

Equity In Action Conference “Immigration and Social Justice”

This week the Northeastern community is privileged to host guests from many walks of life who are joining our students, faculty, and staff in exploring issues in affirmative action. The university community is one of the best places to practice the art of inquiry and the sharing of informed opinions. We value the scholarly habit of mind that listens closely, hears, and considers other points of view. Most importantly, we honor diversity in the many voices in our community.

Sharon K. Hahs
President

It is the stated purpose and mission of the university to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, abilities, and attitudes which will form a foundation for life-long learning in a global society. Inherent in this foundation is the capacity to engage in inquiry and critical thinking that empowers learners. Diversity broadens our understanding of the human experience and contributes to enhancing our perspective in the educational environment for students, faculty, staff, and the community. This series of programs on "Equity in Action: Immigration and Social Justice" is dedicated to that mission. Human Rights and Social Justice is central to our core values.

Murrell J. H. Duster
Dean, Academic Development / Diversity and Multicultural Programs

Calendar of Events

Monday, October 8, 2007

10:00 am - 10:50 am _____ **Golden Eagles**

Issues Immigrants Face: A Student Panel Discussion

Introduction
and Moderator: ... **David Rutschman**, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences and Professor, Mathematics, NEIU
Panelists: **Sarah Champion**, Graduate Student, Linguistics, NEIU
Diana Guelespe, Alumni, NEIU
Arturo Hurtado, El Valor, Alumni, NEIU

The panel will discuss issues faced by immigrants based on personal experience working with immigrants.

11:00 am – 11:50 am _____ **Golden Eagles**

Undocumented Students in Higher Education

Introduction: **Yasmin Ranney**, Assistant Dean, Academic Development, NEIU
Panelists: **Erica Meiners**, Associate Professor, Educational Leadership and Development, NEIU
Christina Gomez, Associate Professor, Sociology, NEIU
Daysi Diaz Strong, Title III Project Director, Triton College

This session will discuss the lives of the approximately 20,103 undocumented students who live in Chicago. Between 3,000 to 4,000 undocumented students graduate from high school each year. In Chicago, approximately 6.1 percent of all undocumented students are enrolled in a post-secondary institution. Although there is limited research on this population, data indicates that youth, in particular, are under severe psychological stress. They are isolated because it is dangerous to share information about their status with others, and they are susceptible to exploitation as they can purchase expensive papers that are fake and of little use. We will also discuss the significant failures of our immigration and higher education policies.

1:00 pm – 1:50 pm _____ **Golden Eagles**

Crossing Borders - Human Rights and Social Justice: A Panel Discussion

Introduction: **Loretta Capeheart**, Associate Professor, Social Work and Justice Studies, NEIU
Discussants:..... *'Immigrants and Human Rights'*
Rocco J. Claps, Director, Illinois Department of Human Rights.
'Racial Profiling'
Tuyet M. Le, Executive Director, Asian American Institute

4:15 pm – 5:30 pm _____ **SU-214**

Voices of Hope - The Immigration Journey: A Student Round Table Discussion

Introduction: **Sunil Mahadeshwar**, President, Indian Students Association, NEIU
Moderator:..... **Chris Poulos**, Student; President, Students Against War, NEIU
Discussants:..... **NEIU Students**

This interactive panel discussion will highlight the trials and tribulations of students at NEIU as they have engaged in the process of relocating. Their expectations and experiences will be discussed.

5:40 pm – 7:00 pm _____ **Golden Eagles**

Advocacy, Social Services and Immigration Reform: A Panel Discussion

Introduction
and Moderator:..... **Deberah Bernstein**, Lecturer, Justice Studies and Women's Studies, NEIU
Panelists: *'Legal Advocacy, Rights and Social Justice'*
Alie Kabba, Executive Director, United African Organization
'Building Healthy Communities for Latinos'
Kristen Komara, Director, Financial Services, The Resurrection Project
'Korean American Community Services'
Inchul Choi, Executive Director, Korean American Community Services

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

9:25 am - 10:40 am _____ **Alumni Hall**

Keynote Address - Comprehensive Immigration Reform
The Honorable Luis V. Gutierrez, U.S. Representative, Illinois Fourth Congressional District

Introduction: **Sharon K. Hahs**, President, NEIU

10:50 am - 12:05 pm _____ **Golden Eagles**

Immigrant Students in Higher Education

Introduction: **Santos Rivera**, Senior Executive Director, Affirmative Action Office and Institutional Outreach Initiatives, NEIU
Presenter:..... **Jorge Nieves**, Cook County Educator, Immigration Programming

This workshop will provide statistics of the immigrant college student population in the U.S. and in the State of Illinois, including the Illinois in-state tuition law, HB 60. It will discuss college admissions and financial aid resources for immigrant students in higher education.

