

# SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE



## Springfield College **CONNECT**

News and Happenings from Alden Street

### Volume 1, Issue 2 • June 9, 2020

This newsletter serves as a communication tool for our students, their families, and our campus community to stay informed. This is an important information platform for Springfield College to periodically share and exchange plans so that, together, we emerge strongly from the COVID-19 crisis.

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Dear Student,

Amid the pain and heartache of the last several weeks (and the years, decades, and centuries before that for Black members of our society), I am cautiously optimistic that we are on the cusp of transformational change for our society. The peaceful protests against racism and police brutality that have spread across the globe appear to be tapping into a long-ignored yearning for such change.

Last Tuesday evening, almost 350 members of our community joined together in a Community Forum on Racial Justice. It was a time for White members of our community to listen to the voices of Black faculty, staff, and students as they shared the often-painful experience of being Black in America and, closer to home, at Springfield College. These were powerful stories of pain, frustration, and fatigue.

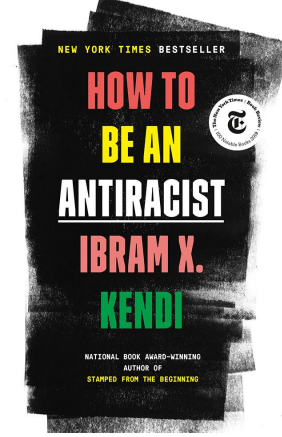
President Mary-Beth Cooper has called on our community to act on the conditions that contribute to the stories we heard Tuesday night. The desired transformation to a racially just society and community requires such action. The protests we see are one form of action. The listening that those of us who are White need to do more of also is an action. However, more action is necessary.

Another important action is for White members of our community, myself included, to educate themselves on the pervasive racism that causes the pain, frustration, and fatigue. We can no longer add to the burden of our Black brothers and sisters, expecting them to take on the task of teaching about their experiences to the majority.

Therefore, I invite you to join the staff and faculty who are reading and discussing *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi this summer. Any new or current student who wishes to participate can send an email message to

[studentaffairs@springfield.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@springfield.edu). Provide your name, student ID number, and address and we will order a book to be sent to you. We will coordinate discussion groups later in the summer, and there will be more actions focusing on this topic throughout the upcoming year.

The quest for a racially just society and a truly inclusive campus is the responsibility of all of us, not just our students, faculty, and staff of color. It is especially the responsibility of those of us who are White and who have benefited from the privilege accorded to us due to our Whiteness. We must transform ourselves, together. Only then will we be able to work together as a diverse community to create the loving and inclusive campus we all desire.



We pride ourselves on our philosophy of Humanics. We aspire to be leaders in service to humanity. To make that ideal a reality, we must affirm the humanity of those too often forced to the margins of our society, not only by blatant racism, but also through ignorance and silent complicity.

Sincerely,

**Patrick Love**  
Vice President for Student Affairs



## Getting Back to and Staying on Campus

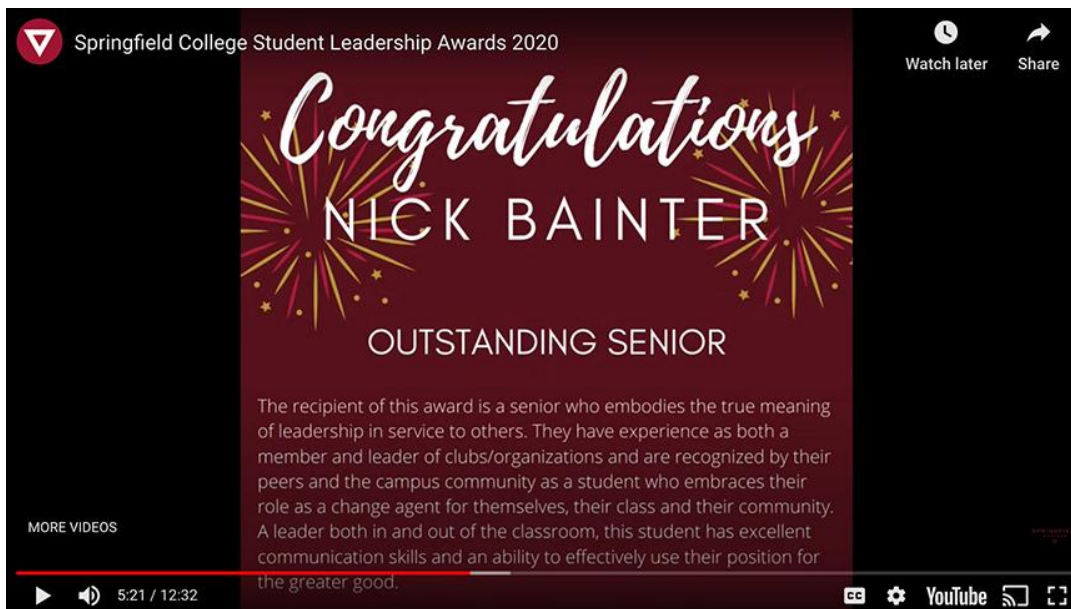
Currently on the Springfield College campus, our energies are focused on getting everyone back to the campus: stocking personal protective

