



AUGUST 2021

IN THE KNOW

Newsletter of EIU's Division of Student Affairs

VPSA VOICE

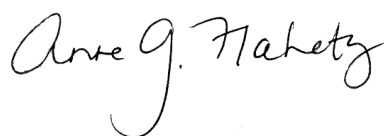
Happy New Year! Last week, it was exhilarating to welcome our new students and their families as well as our returners. All of this would not have been possible without the exceptional planning and dedication of the entire Student Affairs team! While I would love to give individual shout outs for Welcome Weekend, the thought of not recognizing each and every member of our Student Affairs Division would mean I left someone out. There are so many moving pieces to pulling off a successful weekend, and each employee on our team plays an integral part.

I sincerely appreciate all the time, energy, and attention to details by our staff to show our students that we are ALL IN for their smooth transition to EIU and for their personal well-being and success! Through my interactions with students and their families, they shared their own appreciation for the service provided and their own optimism and excitement for the year ahead. Truly, preparing for a new academic year is a herculean effort that is only possible by the collective teamwork of our Division. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

September marks the start of Latino Heritage Month. We are excited to reveal the brand new Latino Heritage month flag to be raised on the We Are EIU flagpole on September 1. Be sure to check it out in the South Quad next month, as well as programs and events being planned.

As always, let's remember the reason for our work - students! I hope you will join me for a moment of gratitude for the opportunity we have to positively influence our students' lives. Although I maintain an open-door policy, I am pleased to be offering student hours this semester at various locations around campus. Please encourage students to stop by to connect, share ideas, and ask questions at any of the 7 VPSA Listens traveling student hours. [Details are posted online.](#) Stay Safe!

Namaste,



SEE WHO YOU KNOW!

Welcome Week Photos



Renee Kerz and Linda Cruz keeping Thomas Hall in top condition for students.



Jody Stone and Brian Gough enjoying the Community Picnic.



Dr. Flaherty at First Night.

"IN the KNOW" only publishes photos with employees' permissions.



Mark Hudson delivering ice cream treats.



Nathan Wehr, Catie Witt-Danner, Jacob Mueller, Robyn Bauer, Dro Ariza, and CJ Gibson rocking First Night.



Ceci Brinker and Cathy Engelkes helping with the New Student Mixer.

KNOW ABOUT STUDENT AFFAIRS'

The Student Affairs Recognition and Professional Development Committee is pleased to share the descriptions for the new Student Affairs awards program. Please review the awards criteria and take some time to nominate a deserving colleague. Details about the submission process are available on the [Student Affairs Awards page](#). Nominations are due Friday, October 15, and the awards ceremony will be held in November. Members of this committee will select the award recipients.



The Student Affairs Employee of the Year Award recognizes an individual who consistently contributes and demonstrates dedication to the Student Affairs mission through positive influences on student learning and engagement. This award is open to all Student Affairs employees. This award recognizes Student Affairs staff members who have exhibited outstanding achievement in one of the following areas:

- *leadership in a national/international professional organization
 - *significant service to EIU and its students
 - *development of innovative activities
 - *commitment to mentoring
 - *long-term service to the Division of Student Affairs
 - *fostering of school pride and spirit (bleeds blue)
 - *fostering of community partnerships, health, and well-being
- Must be a full-time employee in the Division of Student Affairs.
 - Must have been in their role for a minimum of 12 months.
 - Individuals are eligible to win this award one time.

The GA of the Year Award recognizes a graduate student who has consistently exceeded the responsibilities of their position in a way that enhances the success, mission, and goals of Student Affairs. This student has gone above and beyond in being innovative and student-focused with their work. This award is open to all graduate assistants within the Division of Student Affairs.

- Must be a current graduate student at EIU with a Graduate Assistant position within the Division of Student Affairs.
- Must have a GPA of 3.0 or above.
- Must be in good disciplinary standing with the University.
- Individuals are eligible to win this award one time.



The Newcomer of the Year Award recognizes employees who have contributed to the success of the Division of Student Affairs and their individual departments through their use of personal initiative, analytical and critical thinking skills, and problem-solving capability. This individual is successful in moving a team toward goals that are consistent with the vision of a department, group, committee, or University organization. Has a track record of direct or indirect impact on the development of students and student groups in creating an environment which enhances student development.

- Must be a full-time employee of EIU working in the Division of Student Affairs.
- Must be employed at minimum 6 months but no more than 24 months.



The Outstanding Staff Member Award recognizes an individual who goes above and beyond the standard responsibilities to deliver quality service to staff and students. Recognizes employees who have contributed to the success of the Division of Student Affairs and their individual departments through their use of personal initiative, analytical and critical thinking skills, and problem-solving capability. This employee exceptionally completes essential administrative functions within the Division and fosters student success but is not necessarily always in direct contact with students. This award is designed to celebrate the contributions of employees often completing responsibilities "behind the scenes."

- Must be a full-time EIU employee in the Division of Student Affairs.
- This award will recognize staff that do not have primary supervisory expectations over other staff or students as part of their role.
- Will recognize two staff members in this category.



NEW ANNUAL AWARDS...

The Rising Star Award recognizes employees who have contributed to the success of the Division of Student Affairs and their individual departments through their use of personal initiative, analytical and critical thinking skills, and problem-solving capability. This individual is successful in moving a team toward goals that are consistent with the vision of a department, group, committee, or University organization. Has a track record of direct or indirect impact on the development of students and student groups in creating an environment which enhances student development.

- Must be a full-time EIU employee in the Division of Student Affairs.
- Must be employed in their role a minimum of 25 months but no longer than 60 months.
- An exception can be made for a BSW due to their bidding process and ability to shift between Divisions.



