

JANUARY 2022

# IN THE KNOW

Newsletter of EIU's Division of Student Affairs

## VPSA VOICE

When my kids were young, the saying, "The days are long, but the years are short" resonated with me. The last two years have felt both long and short as we continue to navigate the pandemic and the challenges it brings. Our Student Affairs team, in particular the University Housing & Dining Services staff and the HERC Covid testing team, experienced long days as they managed the COVID surge when students returned to campus for the spring semester. While it presented as a daunting task, the team came together to ensure our students were supported. The efforts of this week can be eased in the knowledge contained in this quote from Maya Angelou, "Every storm runs out of rain."

As we turn the calendar on a new year, it is a good time to step back from our lives and daily work to reflect on some questions: What brings me joy in my work? Am I making time to do something fun? How am I being intentional about taking care of myself? As a reminder, we have a Student Affairs Recognition & Professional Development committee charged with supporting the well-being and professional development of our team members, in addition to recognition of staff for their important contributions. Please share any ideas you have for the committee at [vpsa@eiu.edu](mailto:vpsa@eiu.edu).

I'm grateful to the men of Alpha Phi Alpha for hosting the 35th annual vigil and celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy of service to others on this holiday. As a civil rights leader, Dr. King dedicated his life to nonviolent action for racial equality. As Student Affairs leaders, we each have the opportunity to live out his work on a daily basis. Please consider attending or participating in any of EIU's events planned for African American Heritage month in February. In the words of Dr. King, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

*Anne G. Flaherty*  
Namaste,



# KNOW HOW TO HELP...

Below is an email message from Linda Holloway, Director Human Resources, sent December 8, 2021.

With COVID, we have all experienced a difficult and unprecedented couple of years and we still have not reached normalcy. Now is a great time to ensure that you and your dependents are aware of our Employee Assistance Program. EIU and the State of Illinois offers a very robust Employee Assistance Program that can help you and your dependents manage stress experience and provide tools for improved mental health. The EAP's services are free. ComPsych is available and can offer up to 5 counseling sessions (per event, per year) – remotely or in-person – to assist with your mental health needs. More than this, ComPsych also offers a wide array of services to assist with other needs such as legal assistance, financial resources, work-life solutions and more!

At this time, I encourage everyone to register at [www.guidanceresources.com](http://www.guidanceresources.com) and explore all of the life assisting programs, webinars, and resources that ComPsych has to offer. The service is confidential, free and available for any employee and their dependents to use.

Please consider this resource if you are struggling this year. Let's start the New Year off with the gift of peace and positivity.

Linda Holloway  
Human Resources  
Eastern Illinois University

## CONGRATULATIONS

### Angie Campbell Student Insurance

Angie was recently elected as the Illinois  
Health Information Management  
Association Board of Directors President.

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-Thank you to Sara Wilson for  
submitting this news. If you  
would like to submit news for  
the newsletter please use  
this link.

[Newsletter Submission Form](#)

### Thank You

Lt. Ryan Risinger  
for serving as our  
Acting Chief  
of Police  
Fall 2021. We  
appreciate you!

### Best Wishes

Brian Smith!  
Congratulations on  
your position with  
Northern Illinois  
University Dining.

### EIU Reads



### EIU READS

**'The Sum Of Us' by Heather McGhee**

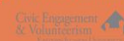


Join us in the reading of "The Sum of Us" by Heather McGhee.

We will discuss the book via Zoom and will be facilitated by members of the university faculty, staff and administration in March of 2022.

We will meet once a week for 4 weeks for a 60 minute conversation. Space is limited to 20 people a session, so don't delay in registering!

Register here: <https://www.eiu.edu/volunteer/civics.php>



# DO YOU KNOW?

## Welcome Chief Gamboa

Eastern's new Chief of Police, Marisol Gamboa, was sworn in by Vice President Flaherty during the Student Affairs committee portion of the Board of Trustees meeting on Friday, January 21, 2022. Accompanied by her husband, daughter, and grandson, Chief Gamboa pledged to faithfully discharge the duties of Chief of Police to the best of her ability. Officially beginning with EIU on January 4th, 2022, Gamboa comes from San Jacinto College in Harris County, Texas, where she served as an administrative lieutenant for several years.

Let's get to know Chief Gamboa.

When asked who her hero is, Gamboa doesn't hesitate to answer, "My grandmother. She was a resilient woman who prided herself in being a dedicated, committed, and responsible person. I try to always exemplify those same characteristics in all aspects of my life." Gamboa stated that her proudest attribute, being a first-generation American, also came with many challenges. "Coming from a Spanish-only speaking home, I had to learn to speak English as a way to communicate when I began school." Chief Gamboa feels that having a high sense of responsibility, purpose, and a desire to contribute to her community are all qualities that will motivate her as she leads the University Police Department.

Not only is Chief Gamboa a first-generation American, she is also a first-generation college graduate, having earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Midwestern State University. Currently pursuing a master's degree in clinical mental health, Gamboa hopes to be a role model for traditionally underrepresented students.

Chief Gamboa and her husband Ruben, along with their two chihuahuas, recently made the move from Texas to Illinois and, jokingly, Gamboa has asked more than once if it is always this cold here? Welcome to EIU, Chief Gamboa! And we promise it is not always this cold! Now we just need to figure out how to get her mother's delicious Chile relleno de queso dish here for her birthday dinner.





## **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.