join forces in denouncing hate speech and implementing tangible measures to foster a campus environment built on respect, understanding, and unity. The “Spread the Word to End the Word” campaign aims to raise awareness of the prevalence of racial slurs on campus and the need for action.

The Department for Disability Access and Advising (D2A2) is accepting nominations for the 2024 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. The award will be presented in late April during the Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society’s spring ceremony. Please contact disability-access@iup.edu for further information.

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Through a generous donation by two alumni, funding support is available for DEI efforts on campus. Examples of fundable initiatives include speaker fees, Aramark event catering, printing services, group apparel and miscellaneous items for recognized student organizations, student attendance fees at approved events, and more! Contact social-equity@iup.edu for further information and to submit a funding proposal.