12:15 pm – 1:30 pm _____ **Golden Eagles**

City of Dreams: Latino Immigration to Chicago

Introduction: **Melinda Baldwin**, Instructor / Field Director, Social Work, NEIU
Moderator:..... **Audrey M. Natcone**, Instructor, Social Work and Justice Studies, NEIU
Presenter:..... **Wilfredo Cruz**, Author, *City of Dreams: Latino Immigration to Chicago* (2007), and *Puerto Rican Chicago* (2005); Professor, Sociology, Columbia College

Using oral interviews and documentation, *City of Dreams: Latino Immigration to Chicago* explores the diverse stories, experiences, hopes and challenges of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Guatemalan, Salvadoran and Cuban immigrant groups residing in Chicago. The book focuses on the immigrants' perspectives, discussing their initial reasons to immigrate to Chicago, acculturation experiences, aspirations, obstacles, relations with other ethnic groups, and their overall survival in a new setting. *Puerto Rican Chicago* traces the passage of several generations of Puerto Rican immigrants in Chicago, their changing circumstances, and their contributions to the civic community.

Book Signing will follow.

1:40 pm – 2:50 pm _____ **SU-214**

An Enrollment Services Perspective - Observations from the Field: A Round Table Discussion

Introduction
and Moderator: ... **Jeffrey M. Brown**, Attorney/Legal Liaison, NEIU
Discussants:..... **Gwen Kanelos**, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Services, Roosevelt University
Marshall Jennings, Director, Financial Aid, NEIU
Steve Pajak, Manager, Admission and Records, Enrollment Services, NEIU
Anna Frontczak, Assistant Director of Admissions, North Park University

Enrollment Services are not policy makers and are often caught between the law and students and their families in the interpretation of legislation as it relates to Admissions policies and practices. Staff will describe their experiences in managing the policy interpretation and implementation of HB 60.

2:50 pm – 4:05 pm _____ **Golden Eagles**

Latinos and Immigration Reform: A Legislative Update

Introduction: **Daniel López, Jr.**, Associate Dean, Academic Development; Director, El Centro, NEIU
Presenter:..... **Virginia Martinez**, Legislative Staff Attorney, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

This session will provide a general overview of the current state of immigration reform efforts, the extent and impact of anti-immigrant sentiment in the country, and the threats they represent to the civil rights of all Latinos.

4:15 pm – 5:30 pm _____ **Golden Eagles**

Supporting Polish and African Immigrant Families: "It takes a Village" The Community's Response

Introduction: **Jeanine Nthirageza**, Associate Professor, Linguistics; Coordinator, English Language Program, NEIU

'Refugee Resettlement Journeys: Burundi to Chicago - Burma to Chicago'

Presenter:..... **Shana Wills**, Director, Refugee & Immigrant Community Services, Heartland Human Care Services

This presentation will examine the effectiveness and continuity of both overseas and domestic refugee resettlement processing and the movement of thousands of human beings across continents, and discuss the impact of pre-departure challenges on the domestic resettlement experience highlighted through personal, anecdotal reflections.

'Housing and Health'

Introduction:..... **Lidia Z.Filus**, Professor, Mathematics Department, NEIU
Presenter:..... **Grazyna Zajackowska**, Director of Immigrant Services, Polish American Association

An overview of services rendered by the Polish American Association will be discussed with emphasis on Housing and Health outreach and recent developments of the Dream Act, and its impact on immigrant students and their families.

