A CONVERSATION OF UNDERSTANDING

"RESPECT, BELONGING, AND ACCESS: UNDERSTANDING LGBTQIA+ EXPERIENCES"

MARCH 24, 2026
12 PM - 1 PM
youtube.com/live/FwBIardfrP8?feature=share

ABOUT THIS SESSION
This conversation will explore the lived experiences of LGBTQIA+ students, faculty, and staff related to respect, safety, access to resources, and belonging on campus and in surrounding communities. Our goal is to deepen understanding of the social, institutional, and personal challenges individuals may face and to consider how institutions can respond with greater care, equity, and support.

TALKING POINTS WILL INCLUDE:
- Respect and Identity Recognition
- Campus Climate and Surrounding Communities
- Family and Faith Community Disconnection
- Intersection of Disability, Neurodivergence, and Queerness
- Access to Facilities and Housing
- Administrative and Legal Navigation
- Training and Awareness
- Healthcare Access and Well-Being

Conversations of Understanding have become a fixture across the SIU System and on our individual campuses. They are a series of exchanges where students, alumni, faculty, staff, and the broader SIU communities can share their experiences and thoughts on a variety of themes related to antiracism, diversity, equity, and inclusion. We want to be a model for others in higher education and be recognized as a leader in our region and beyond for our work in fostering understanding of relevant contemporary issues.

Students, faculty, and staff across the SIU System are invited to join a live discussion focusing on critical issues regarding equity and justice in our country and what we can and must do to address those issues within the SIU System and beyond. A question-and-answer session will follow where audience participants can participate.

Sponsored by the SIU System President's Office and the SIU System Diversity Advisory Council

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