



DIVISION OF DIVERSITY,
EQUITY & INCLUSION

ACCESSIBLE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Indianapolis

AES's Inaugural Campus-Wide Disability Awareness Month 2024

"Beyond Awareness: Nurturing an Accessible Educational Community"

The Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion's Office of Accessible Educational Services (AES) staff has meticulously planned a month-long celebration with engaging activities and informative sessions. This celebration of disabled students and students with disabilities experiences is not just a testament to AES's commitment but also a collective achievement, recognizing the dedication of past leaders and ongoing support from advocates across our campus. Join us in March for various events, including the kick-off luncheon and keynote speaker, games, tabling, panelists, information sessions that include alternative media-technology demonstrations and equity stories, and a mini-resource fair. The AES Inaugural Disability Awareness Month is the beginning of our efforts toward creating a more outward facing and collective Accessible Educational Services Community of Practice (AESCoP) that strategically brings existing relationships and services into collaboration in the work of advocating for disabled students and students with disabilities and fostering a sense of belonging at IU (Indiana University) Indianapolis. We envision an AESCoP that aligns with IU Indianapolis's 2030 goals and values and embraces the principles of the Disability Justice framework. As we embark on this journey, we look forward to engaging in conversations and possible brown bag lunches about disability, aligning our services with social and disability justice approaches in an inclusive and accessible educational environment at IU Indianapolis. Finally, AES welcomes the Inaugural Chancellor and Executive Vice President, Latha Ramchand to the IU Indianapolis campus. (From our director: Dr. Mercedes A. Cannon).

AES's Inaugural Disability Awareness Month Opening Celebration

March 4, 2024, 10:00 am-2:00 pm EST

Games: 10:00-11:30 am, Campus Center 3rd Floor Room 307

Join us in celebrating Disability Awareness Month by playing games presented by the undergraduate Disability Advocacy Organization, and the Accessibility and Equity Student Union at McKinney School of Law. [Attend Virtually](#)

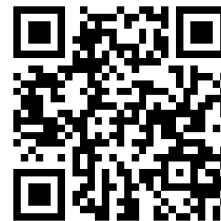
External Community Tabling: 10:00-11:30 am, Campus Center Atrium

Meet some of AES's external community partners supporting individuals with disabilities throughout the Indianapolis community. Participating organizations include LUNA Language Services, BOSMA Enterprises, Vocational Rehabilitation, The Indiana School for the Blind & Visually Impaired, Assistive Technology Accessibility Center, and accessAbility Organization.

AES Inaugural Disability Awareness Month Luncheon: 12:00-2:00 pm, Campus Center 4th floor Room 450C

Join us in welcoming our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Katherine Betts, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Students Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at IU Indianapolis. Dr. Betts is a transformational leader with a strong passion for creating equity and access to higher education and centers her works through a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens. She is a content expert on career pathways of Black women in the academy, the impact of Ethnic Cultural Centers and Diversity Inclusion spaces at predominately white institutions, and disabilities in a diversity and inclusion context in higher education. In her role as Assistant Vice Chancellor of DEI, Dr. Betts works in collaboration with a range of campus partners to enhance the campus climate. Her efforts are rooted in anti-racist and anti-oppressive practices as a means of creating a welcoming and affirming campus environment.

[Attend Virtually](#)



To RSVP, visit: <https://go.iu.edu/4RTe>

AES's IU Indianapolis NINA Scholar's Program Panel

March 6, 2024, 10:00-11:00 am EST, Taylor Hall Room 101

Join us for an enlightening discussion led by IU Indianapolis's very own Charlie Johnson, Director of the Nina Mason Pulliam Legacy Scholars program. The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust established the Nina Scholars Program in tribute to the life and values of Nina Mason Pulliam. The Nina Scholars Program is committed to providing academic support and resources to students who have traditionally had difficulty gaining access to higher education. Come meet some of our undergraduate students who are current or graduated scholars from the program. Matt Griffin, Shadiyah Jones, and Lance Varnell will share their academic experiences as disabled persons at IU Indianapolis and as NINA Scholars. [Attend Virtually](#)

