

# A CONVERSATION OF UNDERSTANDING

## “ The Power of Civil Discourse: Strategies for Productive Dialogue ”

Dear SIU Community,

Join us for an engaging Conversation of Understanding on the Power of Civil Discourse: Strategies for Productive Dialogue.

In today's polarized society, the need for respectful and productive dialogue is more important than ever. Civil discourse is the foundation of healthy civic engagement, allowing us to navigate complex issues, bridge divides, and build stronger, more inclusive communities.

This Conversation of Understanding will focus on the importance of dialogue in fostering critical thinking skills and understanding. We will explore strategies for engaging in difficult conversations with those who hold different political or social views, emphasizing the goal of productive dialogue and understanding. By approaching discussions with empathy and respect, we can create an environment where all voices are heard and valued.

Following the dialogue, participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts from 1:00 to 1:30 pm. This Q&A session will allow for deeper exploration of the topics discussed and provide a space for open, respectful conversation.

This event invites students, faculty, and staff to come together and contribute to a more vibrant and civically engaged campus community. Your participation is crucial to making this a meaningful and impactful conversation.

### How to Participate:

- **In-Person:** Join us at the SIU Carbondale Student Center, Ohio Room for a face-to-face discussion.
- **Virtual Option:** Can't make it to Carbondale? Watch the live stream from any SIU campus.

**SEPTEMBER 19, 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.

Students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members from across the SIU System are invited to join a live 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. A question and answer session will follow where audience participants can participate in person, use the YouTube comment section, or submit questions before or during the event by emailing [doris.williams@siu.edu](mailto:doris.williams@siu.edu).