

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE



Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging

Transforming the Springfield College Community in Spirit, Mind, and Body

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As the Springfield College community continues to create a more socially just, inclusive, and equitable campus, this online publication will highlight our efforts at addressing issues of difference and marginalization in our community.



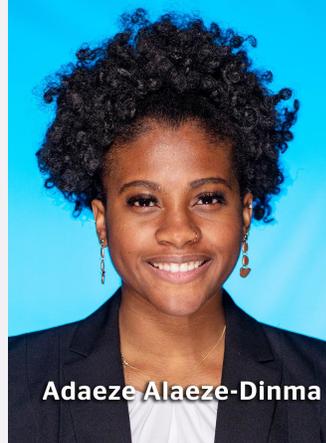
The Truth about “My Story, My Truth”

When the year started, no one was prepared for an array of marginalized voices that reverberated across the country during a global pandemic. Since our return to Springfield College in August, members of the administration have done their best to assure that those voices are not lost among the hustle and bustle of campus life. That effort is partially reflected in “My Story, My Truth.”

On Sept. 12, 2020, the leadership of Springfield College Athletics provided a video platform where our Black student-athletes and staff could share their lived experiences in order to foster connection and empathy. Adaeze Alaeze-Dinma, the coordinator of student-athlete

leadership development and sports communications assistant, highlighted the importance of storytelling in allowing our students' voices to be heard in her Springfield College job interview. When she was hired, Alaeze-Dinma and Brian Magoffin, assistant athletic director for communications, began to brainstorm on how to make her idea a reality.

They were aware that Clemson University had done something similar, so they used that idea as a springboard and then tailored the concept to fit our student body. Alaeze-Dinma interviewed all the students who participated and also was featured in one of the videos.

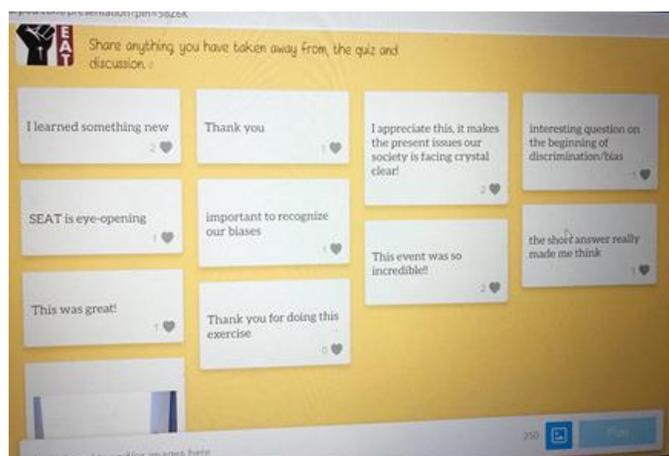


"I think that the series was an amazing platform to help bring our Black student-athletes experiences to life. I feel as though it was a way to see their lives through a different scope outside of their athletic identity," Alaeze-Dinma said.

Magoffin added, "We were excited about the potential impact that 'My Story, My Truth' could have on our campus community. However, what's especially impressive about our student-athletes sharing their stories and using their platform to lift others up, is that it received national attention. While we know that their lived experiences can impact those around them, to know that the series was the recipient of the 2020 NCAA Division III/D3SIDA Fall Recognition Award speaks volumes about the power of their voices."

As we move forward into the spring, let these shared experiences serve to bring us closer as a community in spirit, mind, and body. With the strength of our students, faculty, and staff, initiatives such as "My Story, My Truth" are excellent contributions in our efforts to grow together.

Watch the videos and be inspired by their stories.



The Impetus Behind SEAT at the Table Week

Summer 2020 was filled with many emotions, but for Indigenous people and people of color, and especially for Black/African American people, it was traumatic. During this time, the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) staff came up with a fall semester plan to address what was happening in the country. This plan included an extensive diversity conference week. Charisse DelVecchio, OMA graduate assistant; Felicia

Lundquist, director of OMA; and Luther Wade, Class of 2022, talked about the planning process and the impact they have seen from Social Justice, Equity, Accountability, and Transformation (SEAT) at the Table Week.

[Learn more about the history of SEAT at the Table and its success.](#)

View videos of many of the program's presentations.

Dancers Against Racism Series:



Dancers Against Racism "Move for the Movement"

Over the course of the fall semester, the Springfield College Dance team invited College community members to join guest artists to use dance as a platform to discuss racism. The classes were held via Zoom and included both movement and discussions relating to some of the most poignant current topics related to race. Guest artists included Jessica Moore of the Waccamaw Siouan tribe, Jason Aryeh (West African Dance), Lakey Evans-Peña (Horton-Ailey), Brittany Monachino (Jazz Fusion), David Olarte (Latinx Dance), and Matthew Gibbs (Tutting).

Members of the Springfield College Dance program challenged the Springfield College community to "educate themselves on racial injustice and take action."

"The experiences of faculty, students, and staff of color on this campus is [sic] not fair. It is not right. It is not acceptable. We are failing as a community. Sorry isn't going to cut it. We must step out of our bubble of ignorance, face reality, and take action," someone stated on the Springfield College Dance Facebook page.

Dancers Against Racism is one way that Springfield College Dance is promoting self-education and open discussions on issues related to race.

Brittany Monachino, a former performer with the Broadway production of *King Kong*, [ran a Jazz Fusion session](#) for Springfield College students as a part of this initiative.



“My session was a beautiful opportunity amidst our current times to connect and share both artistically and personally. Art is such an amazing tool to share truth, foster understanding, and apply pressure where need be and now is that time,” Monachino said. “It’s been time so we must continue!”



Brittany Monachino

In a time where it is so important for people to get involved, Monachino said “It is crucial that Springfield College promotes these kinds of opportunities for the expansion of mindsets, the tearing down and interrogation of long-held practices that do not support, uplift, nor dignify specifically Black, Indigenous, and people of color, and the responsibility that we each carry within us to do the work necessary. Our action is our art!”

arts & humanities speaker series

SAVE THE DATE!
MARCH 25, 2021

President Mary-Beth Cooper and the faculty and staff of Springfield College are proud to announce that *New York Times* bestselling author Ibram X. Kendi will be the keynote speaker at the annual Springfield College Arts and Humanities Speaker Series on March, 25, 2021. A decision to host the event in-person or virtually will occur at a later date.

As the campus community prepares for Kendi’s presentation, extra copies of *How to Be an Antiracist* will be



PHOTO: STEPHEN VOSS

available to borrow in the Harold C. Smith Learning Commons, and copies of the book also will be available for purchase in the Springfield College Bookstore located in the Campus Union.

Contributors to this Issue

Adaeze Alaeze-Dinma, Coordinator of Student-athlete Leadership Development and Sports Communications Assistant; **Taylor Alston**, Community Director in Housing and Residence Life; **Charisse DelVecchio**, Office of Multicultural Affairs Graduate Assistant; **Nicole Gauthier**, Assistant Director of Career Advising, Student Outreach, Innovation, and Generation; **Brianna Kirk**, Assistant Director for Student Activities and Late Night Programming; **Felicia Lundquist**, Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs; **Brian Magoffin**, Assistant Athletic Director for Communications; and **Luther Wade**, Class of 2021

**If you have questions or comments, please contact the
Office of Student Affairs staff at studentaffairs@springfield.edu.**

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