

## MARCH 2023

Greetings from Diversity, Equity and Inclusion! As many of you know March is recognized globally as Women's History Month. This is an opportunity to recognize the contributions of women and the diversity of perspectives locally, nationally, and globally. Special thanks to the various offices, academic departments, and student groups who have contributed to organizing events and activities during the month to spread awareness. March 22, 2023 signaled the beginning of Ramadan; a time of fasting, prayer, reflection, and connection to family and community. Additional information is provided in this newsletter on ways to celebrate Ramadan and Eid, and ways we can support our community.

As some of you may know, April is recognized nationally as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. The goal of the month is to promote awareness around prevention and resources that are available for victims and survivors. During the month of April, SUNY Plattsburgh will be coordinating events and activities to spread awareness and to support survivors. Please join DEI for our community kickoff event as we **"Teal the Quad" on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Amittie Plaza (the Quad) of Angell College Center.** Teal is the color that signifies awareness and support of survivors. We need volunteers to help us display ribbons on the Quad as a reflection of our support. The event will include a brief explanation about the importance of supporting survivors and promoting available resources. Volunteers will receive a free t-shirt that they are encouraged to wear to other programs throughout the month. The event will also include informational tables on the Quad and a Chartwells Food Truck serving-up delicious food.

### Additional events for the month include:

- **Campus Conversation on Sexual Assault Services in the Plattsburgh Community** featuring guest speakers, Gail Bjelko, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) from Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital and Casey Belrose, Sexual Assault Services Liaison from Planned Parenthood of the North Country hosted by the Department of Gender and Women's Studies from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4th in the Alumni Conference Room of ACC
- **TitleIX Zoom Presentation and Q&A** featuring Dr. Bill Boerner, Senior Specialist at Grand River Solutions on Thursday, April 13th from 4-5 p.m. Use Zoom ID: 991 8029 5845 or access **ZoomLink here: <https://plattsburgh.zoom.us/j/99180295845>**
- **Campus Workshop entitled, "Healthy or Unhealthy Relationships: Can you Tell the Difference?"** featuring Brianna Reeves, Community Educator & Experience Design Lead with STOP Domestic Violence and Laurel Polttila, Director of STOP Domestic Violence, on Tuesday, April 18th from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Alumni Conference Room of ACC
- **Self Defense Class** hosted by University Police on Monday, April 24, 2023 at 4 p.m. in the Warren Ballrooms
- **Take Back the Night Vigil and Pizza Party** on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 from 6-7 p.m. at Hawkins Pond
- **Take Back the Night Global Virtual Event** on Thursday, April 27, 2023 from 8 to 9 p.m. **Please register here: <https://takebackthenight.org/global-virtual-april-2023/>**

Take your awareness and advocacy to the next level by attending one or more events.  
For additional information, please email **[diversity@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:diversity@plattsburgh.edu)** or call **518-564-5410**.

# H.U.B. NEWS

## DEI MULTICULTURAL STUDENT SUCCESS COACH

Are you nervous about your academic progress or need a little extra help? We encourage you to reach out to Travis Gorham who is the DEI Multicultural Student Success Coach. You are encouraged to set-up a meeting to discuss a customized approach to your academic progress. Stop by the H.U.B. in Angell College Center for additional information between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. or complete the enclosed **Google Form** to request assistance.

## TRUTH, RACIAL HEALING, AND TRANSFORMATION CENTER

Monthly Rx Racial Healing Circles are hosted on the first Friday of each month in the H.U.B. of the Angell College Center from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

On Thursday, April 20th, at 5 p.m., a special Rx Healing Circle will be hosted in the H.U.B. followed by a 7 p.m. performance by Emily Kasennisaks (Gus Any Sogs) Stacey. Emily Stacey is a Mohawk woman who shares her family experiences with the Native American boarding schools and personal experiences growing up Mohawk in Plattsburgh. The performance, co-sponsored by the Theater Department and the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Center, is called, "Kasennisaks: I'm Looking for a Name" and will be held at Krinovitz Hall in Hawkins with a TRHT Moderated Q&A at 8 p.m. The performance and circle events are free, and everyone is invited to attend.

## CELEBRATING RAMADAN

Did you know that Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and is observed by Muslims worldwide. It is a time of fasting, prayer, reflection, and connection to community. Ramadan is celebrated annually and is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. Special thanks to **Desi Club** and the **Muslim Student Association** for your leadership in working with **Chartwells** to make sure students have culturally appropriate food when they break their fast.

