



September 2021
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Newsletter

Keep a lookout!



Hello ICCHE members.

Our Conference Planning Committee is working on the 47th Annual ICCHE Conference, to be offered in the spring of 2022.

Based on the best information available to us now, we are leaning towards a virtual conference platform. That decision is still tentative at this time.

Please “keep a lookout” for upcoming conference announcements in the ICCHE listserv and the January newsletter, including a “Save the Date” notice and registration information.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Ruben Howard II, Ph.D.

Dear ICCHE Colleagues,

As the fall semester started, many community college leaders were still optimistic that the right mix of learning modalities (online, face-to-face, and hybrid) would lead to an improvement in enrollment from the previous semesters. Since the decrease in enrollment in community colleges could potentially be attributed to a variety of COVID-19 related factors, going back to the way things were pre-COVID is not an option. The overall challenge for leaders remains to determine how much long-term change is needed today and moving forward in order to remain competitive and relevant. Many community colleges have invested more in online platforms, provided online training for faculty, and developed a work from home policy for employees to adjust to this new world.

Depending on the state, community colleges have various mitigation strategies for students and employees. In Illinois, Governor J.B. Pritzker announced new COVID-19 mitigations in late August, which include a statewide indoor mask mandate and vaccination requirements for select groups, including higher education students and employees. Per the mandate, all higher education employees and students must receive at least one COVID-19 dose, or they must provide weekly proof of a negative COVID-19 test. Planning for future semesters without knowing how COVID-19 will continue to affect current and potential students from enrolling will continue to be a challenge for community college leaders.

We have to understand that COVID-19 impacted the most vulnerable populations especially due to higher case rates, hospitalizations, and deaths. The likelihood of remote or hybrid approaches to instruction delivery is increasing, and those students who attend classes online are not likely to have a typical on-campus experience. Recognizing the inequities and leveling the playing field by offering resources and assistance is critical for these students to achieve their personal and academic goals.

We will get through this eventually but the safety of our students, staff, and faculty must be our 1st priority.

Stay safe and take care.

Ruben Howard II, Ph.D.
ICCHE President



ICCHE SPOTLIGHT

Mary Ettlingly

1. How and when did you get involved with ICCHE?

I became involved in ICCHE in 2010. My former colleague was in a Leadership role and insisted that I come to the conference in Chicago. What a transformational moment to meet so many people working in the same spaces across the state! People who understand your lived work experiences can engage with an unmatched level of empathy and attention. I was hooked!

2. What do you think was the best change for continuing education that has come from 2020-21 that will continue into future years.

It is hard for us to talk about the pandemic in terms of anything good. Prior to COVID-19, there was already a move toward continuing education playing more of a critical role within our universities and colleges, but the pandemic and the demonstrated ability we had to pivot to virtual formats, accelerated this move. Another necessary change is the drive toward stackable credentials including non-credit to credit opportunities such as PLA, badges, and workforce training programs.

3. Tell us a bit about your work as Director of Online and Education Outreach at SIUE.

Like many of our readers, the work is dynamic and no two days are the same. Our unit supports the work of the entire campus by serving online degree completion, non-credit personal and professional activities, alternative digital credentials, off campus credit courses, NC-SARA compliance, conferences, lifelong learning, trips, events, the Successful Communities Collaborative and corporate partnerships/engagement. We are new in working intentionally in the DEI space, and the work is difficult, emotional and messy, but it is critically important. I am proud of the work we are doing.

4. What was the turning point in your career that brought you to where you are today?

My undergraduate degree is in elementary education and I was a classroom teacher for over a decade. When I moved overseas as a military family member there were limited opportunities to teach so I began working at the Geilenkirchen, Germany and AFCENT, NL Education Centers as a CLEP/DANTES test administrator and eventually as a field representative for The University of Oklahoma where I earned a Master's Degree in Adult and Higher Education. Although I did go back to teaching for a short period of time, the desire to serve in a higher education role became deep-rooted and I couldn't stay away. Landing in continuing education was even more appealing because it allowed me to serve the entire campus community instead of a college or school.

5. What is your best advice for people looking to enter the field of higher education today?

I think it's important to appreciate the multiple roles that all work together for the students. Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, administration, teaching, housing, compliance, instructional design, marketing/social media, and athletics are just some of the places where higher education professionals may serve. Learning about all the areas, helps individuals understand the complex network that exists to support our students.

6. What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

I once thought about writing an autobiography. I only got as far as penning the title "Walking the Tightrope in Sensible Shoes". If that sounds as boring to you as it did to me, you know why that is all I completed of my memoir. Also, I know every word to every 80's song. Test me.



Thank you Mary
for all your support
in ICCHE!





WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE



University of Illinois Springfield

SHIELD Illinois – Responsive Innovation

The University of Illinois has developed SHIELD Illinois, a 'gold standard' turnkey COVID testing solution used by numerous organizations throughout the state. Each of the U of I campuses were early adopters of this testing which proved effective in managing the risk of COVID. Recently, SHIELD Illinois was asked to provide testing to K-12 school districts and higher education institutions with the goal to:

- Prevent transmission of COVID.
- Curb outbreaks in the school and community.
- Keep students in the classroom.



Both UIS and UIS Peoria have been actively engaged to promote SHIELD Illinois. Today, across Illinois there are 30+ higher education institutions and 200+ K-12 school districts using SHIELD Illinois testing. The University of Illinois System has been responsive to address a critical need to keep our community members safe.

The Center for Online Learning and Service (COLRS) at University of Illinois Springfield

New online degree and certificate programs have been added to UIS's offerings. Students can now enroll in the following fully-online programs: a bachelor's degree in public administration, a master's degree in business administration (MBA), a master's degree in finance, and two certificates in cybersecurity administration and management. The online bachelor's degree in public administration will prepare students to serve as managers in local, state and federal government as well as the nonprofit sector. The online master's degree in finance responds to a critical need of regional banks, finance professionals and financial institutions to employ professionals with the knowledge and skills required to continue being competitive. The online MBA program is also designed to allow more working professionals to continue their education and earn a master's degree.

The Center for Online Learning, Research and Service at the University of Illinois Springfield have six faculty members who will serve as COLRS Faculty Research Fellows during the 2021-22 academic year. Faculty Fellows coordinate, facilitate and advocate for research in online and blended learning. Faculty serving as fellows are:

- Dr. Lan Dong, Professor, English & Modern Languages
- Dr. Yanhui Guo, Assistant Professor, Computer Science
- Dr. Serkan Karadas, Assistant Professor of Accounting, Economics, and Finance
- Dr. Elizabeth Ribarsky, Associate Professor of Communication
- Dr. Yona Stamatis, Associate Professor, Art, Music & Theater
- Dr. Junfeng Wang, Associate Professor of Public Administration

Fellows are selected based on the fit of their proposed work with the research mission of COLRS. Learn more about their planned research projects at go.uis.edu/fellows.

UIS NEWS:

[UIS Director of Study Away Programs Jonathan GoldbergBelle honored for excellence in community programming | University of Illinois Springfield](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE

UIS partners with Green Flower to offer non-credit online certificates in cannabis business education

The University of Illinois Springfield Office of Continuing and Professional Education (CAPE) has partnered with Green Flower to offer non-credit online certificates in cannabis business education. Each online program includes three, eight-week fully online courses.

The expanding cannabis industry is creating a demand for qualified workers with a broad range of skills. According to Business Wire, cannabis is the fastest growing industry in America. UIS is partnering with Green Flower to address the critical need for workers in the industry.

“The UIS Office of Continuing and Professional Education (CAPE) is dedicated to developing skill-based programming and expanding non-credit opportunities,” said Rob Kerr, UIS associate director of Continuing and Professional Education. “We are excited to be the first university in Illinois to partner with Green Flower to offer in-demand cannabis certificate programs. The Illinois cannabis sector has enormous growth potential. There are 25 dispensaries and cultivation centers within 100 miles of our campus, and over 16,000 employees statewide. This market is booming, and those with the right training will be positioned to take full advantage of it.”

Programs will cover the business of cannabis, agriculture and horticulture, law and policy and healthcare and medicine. These certificates will complement existing credentials and advance the knowledge and practice of cannabis for professionals across multiple sectors.

“Green Flower is honored to be working with the University of Illinois Springfield and in particular the office of Continuing and Professional Education. We saw the commitment by the university of expanding offerings for working adults and lifelong learners as an obvious sign that the university wants to serve all types of students in every stage of their growth and careers,” said Daniel Kalef, vice president of higher education at Green Flower. “A little over a year after the state of Illinois made adult-use cannabis legal, the state has shown some of the fastest and largest growth of any state in the country, and as the sales expand, so does the industry and tremendous job opportunities. We applaud the leadership of the university for their foresight in wanting to offer certificate programs designed to prepare people for careers in what is now the fastest growing job market in the country. We can think of no better university or group of people in Illinois with whom to partner and are excited to begin offering these programs to the public this summer.”

Courses begin Aug. 23, and enrollment is now open. Students may enroll at cannabiseducation.uis.edu. The cost is \$2,500 per certificate, but UIS is offering a \$300 discount for students who enroll in the August cohort.

Courses are designed using online learning best practices and are scheduled to accommodate working professionals. Students will develop a portfolio of case studies and projects that can be used to demonstrate sector-specific cannabis knowledge. Upon successful completion of the program, students will earn a certificate of completion from the University of Illinois Springfield.