AES's IU Indianapolis Undergraduate Student Panel

March 6, 2024, 1:00-2:00 pm EST, Taylor Hall Room 101

Join us for an illuminating discussion led by Dr. Cory Clark, Director of The Diversity Enrichment and Achievement Program (DEAP). DEAP enhances the transition and success of IUPUI (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis) students from populations traditionally underrepresented in higher education by addressing academic, social, and personal matters that impact student persistence. We invite you to come meet some of our brilliant undergraduate students who have been traditionally underrepresented in higher education as they share how their academic, social, and personal lives have been shaped by their experiences. We are excited to learn from, Akaiya Bryant, Selma Adie, Sarah Zetzl, and Chris Avila as they lead us into their lived experiences as disabled students on the IU Indianapolis campus. This panel discussion will provide insight into their lives and academic background. [Attend Virtually](#)

AES's IU Indianapolis Gregory S. Fehribach Center's Program Panel

March 18, 2024, 10:00-11:00 am EST, Campus Center 4th Floor Room 405

AES and The Gregory S. Fehribach Center partnership provides students with physical disabilities the opportunity to intern in fields related to their program of study. This session features Cameron Miller, an IU Indianapolis alum, who joins Larry Markle, Director of The Gregory S. Fehribach Center, located within Eskenazi Health in Indianapolis. The Gregory S. Fehribach Center supports Indiana college students with disabilities to build their skills and confidence by offering full-time, paid internships with major employers. Please join Larry for an intimate conversation related to Cameron's experience as a disabled person in the workplace. The audience will also learn about how Cameron's internship with the Fehribach Center contributed to his post-higher education success in the workforce. [Attend Virtually](#)

AES's IU Indianapolis Graduate & Professional School Panel

March 18, 2024, 1:00-2:00 pm EST, Campus Center 4th Floor Room 405

Join us for an educational and stimulating session led by Dr. Seena Skelton, the Director of the Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center (MAP Center) and of the Operations for the Great Lakes Equity Center. Dr. Skelton collaborates with the center's executive director to plan, direct, and manage projects and services offered to state and local education agencies throughout the MAP Center's thirteen-state region. We invite you to join MacAna Gilkerson, Ashley Bocanegra, Claire Kilbarger-Stumpff, and Katie Lipsius to learn about their lived experiences as disabled students on campus. This panel's discussion will give you thought-provoking insights into their academic experience as graduate and professional students at IU Indianapolis.

Mini-Resource Fair

March 25, 2024, 10:00-11:00 am EST, Taylor Hall Room 101

Come engage with our campus partners supporting individuals with disabilities across the campus. These campus partners work closely with AES to serve and implement accommodation services to students registered with our office, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), the Office of Student Employment, Assistive Technology Accessibility Center, Multicultural Center the Office of Student Employment, and the Assistive Technology Accessibility Center are a few of the offices that will be there to connect with.

Beyond Awareness: IU Indianapolis Assistive Technology Demonstration

March 25, 2024, 11:00-12:00 am EST, Taylor Hall Room 104

AES collaborates closely with the Assistive Technology and Accessibility Centers (ATAC) to implement accommodations involving assistive technology. The mission of ATAC is to use technology to provide equal access and an inclusive environment for the IU community. Michael Mace, ATAC Manager, will lead an informational session and demonstrate select assistive technology options available to students, faculty, and staff. [Attend Virtually](#)

Beyond Awareness Continued: Equity Stories

March 25, 2024, 1:00-2:00 pm EST, Taylor Hall Room 104

Are you eager to learn how you can support IU Indianapolis in ensuring access, advocacy, and educational growth across campus? This informational session will highlight the storytelling of two faculty members, Dr. Kathleen Marrs and Dr. Sharon Miller, as they talk about working with AES and disabled students and share how you can contribute to the mission of access as a member of the campus community.