The Legacy of Student Affairs Award recognizes employees who have contributed to the success of the Division of Student Affairs and their individual departments through their use of personal initiative, analytical and critical thinking skills, and problem-solving capability. This individual is successful in moving a team toward goals that are consistent with the vision of a department, group, committee, or University organization. Has a track record of direct or indirect impact on the development of students and student groups in creating an environment which enhances student development.

- Must be a full-time EIU employee in the Division of Student Affairs.
- Must be employed in their role a minimum of 61 months.
- An exception can be made for a BSW due to their bidding process and ability to shift between divisions.



The Unsung Hero Award recognizes the contributions of an individual who provides exceptional work that is essential within Student Affairs. This award is open to all Student Affairs employees. This award is to recognize a Student Affairs staff member that provided services or initiatives to enhance our work, foster organizational health, and promote student learning and success during the last calendar year.

- Must be a full-time EIU employee or Graduate Assistant in the Division of Student Affairs.
- Must have been in their role for a minimum of 6 months.



The Friends of Student Affairs Award recognizes any person or group outside of Student Affairs who has been an outstanding partner with Student Affairs on a significant initiative to improve the EIU experience for students. This award is presented to the office or individual outside of the Division of Student Affairs with whom staff within the Division partner or collaborate to advance a cause or solve a problem to benefit students and/or the Division. The "friend" must be an integral part of the program or cause.

- The nominator must be a current member of the Division of Student Affairs.
- Nominations should be based on programming within the current calendar year from January 1 - December 31.
- Eligibility for this award will be a staff member whose primary responsibilities do not include supervision of other staff or students.



The DEI Advocate Award is awarded to an individual, department, or team who has demonstrated their commitment to the promotion and celebration of diversity and inclusion within their department, the Division of Student Affairs, and/or the greater University community. The recipient creates an environment that celebrates diversity, challenges assumptions, advocates for the inclusion of underrepresented groups and identities, and infuses social justice into their work for students, faculty, and staff.

- Recipients must be employed in their current position as a GA or full-time employee for at least 12 months.
- Nominations should be based on programming within the current calendar year from January 1 - December 31.
- Nominations may be for an individual staff member or a Student Affairs department connected through a program/initiative.



KNOW HOW YOU CAN HELP

EIU READS
"THE NEW JIM CROW" BY MICHELLE ALEXANDER

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
10th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

THE NEW JIM CROW
MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLOREBLINDNESS
MICHELLE ALEXANDER
WITH A NEW PREFACE BY THE AUTHOR

WE ARE COMMITTED TO LEARNING, EVOLVING & GROWING AS HUMANS AND ARE CONTINUING OUR CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE, RACISM, SYSTEMATIC RACISM AND HOW IT IMPACTS EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE.

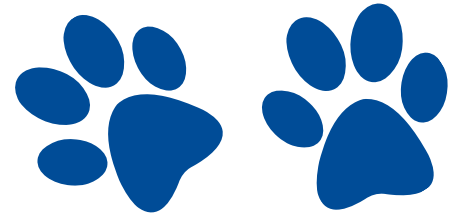
JOIN US THIS FALL TO DISCUSS "THE NEW JIM CROW" BY MICHELLE ALEXANDER.

WE WILL MEET ONCE A WEEK FOR 4 WEEKS FOR A 60 MINUTE CONVERSATION HELD VIA ZOOM.

THE CONVERSATIONS WILL BE FACILITATED BY MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION STARTING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20TH.

Civic Engagement & Volunteerism
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

REGISTER HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.EIU.EDU/VOLUNTEER/SOCIALJUSTICE.PHP](https://www.eiu.edu/volunteer/socialjustice.php)



PROTECT OUR PANTHERS

SHIELD TESTING

SHIELD TESTING HOURS:
Monday: 8:30 am - 3 pm
Wednesday: 8:30 am - 3 pm
Thursday: 8:30 am - 3 pm

Court 5, Student Rec Center

SHIELD COVID TESTING

LEARN MORE
go.eiu.edu/covidtest

It is not too late to join the conversation, register here.



Check out all of the Student Affairs employees listed in the Staff Senate Shout Outs. Please continue to take advantage of this opportunity to acknowledge and recognize a fellow employee.



Chief of Police Kent Martin, will be retiring from EIU after 25 years of service. Kent's celebration will be on September 30th from 2-4 pm in the 1895 Room.



Congratulations & Gratitude

Christina Coffey, effective July 1, 2021, was named Interim Program Coordinator to provide leadership at Textbook Rental Service.



Lieutenant Ryan Risinger will be the Acting Chief of Police beginning October 1.

EIU'S DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS



EIU.EDU/STUAFF

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Do you have an item for the newsletter? [Fill out the submission form here!](#)



VISION

The Division of Student Affairs is committed to being forward thinking and providing transformative life experiences that foster student learning and development, empowering individuals to reach their optimal potential.

MISSION

The Division of Student Affairs welcomes and celebrates our students' commonalities and differences, focusing on development, active citizenship, experiential learning, engagement, leadership, and preparation for a diverse, global society. Collaborating across campus, we ensure student success and retention and are dedicated to cultivating a sense of community on both our campus and beyond. We are committed to the health and well-being of our students and encourage them to lead balanced lives. We advocate for an inclusive environment where students feel safe and secure.

EIU DIVERSITY & INCLUSION STATEMENT

Eastern Illinois University is committed to fostering a learning community where all members feel welcomed and valued. The university provides equality of opportunity in all areas of campus life and we strive to recognize and appreciate the unique value of our students, faculty, and staff. Every member of campus has the right to learn and work in an environment free of discrimination and harassment, and beyond that, our goal is for all members of our community to develop a strong sense of belonging to Eastern Illinois University.

The Division of Student Affairs embraces and respects diversity in all forms and upholds these values through our programs and services.