

# A CONVERSATION OF UNDERSTANDING

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## Free Speech and Diversity of Thought

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Featuring Michelle N. Deutchman, Attorney and Law Professor who specializes in safeguarding free speech at universities while simultaneously maintaining a safe and inclusive campus climate.

In the 2022 Campus Climate Survey, one of the recommendations was to “educate students on free speech to advance diverse insights, strengthen engagement, and foster a culture where learners are taught how to think well, not what to think.” This COU will address avenues of communication that are aligned with freedom of speech and expression principles.

This COU will feature Michelle N. Deutchman, inaugural Executive Director of the University of California National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement. Deutchman will explore how the fundamental democratic and academic principles of free speech and civic engagement should enrich the discovery and transmission of knowledge across SIU campuses, and in America’s colleges and universities.

Students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members from across the SIU System are invited to join a live virtual discussion focusing on critical issues regarding equity and justice in our country and what we can and must do to address those issues within the SIU System and beyond. The event will feature an SIU community panel sharing findings and solutions based on the 2022 Viewfinder Campus Climate Survey. A question and answer session will follow where audience participants can use the YouTube comment section or submit questions before or during the event by emailing [doris.williams@siu.edu](mailto:doris.williams@siu.edu)

**NOVEMBER 16, 2022**  
**12:00 PM - 1:30 PM**  
<https://bit.ly/SIUConversation>

Conversations of Understanding have become a fixture across the SIU System and on our individual campuses. They are a series of exchanges where students, alumni, faculty, staff and the broader SIU communities can share their experiences and thoughts on a variety of themes related to antiracism, diversity, equity and inclusion. We want to be a model for others in higher education and be recognized as a leader in our region and beyond for our work in fostering understanding of relevant contemporary issues.

Sponsored by the SIU System President’s Office and the SIU System Diversity Advisory Council



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