



**THE DIVISION OF  
STUDENT AFFAIRS  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**2015-2016**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Division of Student Affairs, I am pleased to present this Annual Report of the impact of our programming and services on students during the 2015–2016 academic year.

We connect students to the University through educationally purposeful activities outside the classroom. Our programs and services promote learning, leadership, engagement, service, health and wellness, and the celebration of diversity.

In previous academic years, we reported the results of our work through narratives of our students, faculty and staff. In this year's report, we present a quantitative assessment of this impact, with the aim of demonstrating our progress towards the strategic goals we established in our 2015–2020 Strategic Plan.

Our key performance indicators measure the ways in which we are also working towards the strategic goals set out in the University Strategic Plan, and towards the Baccalaureate Goals.

We have made great strides towards achieving our goals, and I am proud of the tireless work and dedication the Student Affairs staff shows to our students.



**Daniel López, Jr., Ph.D.**  
Vice President for Student Affairs



We connect students to the University through educationally purposeful activities outside the classroom.

# VICE PRESIDENT STAFF & DIRECTORS



**Daniel López, Jr., Ph.D., Vice President,** has more than 22 years of higher education experience leading comprehensive academic support services, developmental education, and Student Affairs units in support of student success and retention.



**F. Matthew Specht, M.A., Dean of Students,** has worked in Student Affairs for 23 years managing facilities and providing programs. He has most recently focused on prevention education, adjudication, and advocating for the rights of students.



**Flora M. Llacuna, M.A., Coordinator,** has served NEIU for 38 years, including 34 years of service in the Division of Student Affairs. Over the years she coordinated the Minority Mentoring Program and the National Student Exchange. She currently adjudicates student misconduct cases and facilitates resolutions of student grievances.



**Christopher Maxwell, M.A., Interim Assistant Dean of Students,** has worked in higher education administration across the country for nine years in increasing roles of responsibilities, with experience in student activities, multicultural affairs, and fraternity, sorority, and residence life.



**Paola E. Vargas, M.A., Assistant to the Vice President,** recently earned her master's degree in Educational Leadership. She's worked at NEIU for more than 15 years including eight years of coordinating student services in the Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education.



**Cecily Minziti, B.S.W., Administrative Assistant,** has a background in social work and has been at NEIU for 15 years in the Division of Student Affairs.



**Kris Pierre, M.A., Senior Director, Academic and Community Partnerships,** has worked in Student Affairs and academic support positions at culturally diverse, urban Hispanic Serving Institutions, working across organizational boundaries to improve programs and build partnerships in support of student success.



**Maria Genao-Homs, M.A., Executive Director, Angelina Pedrosa Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs and Director, Latino/a Resources,** came to NEIU in 2013 with experience in communications and multicultural affairs and an interest and expertise in social justice, diversity, education, and intercultural dialogue.



**Meagan Mitchell, M.A., Director, African and African American Resources,** has eight years of leadership, assessment, evaluation, retention, and student success experience.



**Yasmin Ranney, M.A., Director, Asian and Global Resources,** has been at NEIU for more than 19 years, with experience in higher education administration and policy making; minority student achievement; diversity and multicultural programming with emphasis on social justice, racial justice, and human rights; and cross-cultural teaching with a focus on anti-Islamophobia initiatives.



**Luvia Moreno, M.A., Director, Undocumented Student Resources,** has more than 10 years of experience in Hispanic Serving Institutions, addressing the needs of undocumented and other underrepresented students and their families.



**Dave Merrill, M.Ed., Director, Campus Recreation,** has worked in the field of recreation for more than 20 years, the last 13 years as an administrator and instructor at NEIU.



**Elaine Blair, Ph.D., Director, Career Development Center,** has 12 years of experience providing students with career development support systems that empower them towards persistence, success, and completion of their higher education goals.



**Doug Lawson, M.Ed., Director, Student Disability Services,** has worked to improve access for students of all abilities since 2005, first as a teacher in the K-12 system and then in the last five years as a Student Affairs professional.



**Sue Stock, Ph.D., Executive Director, Student Health and Counseling,** brings expertise in serving the physical and mental health needs of urban, diverse students. Dr. Stock has served in leadership roles in professional organizations and has published books and articles on student affairs practice.



**Keith Cosentino, M.Ed., Director, Student Housing - The Nest,** has worked his entire Student Affairs career in housing, dedicated to the notion that an excellent experience positively contributing to a hall community will lead to student academic success.



**Veronica Rodriguez, M.Ed., Director, Student Leadership Development,** has worked with student organizations and Greek life and created and led service trips at several Chicagoland universities since 2002, with the ability to develop students while remaining adaptable at all times.



**Travis Truitt, M.A., Director, Student Media and Communications,** is a former middle school English teacher and college communications instructor with more than a dozen years of media experience, including nearly three years as a journalist in Chicago.



**Kyle Burke, B.A., Director, Student Union, Events, and Conference Services,** has more than 20 years of experience in large-scale event and conference management. He's been at NEIU since 2009.

## OUR MISSION

The Division of Student Affairs at Northeastern Illinois University actively supports and engages its diverse community of learners through excellent programs and services that enhance students' personal development, leadership skills, and intercultural competencies to engage in a dynamic global society.

## OUR VISION

The Division of Student Affairs will be a national leader in urban higher education and among Hispanic Serving Institutions through its promising practices to support student success.

## OUR VALUES

The Division of Student Affairs embraces the University's core values and contributes to student success through:

### CIVIC LEADERSHIP

We encourage empowerment through learning as we educate students to be active citizens that lead with integrity and create change within their University, local community, and in the world.

### SOCIAL JUSTICE

We celebrate diversity and encourage the idea of equal participation within our society and foster in our students a commitment to creating a more equitable and just world.

### HOLISTIC SUPPORT

We support access to opportunity and are committed to excellence by providing quality programs and services to meet students' personal, academic, and career needs.

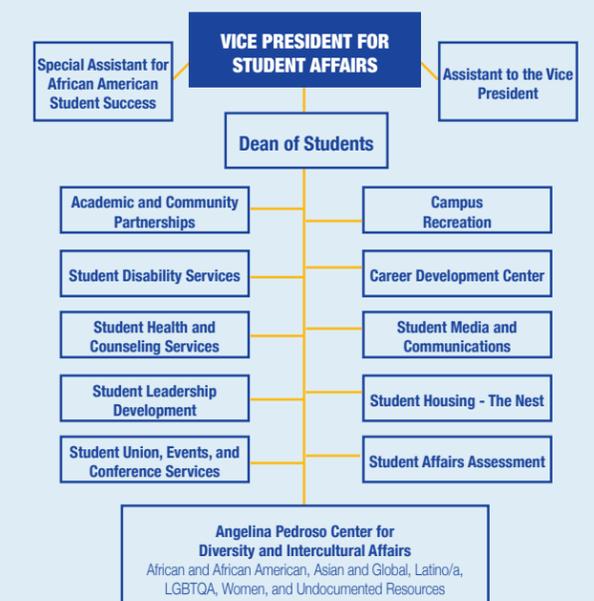
### EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

We enhance the University community by providing hands-on learning and reflection opportunities for students that enrich their educational pursuits.