equipment (PPE), erecting barriers, providing cleaning and sanitizing supplies, reconfiguring the academic schedule, spreading out classroom seating, adjusting dining operations, etc. There is much to do this summer. While we are committed to getting back to campus, the final decision to do so depends on what is happening in the community around us. Springfield and the other communities in western Massachusetts must successfully navigate through Phases 2 and 3 of state-imposed guidelines in order for us to welcome the community back to the campus this fall.

If we get back to campus, staying on campus for the entire semester is pretty much up to us. It will be the degree to which we adjust our behaviors that will determine whether we are able to stay on the campus for the entire semester. We must reduce the possibility of the virus getting on the campus, and, if it does, we must thwart its spread. That means you will need to maintain appropriate physical distance, wear masks, sanitize surfaces, avoid physical contact (e.g., handshakes, hugs), report if you are feeling ill, not share food or beverages, use proper hygiene for sneezing and coughing, and eliminate, or at least limit, leaving the campus. You will need to encourage such behaviors in your friends.

We know that many of these behaviors and restrictions are counter to those typical of our close community. As a community of students, faculty, and staff, we are unanimous in our desire to return to campus. For the coming year, it will look and feel differently, but we will be together as a community—and that is our goal.





## Student Standouts Shine as Leaders

At Springfield College, we take pride in celebrating the accomplishments of our students. On April 20, we held a **virtual ceremony** to honor our outstanding students at the annual Student Leadership Awards. Forty students were nominated in 11 categories, resulting in 15 honorees. The awards recognized up-and-coming campus leaders, those who affected positive change and demonstrated service to humanity, and much more. The awards presented were: Outstanding First-year Student, Outstanding Sophomore Award, Outstanding Junior Award, Outstanding Senior Award, Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Class of '57 Outstanding Senior Leadership Chair, Class of '63 Senior Award, Unsung Hero Award, John M. Wilson Diversity Leadership Award, Humanics Leader in Service Award, and the Pride Awards. Let's give a shout out to all our honorees!



## Virtual Springfield College Spring Dance Concert Set for June 13-14

We invite you to join us for a virtual dance concert, featuring dance films created by

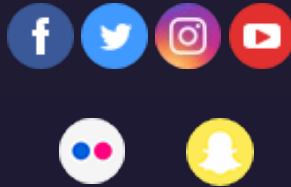
Springfield College student choreographers in various styles, including hip-hop, tap, and contemporary. **Catch a sneak peek!** The performance will be accessible on the **Springfield College website** starting at **noon on Saturday, June 13, and will be available until midnight on June 14**. There will be a discussion with choreographers streaming live on Instagram on both Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m. via **@springfield\_college\_dance** and **@scdanceclub**. Viewers can ask choreographers questions and learn more about their dance works in a conversation guided by program director Sarah Zehnder. We are excited to share new ways to virtually share our passion for dance and hope you enjoy this experience. **Dance to build community!**

If you have questions or comments, please contact the Office of Student Affairs staff at [studentaffairs@springfield.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@springfield.edu).

## Join the Springfield community online.

Get an inside look at what life is really like at Springfield College.

ACADEMICS | ADMISSIONS & AID | STUDENT LIFE | ABOUT | ATHLETICS



Springfield College  
Main Campus  
263 Alden Street  
Springfield, MA 01109  
(413) 748-3000



Springfield College is a smoke free/tobacco free campus.

### Employment Opportunities

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