Northern Illinois University

BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

Vernese Edghill-Walden, Ph.D.
Key initiatives & Reoccurring Themes

Engage the community

- Access
- Academic equity
- Inclusion
- Better Serve Underrepresented Groups
- Clear Vision for Diversity Programs & Initiatives
- Definition for Diversity
- Transform Programs & Initiatives
- Professional development and trainings
- Better Serve Underrepresented Groups
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Engaging Our Community in Diversity Initiatives

Strengthening Community Partnerships

EQUITY & INCLUSION

• Community Partnerships:
  • DeKalb Human Relations Commission
  • DeKalb School District Multicultural Initiatives Committee
• Community Engagement
  • Beloved Community Dinners
  • DeKalb Police Department
  • Rotary Club
  • Sycamore Chamber of Commerce
  • DeKalb County Community Foundation
  • DeKalb County Library
  • DeKalb Faith Organizations, e.g.: New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Partnerships for Moving Forward Together

EQUITY & INCLUSION

• Partnered with the DeKalb Human Relations Commission to hold smaller diversity dialogue sessions with community members.

• In partnership with Student Affairs Diversity Dialogue Facilitator Leadership, Dr. Katrina Caldwell, we have:
  • Led Social Justice training for DeKalb School District faculty and staff.
  • Facilitated Student Peace Circles for DeKalb high school students.
• Established the ongoing Diversity Dialogue series on Intersectionality.

• Launched a First Amendment Dialogue *March 21st, 2016*

• Hosted an ‘Allies in Interfaith’ Dialogue *April 21st, 2016*
Strengthen Commission Capacity & Implement Recommendations

Empowering the Presidential Commissions

• Partnered with the Commissions.

• Launched new Presidential Commission on Interfaith Initiatives.
  • Secured a reflection space on campus for Interfaith communities.

• In partnership with the PCSOGI, we are implementing single stall gender inclusive restrooms in Holmes Student Center.
NIU strives to create an environment that celebrates diversity in order to prepare students to join a global workforce as well as to enrich the lives of all who live, study and work here. The Office of Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is focused on helping NIU’s diverse student population succeed in their educational goals, find supportive communities and graduate with the skills and experience needed to coexist with people from all backgrounds.

Here you can learn about the goals of our office, explore NIU’s many diverse programs and initiatives, find your community and learn what resources are available to you. We are here to help you, so feel free to reach out with questions or comments.

News

Black Lives Matter! concert planned May 4

2016 Deacon Davis Diversity Award winners named

Diversity Summit scheduled April 27

Diversity Dialogues takes on interfaith issues April 21

Diversity Dialogues panel takes on the First Amendment
Collaborate with Title IX Office

Expand AA + EC Office to Support VAWA Recommendations

INCLUSION

VAWA recommendations:

- Expansion of the Title IX office.
- Increased human resources for incident investigation.
- Program coordination of prevention and awareness education.
- Current web-based information.
Collaborative Academic Revitization

Creation of the Committee for Academic Equity and Inclusive Excellence (CAEIE)

ACADEMIC EQUITY and INCLUSION

Develop strategic approach to:
• Re-envisioning the Human Diversity Requirement.
• Expanding faculty/student research opportunities.
• Implementing the Academic Equity Plan
  • Central to this plan is cooperation between and within each college for the best use of our resources to support academic equity
Revitalize:
Our vision for the Human Diversity Degree Requirement by taking a new approach to the mandate set out by IL Public Act 87-581.

Expand:
Our Research Model to increase engagement of faculty in diverse research opportunities with students of color.

Prepare:
Our students for a global workforce.
In collaboration with College Deans, we are addressing comprehensive academic equity and inclusion for diverse students of color, gender and gender identities, and disabilities by:

- Creating and implementing strategic plans to increase retention and graduation rates of underrepresented groups.

Stakeholders:

- Academic Cultural and Resource Centers
- Association for Black Culture Centers
- Academic Affairs
- Faculty and Staff

- Student Affairs
- Senior Leadership
- College Deans