## OUR GOALS



## OUR ORGANIZATION



# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

These measures are the key metrics by which Student Affairs will gauge our future success in achieving Northeastern's current Strategic Plan goals. Each measure has a frame of reference set by past performance. When possible, targets are based on an average percent increase. When past performance is not available, varies, or shows a decline, institutional knowledge is used to set short and long-term goals for 2016-17 and through 2022.

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN STUDENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMS (GOAL 1)

Percentage of undergraduate students leading or planning events, holding leadership positions, or employed in the division. Student engagement is tracked through the Collegiate Link module of Campus Labs.



## STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN STUDENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMS (GOAL 1)

Percentage of undergraduate students who participated in programs or activities sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs. Participation includes activities such as attending co-curricular programs sponsored by Student Affairs. Student participation is tracked through the Collegiate Link module of Campus Labs.



## FALL TO FALL RETENTION FOR PARTICIPATING STUDENTS (GOAL 1)

Student participation includes activities, programs, and services sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs such as attending co-curricular programs and are served by Student Affairs areas. This KPI tracks the percent of participating undergraduate students who are retained from Fall to Fall.



Northeastern's Strategic Goals form the basis for establishing KPI metrics. Each KPI is reviewed annually and may be revised based on actual performance or shifting priorities. Though these numbers have been identified for their strategic significance, there are many intangible or unquantifiable ways in which Student Affairs departments and staff have meaningful impacts on student success in the rest of this report.

You can learn more about these strategic goals at [www.neiu.edu/about/strategic-plan](http://www.neiu.edu/about/strategic-plan)

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER (GOAL 2)

These KPIs track the number of student contacts and the number of unique students served during an academic year. Services include one-on-one, groups, walk-ins, workshops, outreaches, job fairs, and consultations.



For student contacts, long-term target for the life of Northeastern's Strategic Plan is 5,000 student contacts. The short-term target for 2016 has already been exceeded.



Because of higher than expected actuals (currently 829), the short-term target for 2016 and long-term target for 2022 have already been exceeded.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES (GOAL 3)

This KPI tracks the number of students who participate in community service activities.



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (GOAL 3)

Northeastern is committed to building community partnerships to support student success. This KPI tracks the number of partnerships between Northeastern and community organizations.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE (GOAL 4)

Northeastern Division of Student Affairs holds staff trainings for undocumented students, Safe Zone, Disability, and Title IX. This KPI is the percentage of currently employed faculty and staff who participated in at least one training over the fiscal year.



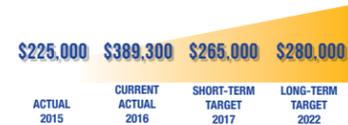
## RESIDENCE HALL OCCUPANCY RATE (GOAL 5)

This KPI tracks occupancy rates for the 432-bed residence hall, defined as the percent of beds occupied.



## GROSS REVENUE FROM COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL PROGRAM (GOAL 6)

This KPI tracks the revenue collected from community memberships and recreational programs.



Actual revenue for 2016 exceeds both the short-term target (\$265,000) and the long-term target (\$280,000).

## GROSS REVENUE FROM UNIVERSITY SPACE RENTAL (GOAL 6)

Under Student Affairs, Northeastern regularly rents out university space for conferences and events. This KPI tracks the revenue collected from rental space.



Actual revenue for 2016 exceeds both the short-term target (\$70,000) and the long-term target (\$90,000).

# ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Academic and Community Partnerships (ACP) builds connections between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs to support student success and retention, promotes civic and democratic engagement programs and campaigns, and develops and supports collaborative community partnerships that advance Northeastern's mission. This includes providing leadership for Student Affairs collaborative learning initiatives with academic areas, including the Economic Inequality Initiative and Tree Campus USA.

Providing leadership in collaborative learning and building relationships.

## During FY16, Academic and Community Partnerships:

- Provided leadership for Student Affairs involvement in the American Democracy Project's Economic Inequality Initiative and cultivated opportunities for strong partnerships between Student Affairs programs and the Arts and Sciences curriculum through this initiative.
- Collaborated with faculty involved with the General Education Committee on a workshop offered in October on engaged learning and public engagement.
- Opened the Student Food Pantry through a collaborative effort with the Vice President of Student Affairs office, the Dean of Students, and an innovative partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository Healthy Kids program.

- Worked with staff from the Kettering Foundation to nominate three students to participate in training on how to facilitate deliberative dialogues – all three were selected.

- Provided leadership for NEIU's involvement in the national launch of the Kettering Foundation's new National Issues Guide, "Making Ends Meet," on economic inequality.

- Partnered with faculty in Biology, Environmental Science, and Geography and Environmental Studies, staff in facilities management, and community leaders on NEIU being recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Campus USA school.

- In collaboration with community partners and staff in Student Leadership Development, provided leadership for the continued growth of the North River Commission's Chávez Day of Service, honoring the enduring legacy of César Chávez in April. Approximately 100 representatives from community organizations and NEIU students, faculty, and staff volunteered at Eugene Field Park, the Global Garden Refugee Training Farm site, and the Refugee Gardens at Northside College Prep.

- Was awarded an AmeriCorps VISTA position for second straight year through the Illinois Campus Compact.

- Received the \$1,400 Illinois Campus Compact Electoral Engagement Grant and the \$2,000 McCormick Foundation/Illinois Campus Compact Strategic Civic Leader Fellows Grant.



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

- Registered 365 individuals to vote or updated their registration through our TurboVote system. This is a 16.6% increase over the 313 individuals registered in FY15. We were ranked 19th out of more than 200 TurboVote campuses in 2015-16.

- Helped NEIU exceed the midterm election student voting rate in 2014 with 24.9% voter participation, exceeding the averages for all public master's institutions (18.5%) and all institutions (18.8%), according to the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement.

