



Message from the Chief Diversity Officer

Welcome to the first edition of the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Newsletter! The hope is that the newsletter will serve as a resource to increase knowledge and gain information about diversity and inclusion efforts here at the institution as well as in the Saint Louis community. COVID-19 has changed the way in which our communities engage with each other. In the spirit of #KeepLearning & #KeepTeaching, ODEI has been busy over the last few months creating new initiatives, collaborations, and training. We want to thank all of our campus partners for assisting us in this process. ODEI will continue to be a resource and advocate in this journey working towards equity and inclusion for all.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tanisha Stevens, Interim Director/Chief Diversity Officer

ODEI brings digital badges to UMSL!



Digital badges enable you to showcase and share your professional development accomplishments on your social media, digital portfolio, email signature and more. UMSL and ODEI have partnered with Credly's Acclaim platform. This platform allows you to receive, manage, and share digital credentials in the form of digital badges.

[Click here](#) to learn more!

Virtual Diversity & Inclusion Professional Development Opportunities

Virtual Professional Development Series

The ODEI has a full calendar of Virtual Professional Opportunities this summer including topics such as inclusive language, unconscious bias, and diversity & inclusion competence. [Click here](#) for more information.

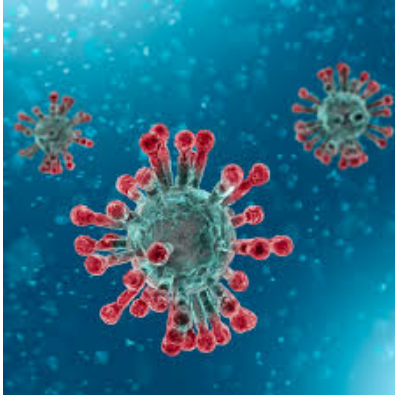
Diversity 101 (online) June 1- August 15, 2020

In this highly interactive online course, you will gain knowledge, awareness, and communication skills for providing leadership around diversity and inclusion issues; working more effectively with people from backgrounds different than your own; and for making UMSL more welcoming and inclusive for everyone. This peer-learning centered course is designed to engage people who are new to the topic as well as those who had more exposure to these topics and issues. [Click here](#) for more information.





UMSL Covid-19 Research Conversations



UMSL faculty from a range of disciplines will share what they know and are learning about the impact COVID-19 has on vulnerable populations, systems, and communities. Explore potential areas of research collaboration related to developing novel interventions, approaches, and generating new knowledge that can help communities at home and around the world effectively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The next conversation is May 15 at 9:00 a.m. via zoom. To register, send an email to Cynthia Jobe at JobeC@umsl.edu. For additional information on future Covid-19 Reserach Conversations, [click here](#).

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Since 1949, the United States has observed Mental Health month in May as a time to raise awareness, stop the stigma, and show support for the millions of Americans living with a mental health issues. In the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, mental health issues, such as anxiety, can be exacerbated. Even those who normally may not experience mental health issues can experience anxiety and depression during these unprecedented times. Please know that you are not alone!



Get some de-stressing tips at [UMSL's Virtual Destress Fest](#). UMSL Counseling Services also offers resources for [coping with COVID-19](#). And don't forget that the UMSL community has access to [Sanvello](#), a smartphone app for helping to relieve symptoms of stress, anxiety, and depression. Please take care of yourself and those around you!

Thank you for your support of diversity and inclusion at UMSL!

That's all for today! Please stay tuned for our next newsletter in August. If you have any comments or a diversity & inclusion event that you would like us to share, please email it to odei@umsl.com