5:40 pm – 7:00 pm _____ **Golden Eagles**

Keynote Address - Immigration and Social Justice
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, U.S. Senator (Invited)

7:05 pm – 8:30 pm _____ **Golden Eagles**

Immigration: The Construction and Reproduction of Race and Racism in the USA

Introduction: **Barbara Sherry**, Instructor, Sociology, NEIU
Presenter:..... **John J. Betancur**, Interim Director and Professor, Institute for Research on Race & Public Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

10:00 am - 11:50 am _____ **Golden Eagles**

Elvira Arellano: In and Out of Sanctuary

Introduction: **Murrell J. H. Duster**, Dean, Academic Development / Diversity and Multicultural Programs, NEIU
Presenters: **Reverend Walter L. Coleman**, Pastor, Adalberto United Methodist Church
Enrique Rodriguez, Weekend Anchor and News Reporter, WGBO-TV 66 Univision

12:00 pm - 12:50 pm _____ **Golden Eagles**

Refugee Rights: A Public Policy Perspective

Introduction and Moderator: ... **Andrew Kourvetaris**, Instructor, Sociology, NEIU
Presenter:..... **Jenny Aguirre**, Refugee Health Administrator, Illinois Department of Public Health

2:00 pm - 3:15 pm _____ **Golden Eagles**

Immigration and Violence Against Women: Social and Legal Challenges of Survivors

Introduction: **Wamucii Njogu**, Associate Provost, NEIU
Presenters: **Neha Gill**, Legal Advocacy Department, Apna Ghar
Nancy A. Matthews, Associate Professor, Justice Studies and Women's Studies, NEIU

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm _____ **NEIU - El Centro, 3119 N. Pulaski**

Immigrant Students in Higher Education

Introduction: **Daniel López, Jr.**, Associate Dean, Academic Development and Director, El Centro, NEIU
Presenter:..... **Jorge Nieves**, Cook County Educator, Immigration Programming
Statistics of immigrant college student populations, HB 60, college admissions and financial aid resources for immigrant students in higher education will be discussed.

Committee Members

Victoria Amey-Flippin
Loretta Capeheart
Murrell J. H. Duster
Rohit Joshi
Masahiro Kasai
David Leaman
Daniel López, Jr.

Dragan Milovanovic
Wamucii Njogu
Jeanine Nthirageza
Rubi Ortiz
Kyu Young Park
Angelina Pedroso
Yasmin A. Ranney

David Rutschman
BarBara Scott
Susan Stall
Jade Stanley
Robert Starks
Conrad Worill

The Committee gratefully acknowledges the support received from members of the University community.

