



## Your latest DEI updates – Spring 2023

### A Note from the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



I would like to thank Simpson students, staff, and faculty for any role you've played in advancing DEI. In alignment with our institutional mission, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is dedicated to "cultivating a diverse community of learners to lead lives of meaning and purpose." Our core values of discovery, access, citizenship, belonging, justice, and integrity guide the work we do. We are committed to providing education and outreach and equitable policies and practices to positively impact the Simpson community. We look forward to continuing the momentum toward advancing DEI! -**Keyah Levy**

### Priorities and goals

- Continue to provide education to the campus community.

- Develop implementation of institutional DEI Strategic Plan by fall 24 with the help of Educational Advisory Board (EAB).

### **Successes from fall and opportunities in spring**

- We had great new energy and engagement with ACDEI
- Great intentionality with DEI built into faculty development.
- Campus engagement with DEI-related professional development opportunities.
- Collaborated with One Iowa to host campus community 4-part Safe Zone Training Series

### **Updates on projects by [ACDEI](#)**

- Bias Response process – underway with policy and process for streamlined approach for dealing with bias-related incidents.
- DEI Newsletter
- DEI recognition event
- We are always looking for individuals who are willing to commit to serving on the committee. Please reach out to **Keyah Levy** directly if you are interested in joining.
- We would like to hear from you! If you are doing great things in your department regarding DEI, please let us know!

### **Note from Associate Director of Multicultural & International Affairs**



**Hello Simpson Community!** My name is **Tisha Carter-Smith**, and since May 2022 I have served as the Associate Director of Multicultural and International Affairs. Previously, I worked at Central College in their Pre-College Programs and taught as

an adjunct for both Drake University and DMACC. In my new home, here with you all, I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in so many committees and meet with so many groups on campus. It is a dream come true to have my voice be heard and actively be a part of advancing an institution. Many of you may have seen some of my work on campus thus far: collaborating with the Culver Center and Iowa

History Center to present a program on Iowa's history with Native American Boarding Houses, organizing leadership development training for our students, conducting diversity and inclusion presentations to various groups, supporting our international guests' acclimation, and implementing the Social Concerns Fair for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. One of my responsibilities is also overseeing the Carver Fellows.

This fall, students toured the eastern half of Iowa's Underground Railroad Sites and travelled to Diamond, MO to visit the George Washington Carver Birthplace Memorial. But truly, my eyes are on the future. I am excited to roll out many new initiatives and programs for this year and beyond. Thank you to everyone who has quickly made me feel at home on campus. I have found both affinity and friendship. What can you look forward to this spring? March to End the Isms will return. Various campus organizations have expressed support for bringing back this well-received event. Even Simpson PRIDE looks forward to bringing back the popular Drag Show. So, what COVID had taken away, I am eager to restore – while creating new traditions and seeking new opportunities moving forward.

## **DEI Spotlight**

### **Fulbright Scholars:**

Each year, the Department of World Language and Culture Studies hosts two FLTAs from Spanish-speaking countries. These students serve as teaching assistants in several Spanish classes, host Spanish language conversation tables and activities, and generally serve as cultural ambassadors to Simpson students.

**Carolina Marchetti** - My name is Carolina Marchetti Bouvier. I'm from Uruguay, and curiously enough, I was raised in an area very similar to Indianola. I even studied at a rural elementary school. I moved back to my hometown in 2021 and started working in the same secondary school I attended when I was a teenager. I also worked in some other places, and I can say that my students learned as much as I did; we just learnt different content. In August 2021, I started my application to become a FLTA Fulbright Scholar, and when I was selected, Simpson College was one of the options, and I felt it was the best one for me. I could not summarize all the things I've learned thanks to this grant: new words and expressions, hobbies and daily activities people have in American History and Politics, food from many places, and the list goes on. But most importantly, I've learned that people can be kind to you while being different from you. And that it is on us to embrace being

different and to cherish the idea of excelling ourselves, either for personal development, or to create a better world where everyone feels they belong and can thrive in it, regardless of labels and social expectations.



**Javier Perez** - Hi! My name is Javier, and this is a little bit about me. I'm from the South of Spain, a little town called Villacarrillo. Since I was a kid, I was very creative and talkative, and it was clear that I wanted to be a teacher. That vocation kept growing but also the passion for languages and traveling, so I moved to Granada when I was 18 to study English at university. I fell in love with every part of that city, and I got to be independent and learn a lot about myself too. I studied one year abroad in Edinburgh, and a couple of years later I went back to a little town close to London to teach Spanish in a boarding school. I really enjoyed teaching my first language and my culture to other people, and after doing my master's in education and teaching Spanish as a foreign language I applied to the Fulbright program to come to the states

## Reminders

- Complete Modules on Title IX ([pdf overview of policy/procedures](#)) and Implicit Bias (for search committee members)

## Spring Heritage Months & Holidays:

### February

- [Inaugural George Washington Carver Day](#) (Feb. 1)
- Black History Month
- Lunar New Year (1<sup>st</sup>)

### March

- Women's History Month
- National Disability Awareness Month
- International Women's Day (8<sup>th</sup>)
- International Transgender Day of Visibility (31<sup>st</sup>)

### April

- Ramadan

- World Autism Awareness Day (2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month

### May

- Cinco De Mayo (5<sup>th</sup>)
- World Day for Cultural diversity (21<sup>st</sup>)

### June

- Juneteenth (19<sup>th</sup>)
- Pride Day (24<sup>th</sup>)

### July

- Eid al-Adha (9<sup>th</sup>)

## Inaugural Indigenous People's Day Lecture (Oct. 10, 2022)

On Oct. 10, Professor of Spanish Andrés Prieto (University of Colorado Boulder) delivered the first-ever Indigenous People's Day Lecture in Hubbell Hall. Prieto spoke about indigenous slavery during the colonial era and discussed how the ramifications of these practices continue today in the form of human trafficking.



### Notable Campus Events from Fall 2022 & Spring 2023

#### October 2022

Latin Dance Lessons, Movie Night: Selena (Office of MIA)

Indigenous People's Day Lecture (Culver Center, Dept. Of Interdisciplinary Studies, Humanities Division, and the Teaching & Learning Center)

Latinos in Iowa Politics (Culver Center)

Drag Queen Plenty O'Smiles Event (CAB/Pride)

**November 2022**

Dia de los muertos celebration (LU)

Gender Affirming Items Event (WGRC/Pride)

Reproductive Healthcare and Rights Speaker (Pride)

Native American Boarding Houses in Iowa (Office of MIA/Culver Center)

**January 2023**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Social Concerns Fair

**February 2023**

Inaugural George Washington Carver Day

**March 2023**

Women's HERstory Month speakers & events

Anthony Ray Hinton

## Follow us on Social Media

*Instagram: simpson\_college\_dei*

*Twitter: @college\_dei*



Questions? Reach out to your DEI team.



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