[Attend Virtually](#)

Speaker Biographies

AES's Inaugural Disability Awareness Month Keynote Speaker:

Katherine H. Betts, Ph. D., Assistant Vice Chancellor of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Indiana University Indianapolis, Indianapolis, Indiana. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education and Administration from the University of Toledo, a Master of Science in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Indiana State University, and a Bachelor's of Liberal Arts Studies from California State University Chico.

Dr. Katherine Betts is a higher education leader with over 16 years of experience in higher education. As a Black woman with a disability who has served at public universities, Katherine has claimed her space within the Academy as a scholar and practitioner. Katherine believes in “showing up authentically” and finding empowerment in the margins of academia. As a transformational leader with a strong passion for creating equity and access to higher education, Katherine centers her work through a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) lens.

Katherine's combination of professional experience and research interests has equipped her to serve as a content matter expert in Black women in higher education, disability justice within a diversity context, cultural and affinity centers, and diversity, equity, and inclusion education. Katherine currently serves as Assistant Vice Chancellor of Students Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) at Indiana University, Purdue University, Indianapolis. In this role, Katherine leads unit- and division-wide initiatives that center students' advocacy, retention, and leadership experiences at IUPUI. Using data-informed practices, Katherine works in collaboration with a range of campus partners to enhance a campus climate that is situated in anti-racist and anti-oppression practices as a means of creating a socially just campus community where all members thrive.

AES's IU Indianapolis NINA Scholar's Program Moderator & Panelists:

MODERATOR: Charlie Johnson is the Director of Scholar Support Programs at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis. He directs the Nina Mason Pulliam Legacy Scholars Program that supports the success of lower-income students who have experienced foster care, have similar independent backgrounds, have physical disabilities, or are students with children. He also directs the Bowen Scholars program for selected African American students transferring from Ivy Tech Community College. Charlie directs the Bowen Scholarship program, which focuses on the success of first-year, independent students at IUPUI who have had experiences such as foster care and homelessness. Charlie developed and oversees the THRIVE Program, which focuses on the success of first-year independent students at IUPUI who have had experiences such as foster care and homelessness.

Charlie teaches a first-year seminar, a senior capstone for General Studies majors, and Mindfulness-based Emotional Intelligence at IUPUI. He has also taught Life Transitions for those in reentry from incarceration, Collaborative Learning for peer mentors, and Social Justice

Philanthropy for graduate students. He is certified as a Mindfulness-based Emotional Intelligence instructor and as an Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program instructor. He is a contributing author to the book, *Invisibility Factor: Administrators and Faculty Reach Out to First-Generation College Students*. He has served in academic positions at Indiana University, Texas A&M University, and IUPUI. Charlie holds a Master of Science degree in Foundations of Education from Indiana University and a Bachelor of Science degree in English and Humanities from Ball State University.

Panelist- Shadiyah Jones graduated from IUPUI in 2019. Her degree was in general studies with three minors: Africana Studies, Communications, and Sociology. Shadiyah is also a part of the Nina Mason Pulliam Scholarship program alumni. She is an independent contractor as a life coach and has been life coaching for the last two years. Shadiyah really found her niche in life coaching. Life coaching is something Shadiyah really enjoys because it really makes her feel fulfilled in so many ways as a person.

Panelist- Matt Griffin earned his Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Technology from the Purdue School of Engineering and Technology at IUPUI in May 2012. With a career spanning over a decade in the technology sector, Matt has assumed diverse roles such as Consultant and Systems Architect. Presently, he serves as the Senior Advisor – Cloud at MISO Energy. Beyond his professional career endeavors, Matt has contributed as a volunteer to various Non-Profit organization Boards of Directors, including the Engineering and Technology Alumni Association, Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation, and the RHI Sports Program Boards. Passionate about adaptive sports, Matt is an active participant in Wheelchair Lacrosse, currently playing for the Indy RIP team based in Indianapolis, IN.

