

what's going on?

JULY 2021

A series of workshops, conversations, and brave spaces led by and for the WSU community in response to what's going on surrounding issues of racism, inclusion, equity, and social justice.

Tuesday, July 6 | 1 - 2 P.M.

[The Biggest Protest in History is Happening Right Now - Farmers Protests in India](#)

Since November 2020, over 10,000 Indian Farmers have been protesting legislation which will deregulate the agriculture sector without any significant protections for farmers or price protections for consumers. The bills also give corporate entrants unprecedented control over India's food supply. In response to protests, journalists have been arrested, protesters have been attacked and democracy has been suppressed. With no end in sight - the protests continue.

Facilitated by: Harman Singh | Academic Advisor, Department of Psychology

Wednesday, July 7 | Noon - 1 P.M.

[The "White or Other" Struggle: How to Support Middle Eastern College Students](#)

During this presentation, the presenters will discuss four topic areas in address and supporting MENASA college students, including understanding key terms, facts and data related to WSU and nationally, societal and popular views, and overall understanding and support of this student population.

Facilitated by: Brandon Shamoun, M.Ed. | Coordinator of Student Engagement (ASO II), Doctoral Candidate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies & Ahmed Bitar, M.A. | Doctoral Student in Spanish (Modern Languages) & Abir Beydoun, B.A. | Data Analyst (OSFA), Master Student in College of Education

Thursday, July 8th | 1 - 2 P.M.

[Building Psychological Fortitude as a Form of Resistance and Activism](#)

This session will offer a guide for assessing, building and maintaining Psychological Fortitude with special attention given to Black mental health. Attendees will be encouraged to attend to Psychological Fortitude (PF) in the same way we attend to SPF (sun protective factor).

Facilitated by: Jennifer Bohanon | University Counselor II, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

Tuesday, July 13 | Noon - 1 P.M.

[What's Going on with Pronouns on Campus?](#)

Come learn more about efforts on campus toward pronoun awareness and use! This conversation will begin with an outline of where things stand with pronoun selection options in various Wayne State systems, and join us in a conversation about next steps for a pronoun awareness campaign to educate our community about inclusive and appropriate pronoun use.

Facilitated by: Dr. Simone Chess & Dr. Michael Schmidt | Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies (GSW) Program

Thursday, July 15 | Noon - 1 P.M.

[We're Here Too: How Student Leaders of Color Find Belonging](#)

Finding a sense of belonging can be more challenging for Students of Color compared to their white peers, especially at predominantly white institutions. This session will share the findings from a qualitative dissertation study interviewing Student Leaders of Color. Their lived experiences reflected the marginalization and assimilation pressure they experience daily, in addition to the intense weight they feel to act as role models for other Students of Color. From their stories, we can learn how to better support all Students of Color, particularly those who choose to serve as leaders on our campus.

Facilitated by: Dr. Katie Beaulieu | Associate Director of Operations, Student Center

Wednesday, July 21 | 1 - 2 P.M.

[Institutional Accountability for Racial Equity in Student Success](#)

There have been some positive trends in developing a more sophisticated understanding of how white folx can be individually accountable to BIPOC, for example moving past a notion of allyship to one of being an accomplice. And the call for reparations, both in the US and internationally continues to have traction. But what does it mean for an institution to be accountable for the harms of structural racism? Using the campus-wide effort for student success as an example, we will examine this question together. (Participants may want to read Tema Okun's White Supremacy Culture, and the 2021 update at <https://www.whitesupremacyculture.info/>).

Facilitated by: Dr. Monica Brockmeyer | Senior Associate Provost for Student Success

Thursday, July 22 | Noon - 1 P.M.

[I Have a Story to Tell](#)

This workshop is an homage to Notorious B.I.G and encourages everybody, not just poets, to get up and tell a story that they want people to hear.

Facilitated by: Camille Thomas | Office of Multicultural Student Engagement & Makaki Takahashi | Slam Poet

Tuesday, July 27 | Noon - 1 P.M.

[Bring a Friend to Work Day: Activate an Ally](#)

If you consider yourself an ally the objective is to bring a silent or ambivalent friend and to activate them as an ally for racial equity and social justice. If you're that friend, you're more than welcome to bring yourself as well. In this discussion we will talk about the impact of systemic racism, perspectives on the decision in George Floyd's murder trial (outlook on justice/progress), as well as what it means to be an ally and others' motivation for being an ally.

Facilitated by: Terrel White | Philanthropy Officer, College of Nursing

Wednesday, July 28 | 1 - 2 P.M.

[Two Womens' Perspectives: Motherhood, Activism and Academia](#)

This workshop will explore what the past year has looked and felt like for a Black woman and white woman, both raising children as higher education professionals. In the summer of 2020, we talked about why crying won't solve racism. Join us as we share ways that we are both putting our words into action.

Facilitated by: Kenya Swanson | University Counselor, Warrior Vision and Impact Program & Amanda Horwitz | Academic Advisor II, University Advising Center