### Upcoming Events:

- **Iftar Dinner** on March 31, 2023 from 7 to 10 p.m. at Kent Hall, First Floor Lounge. Join Desi Club and MSA as they celebrate Ramadan, break the fast together, and chill with some games. Other Iftar Dinners will be hosted throughout the month. Stay tuned for a special Eid Celebration on Saturday, April 22, 2023 hosted by MSA.
- **Desi Prom Night** on April 2, 2023. Join Desi for this South Asian themed event featuring a full night of music, performances, games, and delicious food. Doors open at 6 p.m. The cost is \$3 for Student Association and \$5 for those non-affiliated with Student Association. An artist will be available to provide free Henna designs and a photo booth will be on-hand to capture your favorite memories.

## KINGS UPLIFTING KINGS

Calling all male students and employees. Join us for this new program, Kings Uplifting Kings. This all male group focuses on empowerment, resilience, connections, and networking. Meetings are held every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the H.U.B.

## Transgender Day of Visibility

Celebrate Transgender Day of Visibility on Friday, March 31, 2023. A number of programs will be hosted this day including:

- **Chat with the LGBTQ+ Resource Committee** in the H.U.B. from 9 to 11 a.m. Free snacks will be provided.
- **Forum Discussion** hosted by Adirondack North Country Gender Alliance will take place from 11 to 11:50 a.m. in the ACC Cardinal Lounge. Join us to hear about transgender experiences in our area.
- **Trans Voice Training Talk** will be hosted by Dr. Michael Morgan from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Feinberg Library Reading Room on the 3rd floor. This session will provide information about voice training and voice coaching.
- **Trans Trivia** will be hosted from 4 to 6 p.m. in Burghy's Den by Kelly Metzgar, Elin O'Hara Gonya, and Regan Levitte. Winners will receive Cardinal Cash Gift Cards. Free snacks will be provided for all attendees.

*All programming for Transgender Day of Visibility is sponsored by the Adirondack North Country Gender Alliance, Feinberg Library, Gender & Women's Studies Department, Communication Sciences & Disorders Department, LGBTQ+ Resource Committee, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Plattsburgh Alumni Association, and College Auxiliary Services.*

## BIPOC and LGBTQ + EMPLOYEE NEWS

Please join DEI as we celebrate the diversity of our employees through events to establish a sense of inclusion and belonging. Although these events are focused on BIPOC and LGBTQ+ employees, all employees are welcome to attend. We will also be celebrating employees that have recently received promotions or who are new to campus.

Please join us for our upcoming **Tapas Party & Jazz Night for Employees on Friday, April 28, 2023 from 4 to 6 p.m. in Burghy's Den**. Additional information will be posted in the employee digest.

For additional information please email DEI at [diversity@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:diversity@plattsburgh.edu). We also encourage you to complete the interest survey for future events, by clicking on the link below.

[DEI Employee Feedback Survey - Google Form](#)

### Looking for a Job?

Are you a recent graduate or do you have a friend or partner that may be looking for a job? Diversity, Equity and Inclusion often receives job announcements for organizations looking to recruit diverse employees. Currently, Chappaqua School District is hiring for the elementary, middle, and high schools, and they are hiring professionals in student support services. Contact us if you would like to see a list of what is available or find them on the web at [www.chappaquaschools.org](http://www.chappaquaschools.org)

## Dr. Douglas Richard Skopp Scholarship

The Douglas Skopp Social Justice Scholarship was created to honor the late Dr. Douglas Richard Skopp. Dr. Douglas Skopp joined the History Department at SUNY Plattsburgh in the fall of 1972. **The scholarship seeks to identify and recognize a student that demonstrates:**

- Leadership skills in inclusion, equity and social justice
- A deep passion for social justice and someone who provides leadership within the campus community
- Increasing awareness of bias, eradicating hate speech, and promoting civility, respect, justice, and equality for all
- Student leaders who have overcome personal challenges during the pursuit of their college degree

**In order to be eligible for the scholarship, students must:**

- Be enrolled full-time (12 credits or more)
- Be in their first, second, or third year
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher
- Complete all steps including submitting a resume

If you are an eligible student, we encourage you to apply by April 10, 2023. If you are an employee, please encourage students to apply for this scholarship. Sponsored by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Plattsburgh College Foundation.

## Accessibility: Unlocking Our Potential

As SUNY Plattsburgh's Electronic Information Technology Accessibility (EIT) Officer, I am pleased to write to you from our new home in Diversity News. I would like to thank the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for providing this space. It's a fitting publication for our committee's monthly posts about accessibility. That's because our ongoing quest for diversity, equity, and inclusion must also include people with physical and cognitive differences. It's part of our collective work to recognize, support, and embrace different races, religions, cultures, genders, and sexual orientations.

Our monthly articles will continue to draw attention to physical and cognitive challenges faced by members of the campus community, who are striving to live full lives despite those challenges. We'll also continue to examine ways in which we can all work together to unlock everyone's potential.

Accessibility Work in TEL for 2023

I have had the privilege of working with some very talented students on this initiative over the last two years. This year is no exception. Coordinating efforts with the folks in the Accessibility Resource Office (formerly Student Accessibility Services), our Technology Enhanced Learning unit employs students to work on important accessibility-related projects.