Panelist- Lance Varnell was born in Bedford, Indiana, among the hills and limestone quarries of the Southern part of the state. In 1992, Lance moved to Houston, Texas where he pursued a career in video production. During this time Lance began dedicating most of his spare time to a passion for landscape photography. By 1998, Lance's images appeared regularly in Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine, Texas Highways Magazine, Texas Monthly, and National Geographic Adventure Magazine. In 2007, Lance decided to explore an alternate path and began working as a mariner on seagoing tug and barge units. He spent eight months a year working on the water for eight years while continuing freelance video projects as a director of photography when not offshore. In late December 2015, Lance walked down the gangway for the last time. A rare genetic mitochondrial condition had damaged his optic nerves and left him blind. Currently, Lance is pursuing educational goals and seeking a bachelor's degree at IU Indianapolis within the School of Public and Environmental affairs. Lance looks forward to continuing his work, serving as a voice for our wild lands. Lance has embraced the written word and wishes to relay a positive message of hope and change through his environmental advocacy and establishing methods for backcountry travel for the visually impaired.

IU Indianapolis Undergraduate Student Moderator & Panelists:

MODERATOR: Dr. Corey Clark, Director of Diversity Enrichment and Achievement at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, focuses on supporting traditionally underrepresented minority students in higher education through training and program development. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in American Sign Language and English Translation, and a Master's in Student Personnel Services, both from Eastern Kentucky University. Additionally, he holds a Doctorate in Adult and Higher Education Leadership from Morehead State University. Dr. Clark is an advocate for diversity and equity in higher education. Committed to impacting lives through education, he aims to make a difference, one graduation invitation at a time.

Panelist- Akaiya Bryant is a sophomore at IUPUI. Her major is Social Work and has a minor in American Sign Language. Akaiya is studying to be a therapist in the mental health field. When she was young, she developed a speech impediment, but as she became older, she realized that her disability did not define her as a person. Akaiya's accommodations through AES are due to her mental health. She cannot wait to share the rest of her story with the audience.

Panelist- Selma Adie is a junior majoring in Biology and minoring in Chemistry and Spanish. Selma is the Vice President of the Disability Advocacy Organization and is deeply passionate about raising awareness and ensuring accessibility for everyone in their community.

Panelist- Sarah Zetzel is a Biology student at IU Indianapolis. Sarah is on the pre-medical track with her degree. Most days, you can find Sarah and her service dog hanging out and studying around campus.

Panelist- Chris Avila is a senior majoring in Biomedical Engineering and minoring in Mathematics. While pursuing his degree, Chris has worked with disabled persons in various contexts and has gained experience working with groups that design medical devices. He has worked on projects that include designing models for clinical training applications, understanding and analyzing medication levels in blood samples, and functional accessible devices for patient care and assessment. Post-graduation, Chris hopes to apply his knowledge and unique skill set to advancing the field of biomedical engineering.

The Gregory S. Fehribach Center Student Moderator & Panelists:

MODERATOR: Larry Markel is the Director of the Gregory S. Fehribach Center at Eskenazi Health in Indianapolis, a program that provides college students with physical disabilities with paid internships in positions related to their major and professional development training to improve employment outcomes. Prior to that, Larry was the Director of Disability Services at Ball State University for 13 years. During Larry's tenure, Ball State was recognized nationally as a leader in physical accessibility for students with disabilities. A 2019 recipient of the Association

on Higher Education and Disability's Meritorious Contribution Award. Larry has co-authored multiple articles on disability and higher education published in peer-reviewed journals and presented at dozens of regional and national conferences.

Panelist- Cameron Miller is a 2022 graduate from the Luddy School of Informatics and Computing at IUPUI. He holds a degree in Health Information Management. He now works for Eskenazi Health as a Level I Outpatient Medical Coder. Outside of work, Cameron is passionate about human rights, spending time with loved ones, and his cat, Wasabi! He also enjoys knitting, reading, and photography.

