

A CONVERSATION OF UNDERSTANDING

“ A Culture of Care in Action: Lessons from SIU’s Student Success Leaders ”

The SIU System is proud to open the Fall 2025 Conversation of Understanding (COU) series with a powerful dialogue featuring our ADEI Lifetime Achievement Award honorees:

- Father Joseph Brown, SIU Carbondale
- Dr. Randy Burnside, SIU School of Medicine
- Dr. Earleen Patterson, SIU Edwardsville

These distinguished leaders were selected not only for their lifetime contributions, but also because they are experts in advancing student success and shaping a culture of care. They have championed innovative advising practices, strengthened retention and progression outcomes, and served as role models for faculty, staff, and students across the SIU System.

FOCUS AREAS

- High-impact advising strategies that improve persistence and graduation rates
- Insights into SIUE and SIUC’s retention gains
- Addressing equity gaps for first-generation, Pell-eligible, and historically underserved students
- Structuring advising and progression supports for medical students at the SIU School of Medicine
- Sustaining long-term cultures of care and accountability

WHY ATTEND?

This conversation will spotlight practical, results-driven approaches to advising and student success. Participants will gain insights into how SIU leaders are building an inclusive academic culture where every student is empowered to thrive.

Join us as we learn from three of SIU’s most respected leaders and continue our collective work to advance equity, belonging, and student achievement across the SIU System.

OCTOBER 29, 2025
12 PM - 1 PM

youtube.com/watch?v=NUqyYn2rbPo

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.



Father Joseph Brown
SIU Carbondale



Dr. Randy Burnside
SIU School of Medicine



Dr. Earleen Patterson
SIU Edwardsville


Southern Illinois University System
APPROVED FOR ADEI LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE