

The SIU System Office of Community Engagement

Putting Ourselves on the Map: Data, Bias, and the Stories We Tell

Learn how everyday tools like maps and spreadsheets shape public memory—and take part in telling your own story

The Wedge

620 E Broadway, Alton, IL

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Free and Open to the Public



The July Community Collaboration Lab, co-hosted with the SIUE IRIS Center, will explore how data shapes what we see, who gets represented, and how communities like the Metro East are too often left out of digital spaces. Dr. Meg Smith, Interim Director of the IRIS Center, will lead participants through real-world examples of data bias and introduce digital storytelling as a powerful tool for reclaiming narrative control. As part of the session, attendees will contribute their own stories and insights to a collaborative community map that highlights the Metro East as a vibrant cultural space. The map will remain open for future Lab participants to build on, creating an evolving record of local knowledge, identity, and place.

Southern Illinois University System
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



**For more information,
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