

# A CONVERSATION OF UNDERSTANDING

## “Childcare as a Human Right”

Dear SIU Community,

Please join this COU to learn a crucial perspective from parents and childcare experts on why childcare should be recognized as a fundamental human right, particularly within the realm of higher education and society at large. In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the challenges faced by student parents. Balancing the demands of academia with the responsibilities of childcare presents a significant challenge for many individuals striving to earn a college degree. As a result, countless promising students are forced to compromise their academic ambitions due to the lack of accessible and affordable childcare options.

It's essential to recognize that providing adequate childcare support isn't just a matter of convenience; it's a matter of equity and justice. Access to quality childcare enables student parents to fully engage in their studies, thereby fostering their personal and professional growth. By ensuring that childcare is readily available, we empower student parents to pursue their educational goals without having to sacrifice their responsibilities as caregivers.

By advocating for childcare as a human right in higher education and society, we affirm our commitment to equity for all. It's time to recognize that supporting student parents isn't just a matter of goodwill—it's a human right.

A question-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).

**MARCH 26, 2024**

**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.



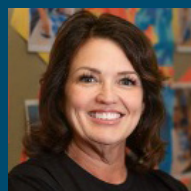
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Center



**Genevieve Sheridan**  
Nonprofit  
Executive

Sponsored by the SIU System President's Office  
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