

# THE CENTER FOR MISSION AND BELONGING

The Center for Mission & Belonging will be sharing a monthly newsletter to highlight the many initiatives, events, and programs it leads and supports, which help to build inclusion and belonging on campus, celebrate our diversity, and allow us to live the Mount's mission. While the content of the newsletters will not be exhaustive, it will bring attention to wonderful contributions of many on our campus. In this first newsletter, we have included highlights from the beginning of Fall Semester.



## BUILDING MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS SERIES (SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER):

Mount alumna and national DEI consultant, Priya Klocek, will be leading the fourth and final installment of the Fall Semester series on Monday, November 13th from 12-1:30 pm in the University Theatre. All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend. If you have not been able to attend any of the first three sessions, the content can be accessed by clicking [HERE!](#)

## INVESTMENT IN TRAINING AND GROWTH OF EMPLOYEE CAMPUS LEADERS (AUGUST-NOVEMBER): PRIYA KLOCEK HAS BEEN SUPPORTING THE CULTURAL AWARENESS AND GROWTH OF CAMPUS ACADEMIC AND STAFF LEADERS THIS SEMESTER.

- Support for Faculty- Priya has been collaborating with the Office of the Provost to ensure that we are creating inclusive classrooms for our students. She led a session with faculty at Fall Convocation, and she will be returning to facilitate another session during Winter Convocation.
- Intercultural Development Inventory Assessment and Reflection- All members of The Center for Mission and Belonging staff, the Marketing Department, and President's Council completed the [IDI](#) earlier this semester. The IDI is an assessment tool that measures an individual's or group's progression along a development path of recognizing and responding to cultural differences. Each individual who completed the IDI has a follow-up meeting to reflect on their results and to better understand their intercultural interactions, including the challenges and successes. Additionally, Priya led all groups in discussions about how to use the information to achieve desired DEI goals within our community.
- Support for The Center for Mission & Belonging- Priya facilitated the creation of staff members' goals for 2023-2024. She continues to meet regularly with them to provide training, develop strategies to support achieving goals, and to guide the execution of strategies.

## ENHANCED STUDENT-ATHLETE DEI SUPPORT (SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER):

New Assistant Athletic Director, DEI, Joey Moore, who is also a member of The Center for Mission & Belonging staff, has launched a monthly meeting of BIPOC student-athletes, to serve as a platform for discussion and support. In addition, Joey recently held inclusivity awareness sessions and discussions with all student-athletes over three evenings. Joey's office has recently been relocated to Harrington Center room 141, her preferred contact number is: 513-378-4280.



## STRATEGIC SUPPORT OF STUDENTS THROUGH MOUNT 101 PILOT FOR LION'S SOFT SKILLS PILOT (OCTOBER-NOVEMBER):

A committee, comprised of Teri Compton, the Mount's Equal Opportunity Officer and Chief Human Resources Officer, Jaimi Cabrera, the Director of the Wellness Center, Joey Moore, Assistant Athletic Director, DEI, Michelle Arnold, Assistant Director of Mission, Maria DiTullio, Coordinator for Mission Ambassadors, Sister Karen Elliott, Chief Mission & Belonging Officer, and Paige Ellerman, General Counsel, launched a student program pilot this semester—initially titled “Lion's Soft-Skills for Life.”

The pilot is modeled after the curriculum contained in *A Guide to Incorporating Social-Emotional Learning in the College Classroom: Busting Anxiety, Boosting Ability*, which was developed by the Society for the Teaching of Psychology, a division of the American Psychological Society. The pilot program focuses on aspects of social-emotional learning. The students invited to participate in the pilot included PASS Program participants, Lion's First Scholars, MOSAIC Scholars, Munoz Scholars, student-athletes recommended by coaches, and student referred by faculty. In total, approximately 30 students are currently participating in the pilot, which is being facilitated by members of the team, with Jaimi Cabrera serving as the program advisor.

The feedback from students about the pilot has been overwhelmingly positive, so much so that in the Spring 2024 Semester, the pilot will be expanded to reach more students. There will be two sections the pilot offered, now referred to as “Mount 101,” in the form of a one-hour credit course that will meet once a week throughout Spring Semester. There is no cost to students for the course. Details will be provided for students in the Spring 2024 registration process.

The committee is seeking several interested faculty members to participate, to help facilitate the connection between students' classroom activities and Mount 101. Interested faculty should email [mission&belonging@msj.edu](mailto:mission&belonging@msj.edu).

## **SUPPORTING STUDENT GROUPS (AUGUST-NOVEMBER):**

The Center for Mission & Belonging staff is regularly attending meetings and events of the Black Student Union, Rainbow Alliance, and the Hispanic Latino Student Union, and is also in regular contact with the groups' faculty and staff advisors. This open line of communication is critical to staying aware of issues and providing needed support for students, and will continue.



## **THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION FOR STUDENTS ON CAMPUS**

Each year, through the Office of Student Affairs, students who are on campus on Thanksgiving Day are invited to take part in a traditional Thanksgiving meal. This year, the Office of Student Affairs is collaborating with our staff, as well as other faculty and staff across campus to make this event more inclusive. Details about the Thanksgiving Day Event will be coming soon.



**IN ADDITION, EACH MONTH, THE CENTER FOR MISSION & BELONGING WILL BE SHARING ITS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY. THE NOVEMBER CALENDAR IS ATTACHED. IF YOU HAVE ITEMS FOR THE MONTHLY CALENDAR, PLEASE SUBMIT THEM TO [MISSION&BELONGING@MSJ.EDU](mailto:MISSION&BELONGING@MSJ.EDU).**

**FOLLOW US!  
THE CENTER FOR MISSION & BELONGING IS ON INSTAGRAM  
[@MSJMISSION\\_BELONGING](https://www.instagram.com/MSJMISSION_BELONGING)**