

Issue Highlights:

Civil Rights and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Awareness:

- ◆ Center for Teaching Excellence
- ◆ Coppler Disability Awareness Award
- ◆ DEI Student Alliance and the Global Met Gala/Unity Ball
- ◆ DEI Funding
- ◆ Department of Psychology
- ◆ Haven Project and Green Dot
- ◆ NAACP-IUP
- ◆ President's Commission on the Status of Women at IUP (Women's Commission)
- ◆ Project Connect
- ◆ STEM Women's Summit
- ◆ Weekly Digest—IUP Values Me!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's Commission Spring Reception: April 23rd from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the Blue Room.



2024 Student and Organization Leadership Awards: April 24th at 5:30 p.m. in the Fisher Auditorium Mezzanine.

Blood Drives: April 25th (Noon-4:30 p.m.) and April 26th (Noon-6:00 p.m.) in the Folger Student Center.

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

Congrats, Graduates!



2024 Unity Ball: A Joyful Celebration

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.

Our office would like to thank all of the participating students and sponsors for making this year's event such a huge success—with over 250 in attendance!



Above: Gala opening by Elise Glenn and students.



Above: President Driscoll, DEI Alliance student leader Erika Jackson, and Chief Diversity Officer Elise Glenn.

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.**

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** alumnae and regional scientists. A highlight of the day was the concluding **Sneaker Art Workshop**, a lesson in chemistry

"IUP Values Me" is a popular section in the weekly **Social Equity & Title IX Digest**

recognizing students and staff for their leadership and involvement on campus, and their great work assisting our campus community with DEI and civil rights growth and awareness. We are honored to work with these individuals!

Student spotlights this semester have included: **Akayla Wood, Monserrat Lopez Villagomez, Zipporah Prescott, Gabby Harper, Nicolette Cloutier, Lilly Haugh, Khalil Nobles, Prince Atsize, and Marquise Bell.**

Staff spotlights this semester were: **Marcia Briscoe, Alan Baumler, Jeremy Rlsinger, 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.



Above: Ky the Chemist and Sneaker Workshop participants.

using hip hop culture. It was led by Ky the Chemist, aka IUP alumna and panelist member Jakyra Simpson.

Social Equity & Title IX News

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.

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Follow us!



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.



Elise was honored to be a sponsor of the March 25th 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!



Notable Programming and Events

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 **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 Copley 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.



The IUP **Haven Project** and **Green Dot** hold weekly table events and volunteer trainings regarding bystander intervention, consent, healthy relationships, domestic/dating violence



awareness, and the **It's On Us** campaign.



Through a generous donation by two alumni, **funding support** is available for DEI efforts on campus. Exam-

ples 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.