

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- What does diversity mean to you?
- Upcoming events
- Inclusive training opportunities



Greetings from: The Office of Global Diversity

What I love about the new year is the possibility it represents, the possibility of being healthier, more efficient, better today than I was yesterday.

That being said, I am most excited about the opportunity to serve each of you. The Office of Global Diversity will provide trainings, programming, and resources to help each of you succeed. It will also offer opportunities to celebrate each other through multicultural events and activities.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you and wish you the healthiest and happiest of semesters.

Heidi Tasa, Dean of Global Diversity

What Does Diversity Mean to You?

We took the opportunity to ask our university members what diversity means to them. Here's what they had to say:



Kayleah Allen,
Student in Elementary Education

Diversity means that my school has a wide range of races, sexualities, genders, religions, etc. They accommodate each and every one of us.



Mark Zimmerman, Dean of Students

To me diversity is an acknowledgement and appreciation of the differences between people and the willingness to learn from these differences to positively impact relationships and communities.



Jaci Lederman,
Director of Enterprise Applications

Diversity allows us to use our unique attributes to enhance creativity.

Embracing diversity empowers us to demonstrate EVERYONE is Loved, Included, Valued, and Welcomed.



Dr. Jennifer Pacheco,
Prof. of Business and Public Service

To me, diversity means excellence. All voices and ideas can provide value. Cultivating an inclusive environment allows everyone to genuinely participate, engage, and achieve. It is up to each of us, as individuals, to seek input from others who come from backgrounds that are different from our own. Excellence can be achieved when we find value in different perspectives and use our differences to be innovative, to problem-solve, and to grow as individuals.

UPCOMING EVENTS



*Please note that these dates may be subject to change and will be updated on our university calendar.

February

15

Dramatic Dialogue at JSU at 6pm

March

5

Black Hoosiers Traveling Lecture
at Red Skelton Theater at 2pm

15

Tracy Knofla at JSU at 6pm

April

20

International Fair JSU at 11 am

Training Opportunities



Faculty



Follow the link below to learn more about our inclusive teaching cohort.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

IN YOUR CLASSROOM

Interested in learning more about DEI?



Become a part of our second DEI cohort and earn a professional development certificate.

For Additional Information



<https://sites.google.com/vinu.edu/dei-instruction-workshop-serie/home>



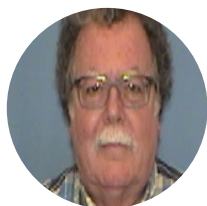
Faculty Thoughts on Cohort I

Penny Kirk, Prof., Department Chair of Study Skills

The Inclusive Teaching Cohort is a beneficial opportunity to become aware or be reminded that we have students in our midst from all backgrounds. ALL students have a story and all students struggle from time to time and are in need of understanding and support.

This cohort addresses students' needs and discusses basic ways faculty can meet students where they are and allow them to be heard, served, and treated with respect.

The guest speakers bring insight and clarity, and the discussion among the group allows for shared perspectives. It is a worthwhile time commitment.



Terry Nicoletti, Chair of B.S. Programs, College of Technology

Our DEI group has had very open and honest sharing of experiences and perceptions. Additionally, we have had outside speakers who have much experience in various aspects of DEI that have shared their experiences and research and I continue to learn something new or learn to think broader every time we meet.

Most of these speakers discuss not only how to help us grow personally but share things that give us knowledge and ideas on how to teach and reach various diverse groups of students. I would recommend that everyone, especially those who teach or otherwise interact with students join one of these DEI cohorts and to come with an open heart and mind.



Ann Hefner, Prof. of Communication

Participating in the DEI cohort has given me the information and real-world examples of how to be more intentional about inclusive teaching. I appreciate the opportunity to learn from excellent lecturers each month and share with my colleagues in open discussions. I'm getting tools that I can start using immediately in my classes.

I highly recommend this experience. Everyone is busy, but the time commitment has not been burdensome, and it has been worth every minute. The sessions are well-organized and enjoyable.

It is the most valuable professional development experience I've ever had.

Training Opportunities



Staff



Students

Training for staff and students will be available soon.

General Resources

[Academic Support](#)

[DEI Resources](#)

[Emotional Support](#)

[Food Support](#)

[Medical Support](#)





I need your feedback. Please complete this three-question survey.

Survey.



“Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization.”

— Mahatma Gandhi, Indian lawyer