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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

## **SIU Hosts Illinois Higher Education Equity Symposium, Oct. 3-4**

**CARBONDALE, Ill.**— The third annual [Illinois Higher Education Equity Symposium](#) is taking place at SIU Carbondale from Oct. 3-4. The goal of the conference is to promote fairness and equity in higher education.

SIU is honored to have Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker sharing a video message of support to kick off the symposium. “We all know that earning a higher education credential is one of the most critical strategies in advancing a person’s financial and social well-being,” said Pritzker. “But for too long, educational equity gaps have persisted — preventing students, especially those from historically underrepresented groups, from fully accessing, completing and benefiting from higher education. That’s why this symposium is so crucial. We must work together to disrupt those roadblocks, create sustainable equity strategies and ensure every student in Illinois has the opportunity to thrive.”

**WHO:** Education leaders, students and community partners from across Illinois

**WHAT:** The symposium provides a platform for participants to engage in meaningful discussions and share their experiences on how to promote equity in higher education. The event will provide opportunities for participants to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by underrepresented groups in higher education and implement strategies to reduce harm and dismantle inequitable structures.

**WHEN:** Oct. 3, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. and Oct. 4, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** SIU Student Center, 1255 Lincoln Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901

“The SIU System is committed to antiracism, diversity, equity and inclusion (ADEI) work as we continue to make progress on our campuses,” said SIU System President Dan Mahony. “We are committed to making sure that every student in Illinois has the resources, support and opportunities needed to succeed. SIU strives to build a future where every student — no matter their background or circumstances — can reach their full potential.”

The media is encouraged to cover this event, which includes a wide variety of speakers — learn more here: <https://conferenceservices.siu.edu/conferences/illinois-higher-education-equity-symposium.php>

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