



Southern Illinois University System
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SIUC and SIUE students, faculty and alumni participate in collaborative ceramic art exhibition at national conference

Earlier this spring, a group of ceramic students, faculty and alumni from across the SIU System participated in an exhibition at the 57th annual conference of the National Council for Education in the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) in Cincinnati, OH.

The exhibition, entitled Merge, consisted of one piece each by twelve graduate students, eight undergraduates, three post-baccalaureate students, three alumni and four faculty from the two SIU campuses. It took place at the Duke Energy Convention Center over the duration of the March conference.

“Four years ago, I invited SIU Edwardsville ceramic students, alumni and faculty to exhibit with us at SIU Carbondale's Surplus Gallery. The exhibition was a confirmation of the health of our ceramics programs at each institution and how much we had in common as artists, students, and faculty. This year, Assistant

Professor and Area Head of Ceramics at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Joe Page, proposed the same exhibition of the two programs at the ceramic conference in Cincinnati, and it was selected,” said Pattie Chalmers who is the head of graduate studies for the School of Art and Design at SIU Carbondale.

The NCECA conference for ceramics is held in different cities across the country and is attended by students, K-12 and higher education educators, artists and collectors each year. With a global reach, the conference draws thousands and hosts more than 80 ceramic concurrent art exhibitions throughout the region and state during the event. Approximately 5,000 artists, designers, educators and scholars were expected to attend the Cincinnati conference. Most exhibitions were open to the public free of charge and the conference included panel discussions, keynote addresses and other educational opportunities.

“Well known in their own right for the quality of their academic programming, having these two institutions participate together is a great example of the strength of the SIU System campuses and how collaborative efforts can showcase the talent of our students, faculty and alumni,” said SIU System Vice President for Academic Planning, Innovation and Partnerships Dr. Gireesh Gupchup. “We look forward to many more partnerships like this one forming across the system.”

About the Southern Illinois University System: Founded in 1869 as Illinois’ second teacher’s college, the SIU System is now made up of two nationally recognized universities that provide students with diverse interactions, student-centered research and a comprehensive learning experience – Southern Illinois University Carbondale, with an on-campus law school, and a School of Medicine in Springfield and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, with an on-campus Pharmacy School, a School of Dental Medicine in Alton and a Center in East St. Louis. An economic engine for the southern half Illinois, the University employs more than 7,000 faculty and staff who serve over 24,000 students. A modern and inclusive post-secondary educational system, SIU offers a broad range of academic programs that lead to associate, baccalaureate, master's, specialist's, and doctoral and professional practice degrees in 32 fields including law, medicine, pharmacy, and dental medicine.

The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) reports that its mission is to engage and sustain a community for ceramic art, teaching and learning. In addition to deepening knowledge within the field, NCECA expands it by working to cultivate the next generation of ceramic artists and enthusiasts through programming that affects professional artists, K-12 schools, community centers, universities, museums, galleries, businesses, organizations, collectors and enthusiasts of ceramic art. Currently comprised of approximately 4,000 members from the United States and more than 20 foreign countries, NCECA reaches thousands of additional individuals each year through its programs, publications, events, exhibitions and resources. For more information visit: www.nceca.net