One of our students, Anna Sadrislamova, has been researching and writing about neurodiversity. I am proud to share a byline with her in the post below.

Accessibility: Unlocking Our Potential

Neurodiversity issues can be as challenging as any physical disability. Yet they often go unnoticed.

Our friends, colleagues, and students with visible or invisible disabilities deal with challenges that many people may not be aware of. The first step for all of us is to become aware of how a disability can affect someone's everyday life. We can then determine how best to be supportive.

## Accessibility: Unlocking Our Potential, continued

One common invisible disability that many of us face is an anxiety disorder. According to the Mayo Clinic, anxiety is characterized by "intense, excessive, and persistent worry and fear about everyday situations. Often, anxiety disorders involve repeated episodes of sudden feelings of intense anxiety and fear or terror that reach a peak within minutes (panic attacks)."

Some tips to help people with anxiety include:

- Educate yourself. Learn about what defines anxiety versus everyday stress, the symptoms, and how it can affect a person's daily life. Awareness is the first step to becoming supportive and understanding. Learning about anxiety, or any disorder, helps to counteract myths that may invalidate the disability itself and those who experience it.
- Have patience. Pair this skill with lending an ear to someone with anxiety; this does wonders for improving their mental health. Just listening can help one sort out chaotic thoughts and quiet the inner dialogue and may lead to a more grounded state.
- Know where to find help. Asking for help or even knowing how to find support services can be quite overwhelming. For students, a good place to start is the Accessibility Resource Office (ARO) at 013 Macomb Hall. For faculty and staff, the SUNY Plattsburgh Employee Assistance Program can provide referrals to agencies who can help. Whether the symptoms described above are personally familiar or you recognize them in a friend, student, or colleague, help is available.

Together, we can unlock our potential.

Anna Sadrislamova, Class of 2026

Dr. John Locke, EIT Accessibility Officer



# INTRODUCING...

## SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW!



**Jacqueline Madison** is the President of the North Country Underground Railroad Historical Museum and she is a member of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission as well as a member of the New York State Underground Railroad Consortium, Women's Rights Alliance of New York State, and Rotary International. Ms. Madison serves as a committee chairperson for the Plattsburgh-area Juneteenth Celebration Committee as well as a member of the SUNY Plattsburgh Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Center. As a young woman growing up in North Carolina, Jackie Madison was certain about two things: (1) She wanted to work in the sciences and (2) she wanted to travel the world. After defying gender stereotypes of the times by earning her undergraduate degree in Chemistry and a master's degree later, she decided to join the U.S. Army as a way to experience life in different parts of the world. She served during the Vietnam War, and was also stationed in Germany where she met her husband. Ms. Madison was once asked what important lessons she learned early on in her career and she said she learned the importance of education.

Ms. Madison said it is important to be a lifelong learner. She said we don't stop learning until the day we die and it is one of the things that cannot be taken away from us. We are grateful to Ms. Madison for what she does in the community and for her service to America. Jackie loves Thai cuisine. Her favorite color is red. One of the reasons she loves red so much is because she is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, which she joined in college. Ms. Madison loves animals and she has had a dog, cats, guinea pigs, and even a Chinese Water Dragon. She is an avid reader and she grows her own grapes to make wine and jam. This year she experimented by making grape juice. On a personal level, Ms. Madison has researched people of color in the North Country for many years. With the assistance from Hostmonster Staff, she is in the process of creating a website to make this information available online.

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### Announcing the 2023 Multicultural Student Graduation Recognition Reception

To be held on Monday, May 15, 2023 from 4 to 6 p.m. in Warren Ballrooms in Angell College Center! Please join Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as we celebrate the upcoming achievements of our BIPOC graduates. Pre-registration for this event is required in order to participate. Upcoming graduates who attend will receive a Kente cloth graduation stole or multicultural cords. University faculty, staff, parents, and friends, who would like to attend to support our students are encouraged to RSVP for this event by clicking this link: <https://forms.gle/9C8K6HRXzN1fbtVM6>

### Announcing the 2023 Lavender Ceremony

Please join Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the LGBTQ+ Resource Committee for the upcoming Lavender Ceremony that will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 4 p.m. in Krinovitz Hall! Lavender Ceremonies are traditionally held at colleges and universities to honor LGBTQ+ students and to acknowledge their accomplishments and contributions. It is also a way to honor allies, university faculty and staff, friends and family members who have supported our students along the way. Please review the enclosed link for registration information: <https://forms.gle/8TEDvGJh4pJMuxCy7>



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Stay tuned for more  
information on the  
"Erase the Hate" campaign to  
end hateful and harmful  
speech and actions in the  
SUNY Plattsburgh community.