**365** REGISTERED TO VOTE  
**25%** PARTICIPATION RATE

# ANGELINA PEDROSO CENTER FOR DIVERSITY AND INTERCULTURAL AFFAIRS

At Northeastern's Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs (APCDIA), we house African and African American, Asian and Global, Latino/a, LGBTQA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Ally), Undocumented, and Women student resources. The mission of the APCDIA is to develop and provide programming and initiatives in a welcoming environment designed to educate, empower, and retain students from socially and culturally diverse backgrounds.

#### During FY16, the APCDIA:

- Had more than 15,000 total student contacts, including repeat visits to the center.
- Added a new all-gender restroom and a lactation space (mother's room) as part of the Pedroso Center expansion.
- Became the host for the Social Justice Ally Initiative.

#### African and African American Student Resources:

- Piloted the African and African American Mentoring Program to assist in the persistence and retention rates of African and African American identified students. This mentoring program was coordinated by the director for African and African American Student Resources who worked with mentors from across the NEIU community.
- Collaborated with the Black Student Forum to host a "Know Your Rights" presentation with First Defense Legal Aid to empower students with the information needed to interact with police officers.

#### Asian and Global Student Resources:

- Conducted five 90-minute, very well received workshops on Islamophobia in the spring to students in various graduate and undergraduate classes at the request of faculty from the College of Business and Management, Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education, and College of Arts and Sciences.
- Coordinated all aspects of the 6th Annual Asian, Asian-American Awards Celebration in April recognizing the achievements of members of our NEIU community in seven categories in an evening celebrating various Asian cultures. The evening's program was funded through an improved, streamlined fundraising effort that included sponsorships and donations from the NEIU community as well as in-kind and cash donations from local businesses and individuals.

#### Latino/a Student Resources:

- Organized "AfroLatinidad: Reimagining the Mosaic of Latin American Culture," featuring a workshop as well as a performance led by a drumming group called Buya. The program aimed to educate the participants on the African influence in Latin American culture and was held in collaboration with the Association of Student Social Workers, Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity, and Omega Delta Phi Fraternity.
- Hosted the HERStory Month Positive Image Campaign to educate participants on the importance of having a positive body image. The multi-day program was in collaboration with Gamma Phi Omega Sorority and included a workshop and a day of tabling in Village Square in which hygiene items and new under garments were collected and donated to a local non-profit organization supporting the needs of women.

#### LGBTQA Student Resources:

- Started the SPEAKOUT program. SPEAKOUT is a speaker's bureau that presents panels of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and allied Northeastern students who share their personal stories about being LGBTQA on campus and beyond and respond to questions and comments from an audience. More than 70 students attended the first SPEAKOUT panel in February.
- Hosted an art presentation and discussion session called "The Intersection of Disability and Queer Identity," with Riva Lehrer, an American painter, writer, teacher, and speaker. Riva was born with spina bifida and has undergone numerous surgeries throughout her life. Her work focuses on issues of physical identity and the socially challenged body, especially in explorations of cultural depictions of disability. Riva's presentation focused on the social construction of disability within the LGBTQ community.

#### Undocumented Student Resources:

- Organized and hosted a Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) information session in collaboration with the Illinois Coalition of Immigrant and Refugee Rights and Congressman Luis Gutierrez's office in July.

#### PEDROSO CENTER BY THE NUMBERS

**14** MORE THAN  
**15,000**  
STUDENT STAFF TOTAL STUDENT CONTACTS  
(INCLUDING REPEAT ENGAGEMENTS)

- Planned and implemented the DREAMers Resource Conference at NEIU in January in collaboration with the South Asian American Policy and Research Institute and other organizations.

- Collaborated on the Coming Out of the Shadows event with the URO (Undocumented Resilient and Organized) in March.

- Provided a training to faculty, staff, and administrators at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and secured \$1,000 for the Undocumented Student Fund with the Vice President for Student Affairs.

- Collaborated with Psychology department faculty to serve as an internship site for students in the academic program.

#### Women Student Resources:

- Hosted a variety of programming for the 2016 HERStory Month in collaboration with the Women's and Gender Studies program. Highlights of the programming included two lectures, "Why Are We Behind? Exploring Women's Wage Gaps" and "Women's Issues and This Year's Presidential Election," and a panel discussion, "Women of Color and Trans Activists in the Fight Against Police and Structural Violence," with prominent guest speakers.

- Partnered with Justice Studies faculty member Dr. Adam Messinger, who taught the "Violence Against Women" course, on the "16 Days of Activism" campaign, which began on Nov. 25 – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women – and ran through Dec. 10 – International Human Rights Day. During the campaign, students worked in small research groups, and Women Student Resources staff developed social media postings for each of the 16 days reflecting the student research.

- Staff also utilized the bathroom campaign to promote awareness of the "Violence Against Women" initiative and dedicated the December Pandora's Box to the topic of violence against women. The campaign culminated with a reception and class presentations to the community in Village Square.

# CAMPUS RECREATION

Campus Recreation assists the Northeastern community in establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle through programming initiatives such as group exercise, personal training, fitness assessments, intramural and club sports, adventure programming, swimming lessons, health and safety courses, and special events in our outstanding fitness and recreational sports facilities. Campus Recreation also contributes to the university and beyond through facility rentals for high school sports, youth and adult recreational sports, camps, and more.

## During FY16, Campus Recreation:

- Engaged the NEIU community through 3,886 unique student visits, among an overall total of 69,714 (non-rental) visits.
- Welcomed students, faculty, staff, alumni, and neighbors to its facilities, with 36,879 total visits to the Fitness Center and 6,360 Swimming Pool visits. This includes visits from 132 faculty and staff members and 20 spouses, 68 alumni, and nearly 100 community members who purchased Fitness Center memberships. Our facilities also saw 1,624 free Family Day visits, plus 1,536 guests who purchased daily passes.
- Had 242 unique students participate a total of 1,260 times in Intramural Sports competitions and activities, while 46 different students engaged with Sport Clubs a total of 1,512 times over the course of the year.
- Staff taught 7,046 swim lessons and conveyed 122 American Red Cross certifications in CPR, Life Guard Instruction, and Water Safety Instruction.
- Saw a total attendance of more than 4,500 at our Group Fitness classes throughout the year, including 107 participants in Yoga.
- Launched a new "Learn It/Play It" initiative, coordinated by Campus Recreation Sports Educator Liz Urcinas, where students were invited to participate in instructional activities and then engage in the activities, including badminton, ski/snowboard, and "Run My First 5K."

## CAMPUS RECREATION BY THE NUMBERS

**3,886**  
UNIQUE STUDENT VISITS

**100%**  
CPR CERTIFIED STAFF



- Hosted our first Table Tennis Tournaments in both the Fall and Spring semesters.
- Led three Adventure Trips, with 75 participants exploring Sleeping Bear Dunes, Devil's Lake, and Wilmot Mountain.
- Also led 1,330 participants through team building activities utilizing high ropes, low ropes, and the climbing wall, and partnered with Academic Affairs to create programming for FYE students that included these team building activities along with a peace fire.
- Engaged with 130 students during our Wellness Fair, and nearly 100 runners participated in the Golden Eagle 5K.
- Employed 89 students throughout the course of the year in various roles. Additionally, Campus Recreation hired three Graduate Assistants in the areas of Adventure Programming, Intramural Sports and Student Development, and Facilities and Educational Development, along with hiring a Student Affairs Liaison for the department.
- Worked to develop new campus traditions while instilling pride and cultivating a connection to the university through hosting a social event connected with the Chuck Kane Scholarship Golf Event and arranging to have a successful NEIU alum talk to students about the role Campus Rep played in his life and career success.

- Cultivated active partnerships with 39 community groups – 17 sports clubs, leagues, and tournaments; 7 community or service groups; 7 instructional groups or clubs; 5 schools; and 3 camps.

# CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Northeastern's Career Development Center empowers the university community by providing resources for career preparation and advancement. The center aims to guide individuals with all phases of their career development as they transition from college to professional life. The Career Development Center staff engages and empowers the community through career exploration and job preparation, while providing innovative services leading to lifelong personal and career success for our students as we prepare them to be leaders in a global world.

## During FY16, the Career Development Center:

- Had 3,537 student contacts through workshops, information sessions, job fairs, mock interviews, and individual appointments.
- Saw 829 different students through individual appointments for career advising, counseling, or coaching.
- Hosted the Fall 2015 Diversity Community Job and Volunteer Fair in October, which drew 302 participants and job seekers networking with 58 registered organizations.
- Drew 80 students to a Meet and Greet Information Session with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), where students learned about career opportunities and what it's like to really work for the CIA.
- Held the Education Job Fair in February with 215 attendees mingling with 66 school districts and education agencies present from 10 states as well as Beijing, China.
- Co-sponsored a Job and Internship Fair with the College of Business and Management in March where 105 Accounting, Finance, Marketing, Management, and Business Administration majors had the opportunity to network with more than 40 companies, including Aon Hewitt, Walgreens, Target, PNC Bank, and Verizon.
- Had more than 200 people attend the 25th Annual Computer Science Alumni Panel discussion on the field of computer science in April, which coincided with a Computer Science Job Fair that afternoon attended by 76 students.

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT BY THE NUMBERS

**3,537**  
TOTAL STUDENT CONTACTS

**829**  
INDIVIDUAL STUDENT APPOINTMENTS

**137%**  
INCREASE IN UNIQUE STUDENTS SERVED



# DEAN OF STUDENTS

The Dean of Students (DOS) is responsible for the administration and interpretation of the Student Code of Conduct and facilitates the resolution of instances of student misconduct reported by members of the University community. In addition, DOS serves as a universal starting point for students who need assistance in exploring and addressing their concerns and grievances pertaining to university departments, faculty, staff, or other students. The DOS handles issues of student judicial affairs and academic integrity.

## DEAN OF STUDENTS BY THE NUMBERS

**15** **29**

CASES OF MISCONDUCT    GRIEVANCES ADDRESSED

During FY16, the office of Student Rights and Responsibilities was streamlined into the Dean of Students office, providing the Northeastern community with a better understanding of the functions of the office and how it serves and advocates for students.

### During FY16, the Dean of Students and DOS staff:

- Administered 15 cases of student misconduct.
- Offered direct assistance to students in 29 reports of student grievances.
- Spearheaded a collaborative effort of the Housing Committee to plan logistically and programmatically for the opening of The Nest and Northeastern's first students living on campus. This process included an expansion of the Code of Conduct and the development of a Resident Handbook.



# STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

Student Disability Services (SDS) provides academic and technical assistance to students and works closely with faculty to facilitate student access. SDS provides students with physical and learning disabilities reasonable accommodations and services in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



### During FY16, Student Disability Services:

- Served 375 students.
- Hosted The (dis)Ability Project, a hands-on, interactive, engaging training session designed to train and educate staff and faculty to make Northeastern universally accessible to students of all abilities. More than 210 faculty/staff attended the training.
- Successfully kicked off the Social Justice Ally Initiative pilot program. This was a collaboration of Student Disability Services, LGBTQA Student Resources, and Undocumented Student Resources. A cohort of 22 members (made up of faculty and staff) successfully completed The (dis)Ability Project, Safe Zone, and Undocumented Student Ally training.

Accommodating students of all abilities.

## STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS

**375** **210**

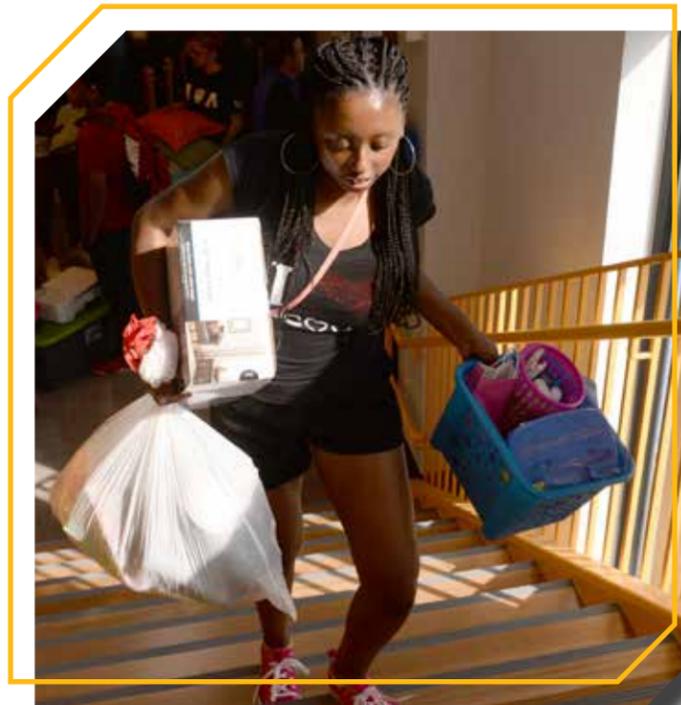
STUDENTS SERVED    FACULTY/STAFF TRAINED

# STUDENT HOUSING - THE NEST

Northeastern's 2008 Strategic Plan called for a residential life component, and Northeastern broke ground on its first residential hall in May of 2015. During FY16, the Division of Student Affairs, the Housing Committee, and NEIU's partner, American Campus Communities (ACC), which manages all assets and operations of the residence hall, prepared for the opening of The Nest in August of 2016.

Staff at The Nest eagerly looked forward to the academic year and keeping students engaged while helping them prepare their mind, bodies, and spirit for the rigor of academic success. They welcome all students, staff, and faculty to visit The Nest and look forward to seeing you.

Northeastern has always been a second home. For some, now it's just home.



## THE NEST BY THE NUMBERS

**440**

MAXIMUM OCCUPANCY

**263**

RESIDENTS AT MOVE-IN DAY

**8**

RESIDENT ASSISTANTS

**15**

ILLINOIS CITIES REPRESENTED

**8**

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN REPRESENTED



# STUDENT HEALTH AND COUNSELING SERVICES

Student Health and Counseling Services provides physical and mental health services to the NEIU community in three broad areas: direct clinical service, consultation and outreach, and training. We are a diverse staff comprised of psychologists, nurses, post-doctoral fellows, practicum externs, and support staff. We address the psychological and physical health, wellness, and well-being needs of our currently enrolled Northeastern Illinois University students, generally free of charge.

## During FY16, Student Health and Counseling Services:

- Provided 5,576 clinical appointments to NEIU students.
- Had 952 students participate in the Stress Free Zones, held both semesters at all NEIU locations.
- Conducted 48 walk-in meditation sessions, open to the entire NEIU community.
- Provided more than 80 additional outreach presentations on a variety of topics.
- Staff members were highly involved with continued professional development. Nancy Easton, Psy.D., presented at the Association for the Coordination of Counseling Center Clinical Services conference in May on the clinical needs of transgender and gender nonconforming students. Sue Stock, Ph.D., served as a Governing Board Member of the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors.
- Two student nurses and five psychology trainees – including one full-time postdoctoral fellow, one part-time postdoctoral fellow, and three part-time doctoral students – were supervised in their clinical work by licensed practitioners who provided seminars and other training sessions.



## STUDENT HEALTH AND COUNSELING BY THE NUMBERS

**5,576**

CLINICAL APPOINTMENTS

**952**

STUDENTS AT STRESS  
FREE ZONES

**12%**

INCREASE IN THERAPY SESSIONS

**48**

WALK-IN MEDITATION  
SESSIONS

Wellness isn't just a feeling, its a careful balance.

## Student Counseling Services staff:

- Saw clients mirroring the diversity of NEIU in terms of ethnicity, in similar percentages to the general student body – 78.3% were undergraduate; 32.6% male-identified; 58.4% identified as heterosexual or straight. More than half our clients had previously sought mental health services.
- Provided 12% more therapy sessions and 3% more total overall sessions compared to 2014-2015, despite a significant reduction in clinical staff.

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Student Leadership Development (SLD) enhances our students' college experience through student engagement. SLD advises and mentors student organizations and student government, provides leadership training, and offers programming and opportunities for meaningful community service projects and social justice activities.

## During FY16, Student Leadership Development:

- Engaged with more than 1,200 unique students who participated in SLD events.
- Advised 75 Registered Student Organizations, including eight sororities, four fraternities, one co-ed fraternity, one gender neutral frarority, and four student media organizations.
- Facilitated 73 different events funded by Council of Clubs' allocations totaling \$96,000.
- Had active participation from 122 unique students in student media through WZRD radio, Que Ondee Sola magazine, Seeds literary and visual arts journal, and the Independent newspaper.
- Hosted multiple Meet and Greet socials during Welcome Week in August to help create connections among students who may share similar interests or backgrounds, including socials for LGBTQ students, new transfers, adult students, veterans, and international students.
- Conducted the Freshmen Leadership Institute, a two-day retreat for nine incoming freshmen in early August that focused on developing students' beliefs and value systems and included guided discussions and team building activities led by three student leader facilitators.
- Selected and trained 14 Freshmen Navigators, who came to NEIU with leadership experience in high school. The Freshmen Navigators served as campus leaders, helping "navigate" fellow freshmen who may have felt lost or disconnected and assisting at monthly Freshmen Meet-Ups. On average, 50 students attended these monthly events.
- Launched the first leadership conference called Strengthening NEIYou, kicked-off by Dr. Jennifer Selke, speaking about StrengthsQuest, followed by breakout sessions on a variety of topics.

## Engagement enhances the university experience.

- Hosted TEDxNEIU in October, which was attended by more than 100 students with five speakers representing students, faculty, and alumni selected to speak on a variety of topics.
- Organized a number of "Days of Service," presenting students and student groups with opportunities for personal growth and meaningful ways to serve the community and learn about themed-topics. Among these were Summer Beach Clean Up Day in August; 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance, which featured a letter-writing campaign to troops overseas and the collection and donation of non-perishable food, clothing, and toiletries for Operation Gratitude; and the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in January, in which 12 students, along with hundreds of others from throughout the city and state, celebrated Dr. King's birthday as a "day ON, not a day off" through service projects such as mural and wall painting, restoring park areas, landscaping community spaces, and leading educational activities for children.
- Held Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in November when 11 students volunteered at a community kitchen, 38 students participated in the Hunger Week OxFam Banquet, and food was collected for the NEIU Food Pantry and clothing and toiletries were collected for veterans.
- Led four service-oriented Alternative Spring Break Trips in March. A total of 45 students went to either Selma, Alabama, where a student group learned about segregation and the Civil Rights Movement; Tucson, Arizona, where the group learned about border reform and immigration issues; Maryville, Tennessee, where students learned about the preservation of the Smokey Mountains environment and the Cherokee Tribe culture; and East St. Louis, where a group learned about issues of hunger and homelessness.
- Conducted an inaugural 8-week Leadership Pathways Certificate class comprised of 11 students, and provided monthly Leadership Pathways workshops, attended by an average of 15 students.

### STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT BY THE NUMBERS

**75** MORE THAN **1,200**

STUDENT ORGS

UNIQUE STUDENT PARTICIPANTS



Alternative Spring Break trips are an opportunity to give of yourself and your time to the service and benefit of another. Student Leadership Development Assistant Director Rae Joyce Baguilat (far left) is pictured here with Alternative Spring Break students in Selma, Alabama.

# STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Ability Advocacy Organization  
 Accounting Associates  
 Achievers Who Serve (AWeSome)  
 Business and Management Club  
 Alliance for Student Social Workers  
 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.  
 Alpha Psi Lambda- National, Inc.  
 American Marketing Association Collegiate Chapter  
 Anthropolos  
 APICS  
 Assyrian Student Association  
 Beta Beta Beta Biological Honors Society  
 Biology Graduate Student Association  
 Black Caucus  
 Black Student Forum  
 Brass Club  
 Chicago Artists Association  
 Child Advocacy Club  
 College of Business and Management  
 - Student Advisory Council  
 Computer Science Society  
 Counselor Education Student Association  
 Current Editorials for Learning Life Sciences  
 Dancer's Society Dance Company

Delta Tau Lambda Sorority, Inc.  
 Earth Science Club  
 Feminist Collective  
 Financial Management Association  
 French Club  
 Future Health Professionals  
 Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority, Inc.  
 Geeks and Nerds United  
 Generativity Club  
 Golden Eagles Dance Crew  
 Graduate Student Association  
 Green Conservation Group  
 Health & Wellness Club  
 Hillel  
 Illinois Education Association  
 Independent Newspaper  
 Indian Student Organization  
 Inner Cities Studies Major Club  
 Iota Phi Theta  
 Israel Club at NEIU  
 Justice Studies Club  
 Kappa Delta Chi Sorority, Inc.  
 Language and Culture Interconnections  
 Life Catholic Student Association  
 Muslim Students Association  
 National Association for Music Educators  
 National Society of Hispanic MBA's  
 Undergraduate Collegiate Chapter at  
 Northeastern Illinois University  
 Northeastern Polish Student Association  
 Northeastern Programming Board

Omega Delta National Fraternity, Inc.  
 Omega Delta Phi Fraternity, Inc.  
 Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.  
 One Voice Northeastern Illinois University  
 Phi Iota Alpha  
 Physical Education Teacher Education Club  
 Pi Sigma Alpha  
 Pre-Law Society  
 Presidential Scholars Student Association  
 Pride Alliance  
 Psi Chi Psychology Honors Society  
 Psychology Club  
 Que Ondee Sola  
 Rebel Poetry  
 Seeds Literary and Visual Arts Journal  
 Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.  
 Sigma Lambda Gamma  
 Sociology Club  
 Sprouting Leaders Foundation  
 Student Alliance for Leadership and Education  
 Student Council for Exceptional Children  
 Student Veterans Club  
 The SLAM Open Mic Poetry Club  
 Theta Chi Omega National Multicultural Sorority, Inc.  
 Theta Pi Sigma Gender Neutral Frarority  
 Truevine University Bible Fellowship  
 Ukrainian Students Organization  
 Undocumented Resilient & Organized  
 United Greek Council  
 Utatu Collective  
 WZRD Radio

# STUDENT UNION, EVENTS, AND CONFERENCE SERVICES

The NEIU Student Union serves as a destination for students, faculty, staff, and visitors in many ways, from facilitating and hosting student-produced programming to providing excellent facilities and planning assistance for meetings, performances, conferences, and special events. We strive to help our guests relax, connect, learn, and grow from our quality programming, art exhibitions, and a wide variety of other services. Our staff operates the Information Center/Box Office, which administers ID cards, the U-Pass, locker rentals, and a lost and found and sells stamps, discounted AMC movie tickets, and tickets to university events.

## During FY16, Student Union, Events, and Conference Services:

- Scheduled 13,347 events, lasting an estimated 60,465 hours with an estimated total attendance of 150,201 people.

- Generated \$93,267 in gross revenue from private rentals, surpassing the goal of \$70,000 by \$23,267.

- Produced Northeastern's two Commencement ceremonies, which saw 600 graduates participate (61.9% of graduates) in the December ceremony, and 919 graduates participate (69.2%) in the May ceremony.

- Advised and facilitated the student-run Northeastern Programming Board, which completed 35 events from August to April, an average of four events per month. Eleven of those events were co-sponsored with campus departments, students seeking assistance, a Greek organization, and/or a community organization. More than 1,500 students participated in NPB events during the academic year.

**The Northeastern Programming Board (NPB)** saw continued success with some of its most popular annual events, including NestFest, Top Chef, the NEIU Talent Show, the NPB Movie Series, Late Night Breakfast, a free store, and excursions to Cubs and Bulls games.

New NPB initiatives launched in FY16 included an outdoor movie, a Starved Rock hike, Guitar Jam, Paint Diversity, Sabor Latino, Jazz Night, a parliamentary debate, an (anti) Valentine's Day Party, a snowboarding and skiing excursion to Wilmot Mountain, SNAP Information Sessions, and HERStory Open Mic.

## STUDENT UNION, EVENTS, AND CONFERENCE SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS

**13,347**  
EVENTS

**150,201**  
ATTENDEES

# STUDENT GOVERNMENT



The SGA Executive Board with President Emerita Sharon Hahs and Daniel L. Goodwin celebrating the dedication of the Goodwin College of Education.

## STUDENTS SELECTED TO ATTEND POLITICAL CONVENTIONS

Through a partnership with the Washington Center, Northeastern sent a student to each of the national political conventions in July. They spent the first week in classes taught through the Washington Center, learning about the political process and the history of the conventions.

In the second week they had internships in various areas of the convention and were able to attend the evening convention program.

Emily Hosman, a junior CMT major, attended the Republican National Convention in Cleveland and had the opportunity to intern with Fox News on the "Fox and Friends" morning program.

Anna Augustyn, a junior Political Science major, attended the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia and worked as part of the security team inside the convention.

## ALWAYS VIGILANT, SGA IS STUDENT SUCCESS IN ACTION

The purpose of the Student Government Association is to lead with integrity, embracing our diversity to promote a cohesive and unified student body. It is the mission of the SGA to be the voice of all students.

The SGA is composed of three bodies: the 16 Representatives at Council of Clubs, 16 Senators, all elected, and five Student Justices appointed by the SGA President.

These groups are led by the Executive Board: the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, the IBHE-SAC (Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisor Council) Student Representative, and the Student Trustee.

The Senate advocates for the student body. The Senators serve on one of two standing committees: the Student Life Committee or the Academic Affairs Committee.

The Council of Clubs advocates for creating and funding organizations on campus. Council of Clubs Representatives serve on one of two standing committees: the Promotions & Appointments Committee or the Charter Rules & Regulation Committee.

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT BY THE NUMBERS

**16**

COUNCIL OF CLUBS  
REPS

**5**

JUSTICES

**16**

STUDENT SENATORS

## 2015-16 SGA EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President:** Nicholas Martinez

**Vice President:** Ricky Gutierrez

**Treasurer/COC Chair:** Max Caviness

**Secretary:** Yessica Garcia

**IBHE-SAC:** Emily Hosman

**Student Trustee:** Pedro Nungaray

# WHAT WE SAY ABOUT OUR GOLDEN EAGLES

"...willingness to go the extra mile..."

"...critical to functioning..."

"...dedicated to creating a welcoming experience..."

## FUTURE STUDENT AFFAIRS PROFESSIONAL AWARD WINNER IN THE STUDENT UNION

The 2016 Future Student Affairs Professional Award went to Claudia Xoy, who works as a student employee for the Student Union, Events, and Conference Services. Director Kyle Burke calls her "one of our shining star students."

## SDS' ACE AIDE IS A CRUCIAL PART OF THE TEAM

Student Disability Services recognizes Najlah Iqbal, who has worked with SDS for nearly a year and a half assisting the program by editing and producing training videos and compiling The (dis)Ability Project assessment. She assists the office in delivering reasonable accommodations to our students, and she also helps Director Doug Lawson research various topics on which he writes and presents.

## STUDENTS TAKE A HAND IN BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Kris Pierre, senior director of Academic and Community Partnerships, wants to thank five students who, through partnerships with professors on campus, helped in the transition of the Student Food Pantry to its new location.

Pierre says Maria Padilla, Diamond Barnes, and Maribel Martinez "were a huge help in sorting out logistical issues with distributing food to students and problem solving during Food Pantry hours and served as informal leaders for other volunteers. They played important roles in collecting donations for the Thanksgiving holiday food drive."

She credits Brian Jones for "a steady increase" in awareness and utilization of the Food Pantry among residents of The Nest through his staffing a promo table, knocking on doors, and handing out flyers.

Additionally, Pierre credits Damian Flores for going "above and beyond in helping with pantry set up and picking up deliveries and donations of food. He also helped a lot with promoting the Food Pantry to other students."

## CAMPUS REC ALL-STARS

Campus Recreation benefits from the work of several outstanding student employees. Assistant Director Christian Kopp praises the efforts of Terry Buck, Vanessa Crisostomo, Darren Perteet, and Christine "Chriz" Cordero.

According to Kopp, Buck is a three-year employee who has been highly involved in the Adventure Program and Intramural Sports Program and was recently promoted to a position "where he has thrived as a leader."

Kopp praises Crisostomo's effort and calls her "our most involved student employee. Her desire to always get better and make the PE Complex a welcoming place for the students of NEIU is unmatched."

Perteet is a "frontline" employee whom Kopp champions for his approach. "Darren's positive attitude towards every situation is truly what makes him a special student for Campus Recreation. (He) continuously improves the morale of our staff through his attitude."

Kopp recognizes Cordero for her passion and lauds her professional growth. "Chriz officiated our intramural championship basketball game last spring, which is a great honor for an official in our department. Through the skills and confidence she gained through officiating intramurals, Chriz has become an Illinois High School Association licensed official and has started officiating games outside of NEIU."

Aquatics Coordinator Gail Ito had great praise for students Anthony "Tony" McClellan and Mary "Molly" Hultgren, both of whom are future teachers already making an impact with students.

Ito credits McClellan for building the adult swim lesson program from a high of one to two students a week in 2014-2015 to 20 to 25 students a week now. She said Tony "receives many compliments from his adult students on his patience, understanding of their needs and fears, and willingness to go the extra mile to assist them in learning the very scary life skill of swimming."

Hultgren has been successful at organizing and developing drills and exercises for kids in Level 1 swim lessons, allowing them to "move at a fast pace and learn skills in fewer lessons," according to Ito. "The NEIU pool (4 1/2 feet deep at the shallowest) presents challenges to swim teachers as it requires the teacher to swim most of the lesson. Not only has Molly overcome these challenges, but she incorporates the fact that the teachers and students cannot stand into the lesson."

## PEDROSO CENTER STUDENT STAFF EXCEEDS ALL EXPECTATIONS

The Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs (APCDIA) staff recognizes their entire 14-person team of graduate and undergraduate students. Administrative Assistant Diane DiMaso says, "Their hard work is critical to the functioning of the Pedroso Center. We could not do the work that we do without their dedication and support."

The APCDIA team consists of: Desmond Ayettey, Brian Damacio, Tova Gottlieb, Angelica Hernandez, Patricia Leon, Claudia Lopez, Adriana Mata, Max Miller, Dan Pranjic, Tunisha Rush, Elisa Salgado, Samantha Torracco, David Velazquez, and Diamond Whaley.

## STUDENT DESIGNER TAKES OVER THE TV SCREENS

Student Affairs Communications staff is constantly impressed by the hard work of Rich Xue. Rich's artistic magic is visible in much of the print and digital design you've seen across campus the past three years.

## CAREER CENTER RELIES ON DEDICATED STUDENT WORKER

Northeastern's Career Development Center is the recipient of stand-out work from Joanna Rivera, "an outstanding student worker" who has completed many special project assignments, according to Director Elaine Blair. "Joanna is dedicated to assisting anyone who contacts the Career Development Center with excellence... she is an asset within the Career Development Center!"

## THE NEST STUDENT STAFF TAKES OFF AND SOARS

Finally, this August saw the opening of The Nest, which created new opportunities for student employment. Student Housing Director Keith Cosentino said, "I would like to thank The Nest student staff for all their wonderful work in our first semester. Their dedication to creating a welcoming student experience for the residents has blossomed a wonderful community at The Nest."



Nest R.A. Team from left to right: Moe Diaz, Martha Lopez-Salazar, Isabel Vargas, Larry Thigpen, Oscar Lopez, Uriel Saldivar, Adriana Mata and Kal Suleiman

# EXAMPLES OF STUDENT SUCCESS

## NEIU'S 2016 LINCOLN ACADEMY STUDENT LAUREATE

Alicia Ozier is the Northeastern 2016 Lincoln Academy Student Laureate. She was honored with student laureates from other state schools at a Nov. 12 reception in the Hall of Representatives in Springfield at the Old State Capitol followed by a luncheon at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel.

After years of working at a community organization on the West Side of Chicago that provides education and health care to adolescents who are exposed to or living with HIV, Ozier decided she wanted to develop her skills to make a greater impact on her home city. She enrolled at Northeastern at the age of 39 and progressed at her own speed, even taking a two-year break from her studies to serve in the Peace Corps in Gambia.

"The Carruthers Center is so important to me as an African-American student," she said. "The experience as a black student learning with a diverse body of students really refined my experiences from the Peace Corps. The professors allowed me to challenge what I thought I knew and gave me scholastic strength to be able to convey a style of leadership better than I had before."

Now 48, Ozier, who will graduate in December with a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, is eager to pursue a master's degree in social service administration.

"I really want to focus on global health and community development as an intervention for social wealth," she said.



From right to left: Diana Rauner, Alicia Ozier, Gov. Bruce Rauner, Chancellor Stephanie Pace Marshall, and Daniel López, photographed at the Lincoln Laureate awards ceremony.

The Student Affairs team would like to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts and accomplishments of the students we serve and congratulate our student award winners and student staffers who have gone above and beyond in their contributions to the Northeastern community.

## WINNERS FROM THE 2016 LEAD AWARDS

At the 2016 LEAD Awards banquet hosted by Student Leadership Development, the following students and student groups were recognized for their outstanding efforts and positive impact on campus and beyond:

- Pedro Nungaray: Legacy Award**
- Max Caviness: Golden Eagle Award**
- Rut Ortiz: Wilson Media Award**
- Trudy Leong: Advocacy Award**
- Stephanie Herrera: Sheena Glover Award**
- Adriana Mata: Greek of the Year**
- Green Conservation Group: NRichment Award**
- Omega Delta Fraternity: Soaring Eagle Award and Greek Chapter of the Year**
- SLAM Open Mic Poetry Club: Trailblazer Award**
- Sociology Club: Blue and Gold Award**

## LOOKING FORWARD

The Division of Student Affairs is looking forward to completing a successful first full year of housing students in The Nest, the first residence hall in Northeastern's history. Student housing is important to Northeastern's efforts to recruit and retain local, national, and international students, and Student Affairs staff will work to support students' academic success and ease their transition to University living, from assisting students and their families with move-in to offering meal plan options and fostering engaging programming.

Rec Reps at The Nest will directly connect the benefits of Campus Recreation and the new residents on campus, with weekly programs and friendly competition.

During the 2016-2017 academic year, we will partner with the Division of Academic Affairs on a new student coaching program to remove barriers for first-year students and coach them on how to navigate the NEIU/higher education experience.

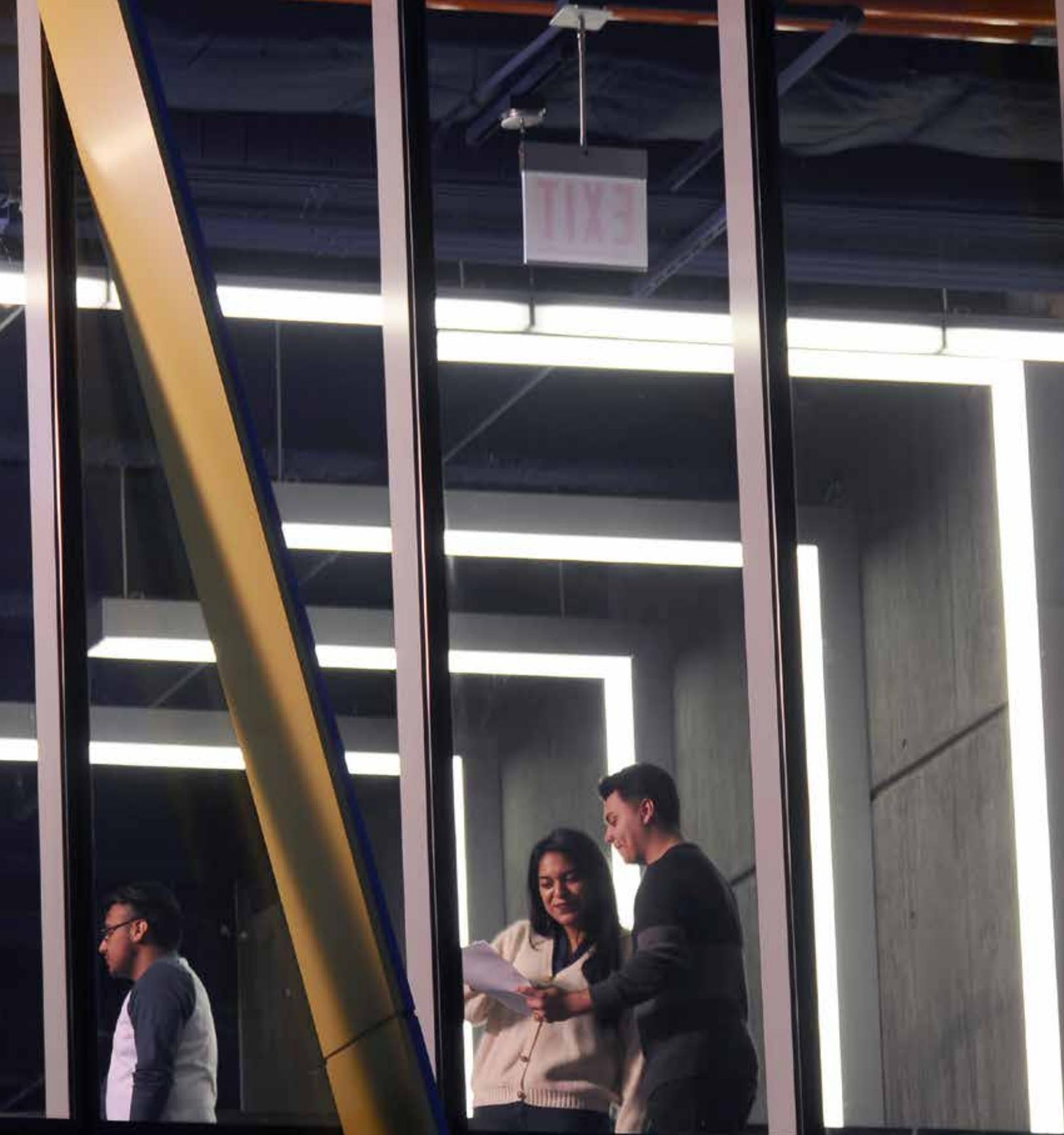
The Pedroso Center will launch a new discussion series and re-launch the Comadre Network, along with a new mentoring program and departmental collaborations across the university.

We will expand and enhance the Division's services at El Centro and the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies, including planning for Student Health and Counseling services at those locations.

We will build upon our highly successful Social Justice Ally Initiative with an expansion of our holistic and comprehensive curriculum of social justice related trainings to a larger cohort of faculty and staff.

Our continued work on the Division's strategic plan includes ambitious Work Plan action steps that will be measured through key performance indicators and rigorous assessment.

The Student Affairs team looks forward to working with you as we support and serve our students throughout this academic year.



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