

MARCH/APRIL 2023

# IN THE KNOW

Newsletter of EIU's Division of Student Affairs

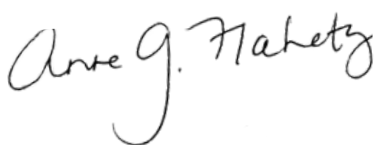
## VPSA VOICE

For five weeks, Crystal Brown, Mark Hudson, and I have enjoyed participating in Charleston's "Mapping the Future of Our Community" project, an endeavor coordinated by the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (<http://mappingthefuture.iira.org/>) and centered around strategic visioning for the community and economic development. It has been impressive to see the depth of community commitment surrounding this project. The BHAGs ("Big, Hairy, Audacious Goals") and implementation plans that have emerged from this planning will be shared at an upcoming town hall meeting in September.

The week of April 10-16 was highlighted by EIU's first annual Student Appreciation Week, a baseball-themed week which celebrated our "All-Star" students. All events "hit it out of the ballpark," and goat yoga checked a box on my bucket list. I would like to extend special thanks to the planning and implementation team: Nathan Wehr, Crystal Brown, Ceci Brinker, Laurel Fuqua, Lucy Ade, Taylor Comer, Jacob Mueller, Ashley Richardson, Justin Richardson, Victoria Tegge, Attainea Toulon, Alex Tserenova, and Téa Wheat.

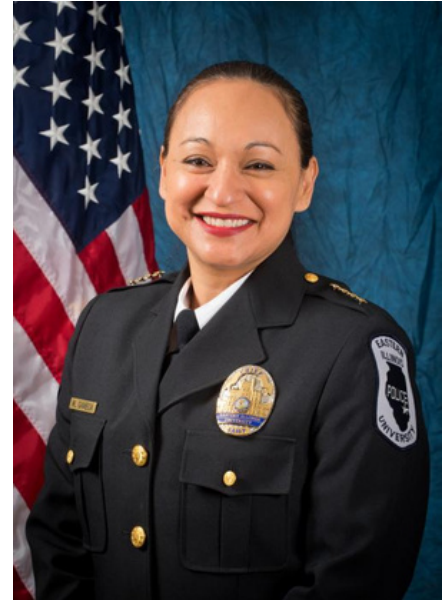
As the spring semester winds down, we begin to think about summer, including our annual Division of Student Affairs Retreat, themed "Get Centered," on Tuesday, May 16. The retreat will kick off with Nashville-based leadership keynote speaker Rik Roberts sharing his "Game Winning Drive" message, emphasizing the leadership qualities that develop champions. Breakout sessions will include options centered on students, centered on employees, and centered on EIU. Offices may be closed to allow all employees the opportunity to participate. I look forward to being together!

Namaste,



# GET TO KNOW...

When Marisol Gamboa joined EIU as Chief of the University Police Department on January 4, 2022, she made history as the first Latina Chief of Police in Illinois. President Glassman was recently notified of the inspiring historical significance of Chief Gamboa's hiring by Jo Ann Armenta, a retired Sergeant with the Illinois State Police. In her message to President Glassman, Armenta acknowledged that this distinction "has been long in the coming," noting that "Latinas have been employed as police officers since the early 1970s." Chief Gamboa will be featured in an upcoming book titled Las Primeras: The History of Latinas in Law Enforcement in Illinois. Chief Gamboa was also honored to attend the Women Making History Awards Gala at The Schuyler at the Hamilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. on Friday, March 31. At this event, Chief Gamboa gathered with inspiring leaders from across the country to celebrate women's contributions - past, present, and future. Chief Gamboa -- ¡Estamos muy orgullosos de ti! We are very proud of you!



## **Beth Reeder**

Beth Reeder has joined the MLK, Jr. University Union team working in the Ticket Office and helping to manage the Panther Pantry. Beth brings skills she gained as an administrative assistant for SERVPRO in Effingham and helping to manage her small family farm in rural Cumberland County. Beth and her husband, Shane, have been married for 17 years and have three children - Madison, Blake, and Lainey. Beth appreciates that her job at EIU still allows her to help with planting and harvest on their family farm. Beth serves as a member of the Cumberland County School Board and Cumberland County Extension Education Building Association. Her hobbies include "whatever her children are doing." Please join us in welcoming Beth to EIU and Student Affairs.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Cindy Sowers, University Housing & Dining Services, "Mom of the Hall," has retired after 35 years. Thank you for your years of service and your incredible impact on generations of residents and staff.





# NOW YOU KNOW...



Nathan Wehr, Leadership & Engagement, and Justin Richardson, Graduate Assistant, call Bingo during the first annual EIU All-Stars Student Appreciation Week



Téa Wheat, Graduate Assistant, presents Ceci Brinker, Student Life, with a Lifetime Achievement Award during the first annual Panther Leadership Awards Ceremony.



Alex Tserevona, Téa Wheat, Abby McBride, Crystal Brown, Hanna Zayes, Nathan Wehr, and Ashley Richardson during the EIU All-Stars Swinging into the Week event.

  
**GET CENTERED**  
*Student Affairs Retreat*  
May 16, 2023

Congratulations to Jessica Cobert and the Counseling Clinic team on continuing to maintain International Accreditation of Counseling Services accreditation standards.



**May 22 & 23**  
The Medical Clinic will be closed for the Sarah Bush Lincoln transition.

# IN THE KNOW...

## 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.

### **ANTIRACISM STATEMENT**

EIU stands in solidarity with all Black, Brown, Indigenous, and racialized members of our communities who are fighting for a more just and equitable society. We resolve to purposefully identify, discuss, and challenge issues of race, color, oppression, white privilege, and power, as well as the impact(s) they have on our community, its systems, and its people.

Racism is dehumanizing to everyone.

We strive to build a community in which all belong, while challenging ourselves to understand and correct inequities we discover. We must examine racism embedded in the very fabric of our society and demand action for positive change from systems of power.