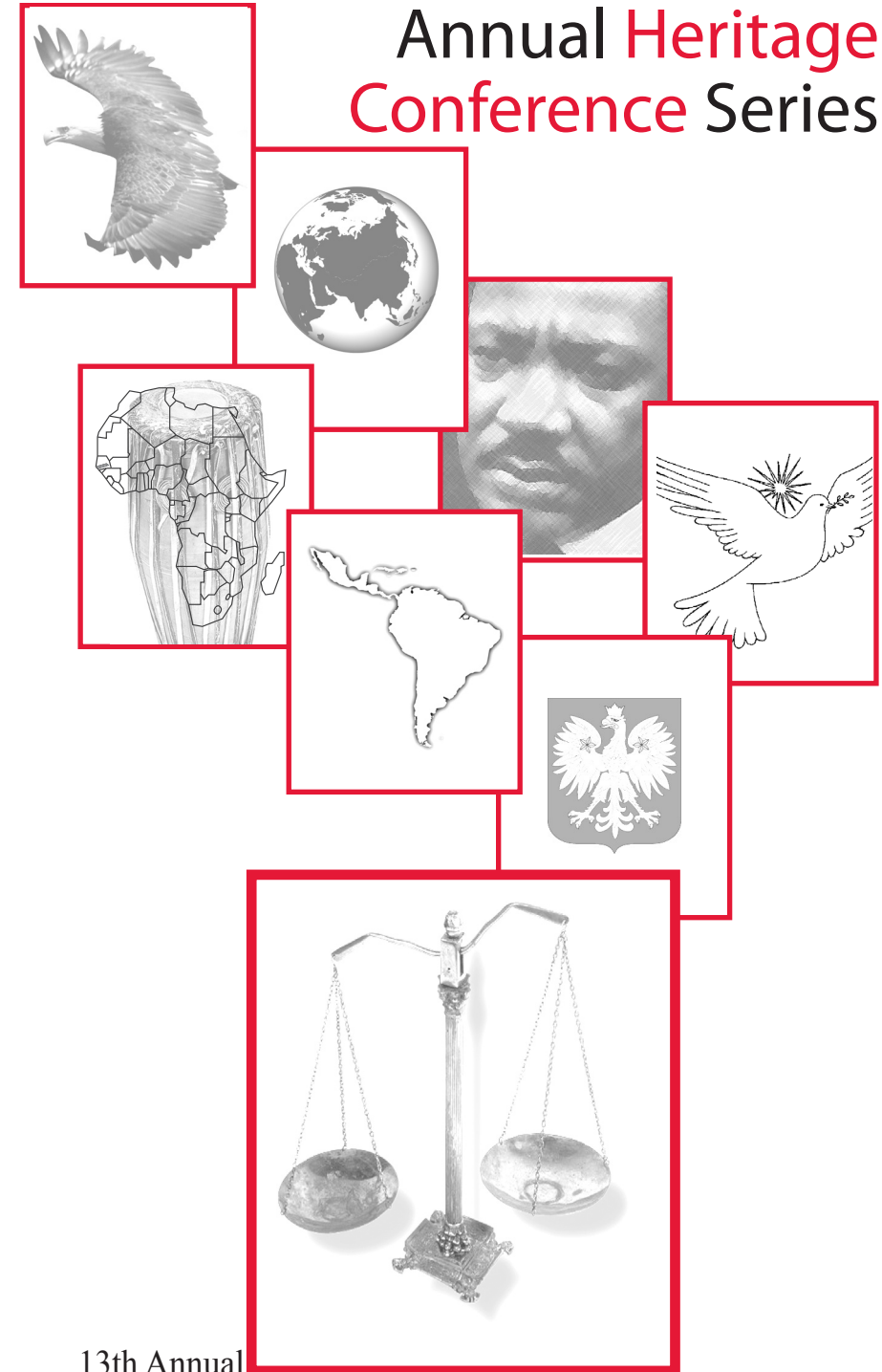
Sharon K. Hahs, President
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Melvin C. Terrell, Vice President, Student Affairs
Mark Wilcockson, Vice President, Finance and Administration
Santos Rivera, Senior Executive Director of Affirmative Action and Institutional Outreach Initiatives
Wilma Sutton, Executive Assistant to the President
Suleyma Perez, Legislative Liaison, Assistant to the President
Jean Kelchauer, Board Liaison
Vicki Roman-Lagunas, Associate Provost
Wamucii Njogu, Associate Provost
David Jonaitis, Associate Vice President for Financial and Administrative Affairs
Ralph Zia, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management
Kristine M. Pierre, Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs
Murrell J.H. Duster, Dean, Academic Development/Diversity and Multicultural Programs
Daniel López, Jr., Associate Dean, Academic Development; Director, El Centro
Janet P. Fredericks, Dean, Graduate College; Director, International Programs
Kate Langdon-Forhan, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Maureen Gillette, Dean, College of Education
Varkey Titus, Dean, College of Business and Management
Brad Baker, Dean of Libraries and Learning Resources
Michael T. Kelly, Dean of Students
Conrad Worrill, Director, Jacob Carruthers' Center for Inner City Studies
Yasmin A. Ranney, Assistant Dean, Academic Development
Erika Krehbiel, Director, Public Relations
Renata Lis, Academic Development
Victor Stanescu, Academic Development
Cynthia Roth-Garfield, Academic Development
Stefan Petre, Academic Development
Felicia Keelen, Director, Student Union
Sarator Whitehead, Assistant to the Director, Student Union
James C. Lyon Jr., Director, Public Safety
Joe Davis, Photographer, Photo/Design/Graphics
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Northeastern

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Annual Heritage Conference Series



13th Annual

Equity In Action Conference
"Immigration and Social Justice"

October 8-10, 2007

For additional information, please call
The Office of Academic Development at (773) 442-5449.
www.neiu.edu/~acdevelo

All Events Are Free And Open To The Public