Equity & Diversity Spring Convening

Honoring the work of students, faculty, and staff across the University system

Thursday, May 20 at 9:30 am

Learn more at z.umn.edu/spring
Program

EMCEE
MICHAEL GOH
Vice President, Office for Equity and Diversity

GREETINGS FROM THE SYSTEM CAMPUSES
JOHN L. HOFFMAN
Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs
University of Minnesota Crookston

SUSANA PELAYO-WOODWARD
Director, Office of Diversity & Inclusion
University of Minnesota Duluth

ANDREW WILLIAMS
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success, Engagement, & Equity
University of Minnesota Rochester

ELIZABETH ANH THOMSON
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
University of Minnesota Morris

SCHOLARLY EXCELLENCE IN EQUITY AND DIVERSITY (SEED) AWARDS
JOAN T.A. GABEL
President
University of Minnesota Crookston

STUDENT REFLECTION
JENNY TAM
Milton and Danae Andrews SEED Award
Program

JOSIE R. JOHNSON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

DR. SAMUEL L. MYERS, JR.
Humphrey School of Public Affairs

REBECA RODRIGUEZ
College of Science and Engineering

DR. AMELIOUS N. WHYTE, JR.
College of Liberal Arts, Twin Cities

OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD FOR EQUITY & DIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES:
DR. KATIE LINGRAS
DR. DANIELLE VRIEZE
Medical School, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

KEYNOTE REMARKS

ANA NÚÑEZ
Vice Dean, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Medical School, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

CLOSING
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ana Núñez, MD, FACP is a Professor of General Internal Medicine and Vice Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the University of Minnesota. She received her Doctorate in Medicine from Hahnemann University and Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Wilkes University. She has fellowships in medical education from Michigan State University and health services research from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). She is nationally recognized as a medical education and health services researcher, having developed novel curricula in the areas of sex and gender medicine, primary care, trauma/violence prevention, and cultural competence.

Scholarly Excellence in Equity and Diversity (SEED) Award

The Scholarly Excellence in Equity and Diversity (SEED) Awards honor diverse undergraduate, graduate, and professional students for their outstanding work while at the University of Minnesota—both within and outside of the classroom.

Tanmay Agarwal is a senior majoring in Computer Science with an emphasis on AI and robotics. An international student from India, Tanmay previously served as the Director for Diversity and Inclusion (2018-19) and Vice President (2019-20) for his College's undergraduate student board, where he worked on organizing a multitude of events and campaigns aimed at uplifting the college experience for students belonging to underrepresented communities in STEM. Tanmay now looks forward to joining the workforce this year and continuing his work in this domain through his role as a Board Member of the National Association of Engineering Student Councils.
Qui Alexander is a Ph.D. Candidate in Education, Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on Culture and Teaching and holds a B.A. in growth and structure of cities from Bryn Mawr College. Their research focuses on abolitionist pedagogies, more specifically how Black trans community organizers teach and learn an abolitionist praxis. Grounded in their own experiences as a community organizer, Qui views their scholarship as a place to articulate the cultural work they do in relation to their communities.

Manyi Ayuk will be graduating with a B.S. in Psychology and a minor in Public Health. She was involved in the President’s Emerging Scholars program as a Peer Mentor, the Black Student Union as the Historian, and MCAE and the Office of Admissions as a VIP Ambassador. She is also a Wallin Scholar. She has done research with Dr. Richard Douglass of the Department of Psychology and will continue her research and studies this fall at Washington University in St. Louis to obtain her Master's in Public Health specializing in Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

Briana Clifton studies Biology, Society, Environment as well as Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. She first became interested in LGBTQ+ healthcare as a freshman during an internship working with the community organization Reclaim. At Reclaim, she was exposed to disparities in mental and sexual healthcare for LGBTQ+ youth. Following this internship, Briana resolved to be a physician to eliminate these disparities and work to uplift awareness concerning the lack of access, discrimination, and lower quality healthcare treatment provided to these communities.
**SCHOLARLY EXCELLENCE IN EQUITY AND DIVERSITY (SEED) AWARD**

**Caity Curry** is a Ph.D. candidate in Sociology and holds an M.A. in Sociology and B.A. in Sociology, Psychology, and Criminal Justice from the University of Arkansas. Her research examines how social and spatial inequalities are reproduced and resisted in criminal laws, legal professions, and the criminal legal system. Her dissertation examines how public defenders use legal strategies and relationship-building with their clients to combat the racialized, punitive practices of criminal courts in the U.S. South. Caity has been awarded several fellowships and accolades, including the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship and the Sociology Department Engaged Scholarship Award.

