

# A CONVERSATION OF UNDERSTANDING

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## Faces of Medicine

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Greetings SIU Community,

The Southern Illinois University (SIU) is proud to announce the upcoming Conversation of Understanding: *Faces of Medicine*, scheduled for December 11, 2024, from 12:00 pm to 1:15 pm. This essential and thought-provoking event will take place virtually, welcoming students, staff, faculty, healthcare professionals, and the public to join in a dialogue aimed at enhancing inclusivity in the medical field.

**FACES OF MEDICINE** is a documentary project celebrating the paths of five Black US based women physicians. The documentary captures their amazing life stories, providing a personal view into the respective paths of these women who are committed to taking care of their communities. The filmmaker aims to change the expectation of what our doctors look like and who our physicians are. In sharing these diverse experiences, the filmmaker's hope is that any young black or brown woman can find herself in one of the stories and feel empowered to pursue medicine if it is her passion. Everyone who watches will leave with a better understanding of what their next doctor may have experienced along their journey; their successes and struggles and the allies and challengers who got them where they are.

Leading this effort is Dr. Khama Ennis. Dr. Ennis spent twenty years as an emergency physician, including 5 years as the chief and medical director of the Cooley Dickinson Hospital Emergency Department. She has since shifted her focus towards Health Equity and Integrative Health. She developed *Faces of Medicine* to demonstrate the need for diverse representation in medicine, starting with increasing the numbers of Black female physicians. *Faces of Medicine* tackles medical burnout and the healing properties of cultural understanding in a field where it is especially hard to see oneself.

Black female physicians account for only ~2.8% of US doctors.

Event Highlights:

- Interactive Q&A: Following the 45-minute film, we will offer a special Q&A with Dr. Ennis.
- Insights into Future Initiatives: Learn about ongoing and upcoming initiatives within the SIU System to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in medicine and beyond.

**How to Participate:**

**Virtually: You will need to register to join:**

- 1) Register here: <https://kinema.com/events/faces-of-medicine-brg9nn>
- 2) You will be prompted to create a password when you register
- 3) Please add to your calendar when you receive the registration email
- 4) Share with others in your circle!

Join us in our mission to transform medicine through inclusivity and contribute to a future where healthcare serves everyone equitably.

For more information, please contact Doris Williams at [doris.williams@siu.edu](mailto:doris.williams@siu.edu).

**DECEMBER 11, 2024**

**12:00 PM - 1:15 PM**

Register here:

[kinema.com/events/faces-of-medicine-brg9nn](https://kinema.com/events/faces-of-medicine-brg9nn)

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, alumni, faculty, staff and community members from 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, the SIU System Diversity Advisory Council, and the SIU School of Medicine



**Southern Illinois University System**  
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