Questions about the new online certificates can be emailed to cannabiseducation@uis.edu.

University of Illinois Springfield



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE



Northern Illinois University College of Education

Programs

Fifteen newly minted teachers graduated from NIU this spring – following a May 7 celebration at Elgin Community College, where they completed all four years of their coursework toward B.S.Ed. degrees in Elementary Education with Bilingual/ESL endorsement. Part of the NIU College of Education's PLEDGE (Partnering to Lead and Empower District-Grown Educators) initiative, the ECC-to-NIU program is accessible, affordable and designed specifically for place-bound, working adults with family responsibilities. New Huskie alumna Janet Guadarrama, who attended Elgin U-46 schools, called the opportunity "perfect" for her: "I got to stay at home, be with my family – I have younger siblings I like to look after – and attend a college I really want to attend. It really helped me financially."



Pictured: Janet Guadarrama

The NIU College of Education has signed new 2+2 agreements with Elgin Community College and Rock Valley College. NIU's Department of Special and Early Education has launched a cohort this fall toward the B.S.Ed. in Learning Behavior Specialist I degrees; students start their coursework at ECC with coordinated academic advising and, two years later, transfer seamlessly into NIU, which will deliver all classes either in-person at ECC, or virtually, toward a May 2025 graduation. NIU's Department of Curriculum and Instruction, meanwhile, has partnered with Rock Valley to smooth the transfer path from Rockford to DeKalb for students pursuing B.S.Ed. degrees in Elementary Education with ESL/Bilingual endorsement.

Ushynsky University in Odessa, Ukraine, is the latest partner in the NIU College of Education's Educate Global program. Mariana Ricklefs, an assistant professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, worked with Anna Slobodianiuk, director of the Israeli Culture Center and on the faculty of Ushynsky's Department of German Philology and Methods of Teaching Foreign Languages, to deliver the online experience via Zoom in March and April. More than 100 students on two continents participated in seminars and conversations about teaching English, which included (appropriately) an examination of methodologies and strategies for keeping students engaged in virtual environments.



Northern Illinois University
Your Future. Our Focus.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE

Northern Illinois University College of Education

People

LaVerne Gyant, a professor in the NIU Department of Counseling and Higher Education, retired this spring after 27 years – but her legacy will endure. The College of Education has created the Dr. LaVerne Gyant Alumni Mentoring Program to pair Black alumni with Black students to nurture relationships steeped in wisdom and guidance that produce excellent outcomes for students and their families and communities.

Undergraduates (“Dr. G. Scholars”) receive one-on-one mentoring along with academic, social and cultural experiences in safe, supportive spaces to develop positive relationships, social competence and self-esteem. The program soon will add graduate students. Gyant also spent 17 years as director and associate director of NIU’s Center for Black Studies, where she expanded classes, resources and programming that included mentoring and Study Abroad while also establishing the John Henrik Clarke Honor Society.

Stephanie DeSpain was one of three recipients this spring of NIU’s inaugural Excellence in Online Teaching Award, presented by the university’s Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning. DeSpain, an assistant professor of Early Childhood Education, already had developed and was teaching some classes online in the Department of Special and Early Education before March 2020’s sudden shift to remote learning. Among the criteria for the new award were exceptional effort to ensure the quality of the online learning environment, high standards for the rigor and currency of course content and the level of student performance and innovation in online course development.

Former NIU Dean of Students Kelly Wesener Michael joined the NIU College of Education’s Department of Counseling and Higher Education July 1 as a Practitioner-Scholar in Residence. Wesener Michael, who holds an Ed.D. in Higher Education/Higher Education Administration from Indiana University Bloomington, is teaching classes in higher education and student affairs, mentoring dissertating doctoral candidates and collaborating with faculty colleagues to widen the Social Change Leadership curriculum. She also is providing support to some of the college’s student success initiatives.



Pictured: LaVerne Guyant



Pictured: Stephanie DeSpain



Pictured: Kelly Wesener Michael



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

New Name

Formerly known as the Office of Educational Outreach, the unit initiated a change for a new, more descriptive name. The new Office of Online Services and Educational Outreach (OSEO) has added staff that support a number of new initiatives across the campus. Most recently, the unit has taken responsibility for student services related to new online degree completion programs as well as new post bachelor's certificates and fully online programs. The OSEO leads collaborative initiatives that enhance the learner experience for students in fully online programs. Stephanie Simpson, Assistant Director of Online Student Services says, "With over 170 students admitted to online degree completion programs for the Fall 2021 semester, it is clear that the online student presence is growing at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE). I believe we will continue to see the number of online courses and programs grow substantially, which speaks to the need of a dedicated group of individuals tasked with extending the traditional on ground experience in a way that meets the needs of our online student population. By thinking strategically about how we can support and enhance the student experience for those who may never step foot on campus, we are affirming our commitment to service excellence in all arenas."

New Staff for the OSEO

Monique Jameison—Monique began her role as a Student Success Coach for Online Students in June. She holds a BS in Recreational Administration and is currently pursuing an M.S. in College Student Personnel

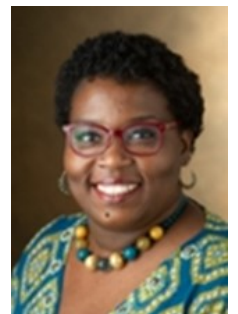
Besides being a Certified Life Coach, Monique brings diverse work experience including work with TRIO Upward Bound Math and Science Academy, Building Futures and Project Success Programs. Before joining SIUE, Monique served in various roles within the US Department of Veterans Affairs and at Brookhaven College in Dallas as a Senior Veterans Affairs Coordinator.

3 Tips to be successful:

1. *Ask for help* and understand that, it is ok not to be ok.
2. *Set healthy boundaries* in all of your spaces. It is in this commitment to self that you learn what it means to be and experience authentic engagement with yourself and others.
3. *Failure is not the end.* It is an opportunity to reset, refocus, recommit, and resolve issues to help you achieve you "next".

"Seeing others achieve their personal goals and find success in contributing to the global community by using their gifts, talents, and education is one of the best rewards of coaching. I am passionate about supporting and mentoring others, and I am privileged to be allowed to join their journey and be a part of both their short-term goals and milestone successes."

Monique enjoys spending time with her family and attending sporting events. She is the proud mother of three beautiful children, Stephen, Taiden, and Ivy-Mone't.



Pictured: Monique Jameison



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

New Staff for the OSEO -Continued

Alicia Taylor—Alicia joined the Office of Online Services and Educational Outreach at SIUE in August after spending more than 8 years in student recruitment-related roles at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She graduated with a bachelor's and a master's degree in art history, but she knew her higher education was her calling after serving as a campus tour guide in college. Alicia resides in the Metro East with her husband and their rescue dog, Athena.

"I am delighted to be shifting gears to work with the Metro East's dynamic lifelong learning population and to be able to create meaningful learning and engagement opportunities for them. I also look forward to working with our OSEO team to advance the mission of the institution."

Nicole Myers—Nicole comes into her new role as Academic Advisor 2 for Online Students after experience at Greenville University as the Dean of Student Success and First-Year Experience and at St. Louis Community College serving in a number of roles including Faculty, Department Chair, Manager of the Academic Support Center and Advisor.

She holds two master's degrees in Secondary Education (Reading) and Adult and Higher Education as well as a BS in Interdisciplinary Studies.

"I am passionate about serving students and helping students achieve their level of excellence. I strive to build relationships and have shared responsibilities. I commit to providing encouragement and support, being inclusive-valuing perspectives, ideas, and contributions. All the while "Striving for Excellence!"

"Striving for excellence, not perfection, because we don't live the perfect world." Joyce Meyer

New Lens—Anti-Racism Retreat

The Office of Online Services and Educational Outreach (OSEO) gathered on Friday August 6 for their first annual Anti-Racism Retreat. After over a year of transformational and results driven efforts to impact positive change in the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) space, the team of fifteen met to highlight, reflect and strategize. The retreat included multiple sessions such as aligning with the mission of the institution and thinking critically about how the staff members envision each other's roles when it comes to diversity work.

In an effort to support the work of the SIUE Anti-Racism Task Force, the OSEO team has established five subcommittees. Each of the following subcommittees are responsible for the planning and execution of diversity, equity and inclusion goals:

- Professional Development
- Community Engagement
- Identifying Resources
- Hiring Practices
- Data Collection

Highlights:

A number of tangible resources have emerged from the work of the internal subcommittees. Having the opportunity to make this work a priority, the OSEO team has demonstrated the grit and tenacity required to continually engage in this space. Regular meetings, reports and activities help to keep the team focused on the goal which is equity, in every space. The group is working on a 3-year strategic plan to begin in spring 2022.



Pictured: Alicia Taylor



Pictured: Nicole Myers



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Standing Committee Chairs

Follow the link below for the complete list of ICCHE Standing Committee Chair members.

<https://www.icche.org/about/standing-committee-chairs>

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/IDEAS?

Please let us know your thoughts about the ICCHE e-newsletter! Suggestions for changes? How can it be improved? What types of information would you like to see included? Please forward comments or questions about this e-newsletter, and/or information for future issues to Becky White or Teri Karpman at the address below.

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To send a message to all the people subscribed to the ICCHE Membership list, send an email to:

icchemembers@googlegroups.com

Note: You must be listed as a member of ICCHE in order to use the listserv.

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