**Farrah Mina** is a senior studying Journalism and Global Studies, with a concentration in Human Rights and Justice in the Middle East. In 2019, she joined the *Minnesota Daily*, the University's campus newspaper, as a general assignment reporter. Farrah has covered student issues and later campus communities while serving on the paper's Content Diversity Board. As a budding journalist, Farrah aspires to improve coverage of communities that have been mis- and under-represented in the media.

**Roseline Kanssole** is a recent graduate from the University of Minnesota of Crookston majoring in Agricultural Business/Operations. Coming all the way from Burkina Faso was an adventure for her to discover what the world has more to show. During her junior year at the University of Minnesota Crookston, she became interested and involved in international diversity programs. She acknowledges the importance of giving back what she received to allow other people to do the same. Passionate about agriculture, she also desires to see every human being have access to food and water in their daily life.
Jael Kerandi is a graduating senior studying Finance and Marketing with minors in Business Law and Leadership at the Carlson School of Management. As a junior, Jael served as the first Black Student Body President. During her role, she worked hard to support students at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the murder of George Floyd. Jael is passionate about racial justice and ensuring that our institutions are held accountable to their so-stated values. She wishes to see a better world for future generations and plans to do so by working to break barriers and dismantle systems of oppression and racism.

Janessa Millar studies English at the University of Minnesota Crookston. She has minors in Writing, Music, Humanities, and is a member of her University's Honors Program. She is a founder of her Campus' Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) as well as the current President. Janessa chose to study English late in her freshman year in college and has recently decided to pursue graduate school. She hopes to become a college professor and make a difference through education, research, and as a role model for younger members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Kiona Paske studies Native American Indigenous Studies, Psychology, and Social Sciences on the Morris campus. Through her experience working at the Heartland Girls’ Ranch, she has learned practical cultural- and trauma-informed skills that can be brought to many settings including her campus, home, and tribal communities. Her future plans include applying to psychology doctoral programs in hopes of serving Native American and underrepresented communities.
SCHOLARLY EXCELLENCE IN EQUITY AND DIVERSITY (SEED) AWARD

Gitanjali Raman is an MPH candidate in Environmental Health and holds a B.S. in Biology from the University of Minnesota. Her community project focuses on health literacy among immigrants in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood. She aspires to serve her community as a physician and address health inequities.

Jenny Tam (she/hers) is a senior studying Global Studies with minors in Asian American Studies, Psychology, Business Law, and Management. She is passionate about restorative justice and community youth organizing. She hopes to become an educator one day and return the love and knowledge to the communities that raised her.

Nate Taye is an immigrant scholar who loves to build connections, invest in others, and innovate solutions. Nate is a senior at the Carlson School of Management studying Management Information Systems and has minors in Marketing and Business Analytics. His steadfast commitment to advocacy and service manifested in his dedication to empower and mentor the next generation of influential leaders at the University of Minnesota. This commitment can be seen through the numerous service-oriented experiences he immersed himself in at the University, such as serving as the President of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA), a Carlson Ambassador, and a member of the Huntley House Advisory Board. Nate believes that you cannot become something you have not seen before, and he serves his community in hopes that he is a role model for many.
**SCHOLARLY EXCELLENCE IN EQUITY AND DIVERSITY (SEED) AWARD**

Osirus Washington studies Communications in the College of Liberal Arts on the Twin Cities campus. Osirus is student representative and co-facilitator of the student focus group of the Thrive Coalition Food and Housing Insecurity Task Force (TCTF). He is also a math tutor for Prepare2Nspire at the University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center. In the spring of 2020, Osirus led a successful and now recurring community cooks event that addresses food insecurity.

**SEED AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE (UNDERGRADUATE)**

Laura Knudson, Assistant Vice Provost for Student Advocacy and Support, Office for Student Affairs

Elizabeth Anh Thomson, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, U of M Morris

Susana Pelayo-Woodward, Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, U of M Duluth

Amelious N. Whyte, Jr., Director of Public Engagement, College of Liberal Arts

Alma Torres Pierce, Interim Director for Student Success & Academic Advising, U of M Crookston

Andrew Williams, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success, Engagement, & Equity, U of M Rochester

**SEED AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE (GRADUATE)**

Crystal Esparza, Director of Admissions, University of Minnesota Medical School

Joel Mixon, Director of Advising and Retention, Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Derek Maness, Director of Outreach and Recruitment, Graduate School Diversity Office

Keisha Varma, Associate Vice Provost, Office for Equity and Diversity; Associate Professor, College of Education and Human Development

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Josie R. Johnson Human Rights and Social Justice Award

This award was established in honor of Josie R. Johnson in recognition of her lifelong contributions to human rights and social justice. Her passionate commitment to these causes guided her work as a University of Minnesota regent and senior administrator. The award honors University faculty, staff, and students who, through their principles and practices, exemplify her standard of excellence in creating respectful and inclusive living, learning, and working environments.

Dr. Samuel L. Myers, Jr. is Roy Wilkins Professor of Human Relations and Social Justice at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Dr. Myers directs the Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice. In this role and as a teacher, mentor, researcher, and community member Dr. Myers has worked relentlessly and for decades to advance the causes of human rights, social justice, and racial equity. Learn more.

Rebeca Rodriguez is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Chemistry at the College of Science and Engineering. She is the first member of the College of Science and Engineering community to receive this award. She is an American Chemical Society Division of Analytical Chemistry Graduate Research Fellow as well as a U of M Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship recipient. Her leadership roles include serving as the President of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos, Hispanics, and Native Americans in Science.
Dr. Amelious N. Whyte, Jr. is Director of Public Engagement in the College of Liberal Arts. His thirty-year career at the University of Minnesota has been dedicated to advancing equity by strengthening the communities served by the University. He has partnered with faculty to advance equity and opportunity for underrepresented communities through programs such as the Minnesota Youth Story Squad and in the establishment of the Liberal Arts Engagement Hub or “the Hub” in the College of Liberal Arts. Learn more.
Outstanding Unit Award for Equity & Diversity

The Office for Equity and Diversity (OED) presents an annual Equity and Diversity Outstanding Unit Award to a University of Minnesota campus, colleague, department, or unit. The award honors transformational equity and diversity work that both demonstrates outstanding leadership in equity and diversity, and is collaborative, sustainable, and linked to the stated mission and vision of the group.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences consists of an outstanding team of researchers, clinicians, and educators who provide world-class expertise in psychiatric illness, treatment, scholarship, and scientific discovery. Learn more.

Dr. Katie Lingras is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota Medical School. As a psychologist, she specializes in providing family focused psychotherapy and community based mental health consultations for improving behavioral disorders, emotional concerns, and social-emotional development. Her research is focused on social-emotional development and early childhood mental health. Learn more.

Danielle Vrieze is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and licensed child and adolescent psychologist at the University of Minnesota Medical School. She specializes in evidence-based treatment of children and adolescence with acute and complex trauma. Dr. Vrieze is committed to providing culturally-affirming care to diverse patients and families including racially/ethnically diverse individuals, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and other historically marginalized groups. Learn more.
Thank You

Milton and Danae Andrews

We deeply appreciate the generous support of our event sponsor

Opinions expressed during the Equity & Diversity Spring Convening event do not necessarily reflect the views of the University of Minnesota or other members of the University community.

The University of Minnesota shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Contact the Office for Equity and Diversity at 612-624-0594 or oed@umn.edu.