Panelists will explore the history of race and athletics in the United States with special attention to athletic programs at SIU. Racial underrepresentation in sports will be addressed, as well as the role of athletes in social justice efforts.

Students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members from across the SIU System are invited to join a live virtual 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. The event will feature an SIU community panel sharing their experiences and stories. A question and answer session will follow where audience participants can use the YouTube comment section or submit questions before the event by emailing pkeith@siu.edu.

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 diversity, inclusion and equity. 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.