

THE THIRD ANNUAL  
**Illinois Higher Education**  
 EQUITY SYMPOSIUM  
 October 3-4, 2024 • Student Center Ballroom B

*Gathering and  
 Strengthening Historically  
 Underrepresented Students*

**OCTOBER 3**

- 7:30 - 8:30 am **REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**
- 8:50 - 9:00 am **LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT**  
Carol Samarah, JD, SIUC
- 9:00 - 9:30 am **WELCOME REMARKS**  
J.B. Pritzker, Governor  
Dr. Dan Mahony, SIU President  
Dr. Austin Lane, SIU Carbondale Chancellor
- 9:30 - 10:00 am **OPENING KEYNOTE • From Margins to Mainstream:  
Enhancing Success Pathways for Underrepresented Students**  
Dr. Jasmine Haywood, Lumina Foundation
- 10:00 - 10:15 am **BREAK**
- 10:15 - 11:00 am **PRESENTATION • Blueprints for Change:  
Developing and Implementing Equity Action Plans**  
Dr. Brian Durham, Illinois Community College Board  
Ms. Ginger Ostro, Illinois Board of Higher Education
- 11:00 am - 12:00 pm **PRESIDENTS PANEL • Pioneering Progress:  
How SIU Presidents are Driving Equity in Higher Education**  
Moderator: President of Advance Illinois, Ms. Robin Steans  
Dr. Dan Mahony, SIU President  
Dr. Austin Lane, SIU Carbondale Chancellor  
Dr. Kirk Overstreet, John A. Logan College President
- 12:00 - 1:00 pm **NETWORKING LUNCH**
- 1:00 - 1:10 pm **SYMPOSIUM REFLECTIONS**
- 1:10 - 1:45 pm **KEYNOTE • Climbing to New Heights: Pathway to Educational  
Excellence from Asian American Perspectives**  
Dr. Sookyung Suh, SIU School of Medicine
- 1:50 - 2:30 pm **FIRESIDE CHAT • Elevating Excellence: A Framework for Asian  
American Student Success and Achievement**  
Dr. Jyotsna Kapur, SIU Carbondale  
Dr. Gireesh Gupchup, SIU System
- 2:30 - 2:45 pm **BREAK**
- 2:45 - 3:30 pm **ASIAN STUDENT SUCCESS PANEL • Empowering Voices:  
Asian American Student Success in a Diverse Educational  
Landscape**  
Moderator: Dr. Gireesh Gupchup  
Panelists: Baymuhammet Baltayev, Prisha Kittu, and Michelle Vuu,  
SIU Students
- 3:30 - 4:15 pm **KEYNOTE • Cultural Richness and Academic Brilliance:  
Supporting Latino Students to Thrive**  
Dr. Rocio Rivadeneyra, Illinois State University
- 4:15 - 4:45 pm **Latino Student Success Panel • Harnessing Collective Knowledge**  
Moderator: Dr. Rocio Rivadeneyra, Illinois State University  
Panelists: Karina Leyva, Marisol Nunez, and Arturo Pedroza, Illinois  
State University Students
- 4:45 - 5:00 pm **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**
- 6:00 - 7:30 pm **NETWORKING DINNER**

**OCTOBER 4**

- 7:30 - 8:15 am **NETWORKING BREAKFAST**
- 8:30 - 9:00 am **CULTIVATING WELLNESS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY FOR  
STUDENT SUCCESS**  
Dr. Chris Smyre, SIU School of Medicine  
Dr. Clarissa Williams, SIU School of Medicine
- 9:00 - 9:45 am **ADEI LEADERSHIP PANEL • Advancing Equity: Insights and  
Initiatives from ADEI Leaders**  
Moderator: Dr. Sheila Caldwell, SIU System Office  
Dr. Wendi El-Amin, SIU School of Medicine  
Dr. Paul Frazier, SIU Carbondale  
Dr. Jessica Harris, SIU Edwardsville
- 9:45 - 10:30 am **AA STUDENT SUCCESS PANEL • Roots and Wings:  
Empowering African & African American Students**  
Moderator: Dr. Lelia Ellis-Nelson, Chicago State University  
Panelists: Diamond Jackson, Dennis Sturkey, Ure Okike, and Keirra  
Lipford, Students
- 10:30 - 10:45 am **BREAK**
- 10:45 - 11:30 am **CLOSING KEYNOTE • Beyond the Symposium: Forging a  
Future of Equity and Excellence in Higher Education**  
Dr. Alison Kadlec, Sova  
Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Sova
- 11:30 - 11:45 am **CLOSING COMMENTS**
- 11:45 am - 1:00 pm **NETWORKING LUNCH**

Note:  
 Participants can earn clock hours for the ADEI Leadership Certificate and continuing  
 education credit hours for attending sessions.

**Speaker Bios**



Thank you for attending the symposium. We hope you enjoyed our event.  
 Please take a moment to complete the post survey using the QR code below.

**Post Survey**



**Southern Illinois University System**  
 APPROVED FOR ADEI LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE



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