IU Indianapolis Graduate & Professional School Moderator & Panelists:

MODERATOR: Dr. Seena Skelton- Dr. Seena M. Skelton is an accomplished professional serving as the Director of Operations for the Great Lakes Equity Center, a hub for research, technical assistance, and educational resource development located within Indiana University's School of Education-Indianapolis. In addition to this pivotal role, Dr. Skelton is also the Director for the Region III Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center, one of four regional equity assistance centers funded by the United States Department of Education under Title IV of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, tasked with providing equity-focused technical assistance to public pre-K12 education systems across its expansive thirteen-state region. With a rich professional background spanning 28 years, Dr. Skelton has cultivated expertise in inclusive education, school improvement, and educational equity. She earned her Ph.D. and M.Ed. in School Psychology from the University of Cincinnati and holds a B.S. in Psychology from Central Michigan University.

In her current leadership capacity, Dr. Skelton strategically plans, directs, and manages projects and services offered to state and local education agencies, contributing significantly to the advancement of educational equity. Beyond her role at Great Lakes Equity Center, Dr. Skelton is actively involved in various boards and committees dedicated to improving education and life outcomes for minoritized individuals. Dr. Skelton's commitment to advancing equity and inclusivity is reflected in her numerous publications, with representative works such as "Cultivating a Positive Ethnic-Racial-Disability Identity" and "Situating my Positionality as a Black Woman with a Dis/ability." Dr. Skelton's influence extends globally, as she regularly presents at state, regional, national, and international conferences, contributing to the ongoing dialogue on improving outcomes for marginalized youth.

Panelist- MacAna Gilkerson - MacAna Gilkerson is a law student at Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law who is scheduled to graduate in May 2024 with a Juris Doctor (JD). MacAna is from central Indiana and has her Bachelor of Arts in English from IUPUI, soon to be IU Indianapolis. Some of MacAna's accomplishments in law school include serving as Secretary for McKinney's Sports and Entertainment Law Society, receiving the Diversity Scholarship Foundation of Chicago's Law Student with a Disability Scholarship, and being a founding member and President of the Accessibility and Equity Student Union at McKinney. MacAna has a non-apparent mental disability, a non-apparent physical

disability, and two apparent physical disabilities. However, she only has school accommodations for one of the visible physical disabilities that hinder her typing speed.

Panelist- Ashley Bocanegra - Ashley “Chachi” Bocanegra, a first-generation student with Colombian and Mexican heritage, has faced physical challenges due to various illnesses. Now, in her first year of doctoral studies in Clinical Psychology, Chachi’s research focuses on chronic gynecological pain, particularly dysmenorrhea and endometriosis in women with physical disabilities. Drawing from her own experiences, she aims to shed light on the unique struggles of this often-overlooked group and advocate for more inclusive and effective interventions.

Panelist- Katherine Lipsius - Katherine Lipsius is a medical student in the Indiana University School of Medicine MSTP program pursuing an MD/PhD. She grew up in Cambridge, MD with two sisters, and was the first person in her family to graduate college. She has an A.S. in Environmental Science. and a B.S. in Biology. Katie completed a 3-year postbaccalaureate program as a RADM Helena O. Mishoe Fellow at the NHLBI/NIH where she studied the development of the sympathetic nervous system using mouse models. Katie is currently working to revive the APSA chapter within IUSM with the help of her fellow students. In the future, Katie hopes to pursue a career in Neurology and Infection.

Panelist- Claire Kilbarger-Stumpff - Claire Kilbarger-Stumpff (they/she) graduated Indiana University Indianapolis from the School of Social Work in May 2023 with a bachelor's in social work. They started the accelerated track with IU School of Social Work immediately after graduation and are on track to graduate with a master's in social work in May 2024. She is in her third year working as an Accommodation Support Professional at Accessible Educational Services. They have been diagnosed with ADHD and generalized anxiety disorder and have been learning to navigate the world since.

[IU Indianapolis Assistive Technology Demonstration Presented by Michael Mace](#)

Michael Mace- is the manager of the Indiana University system's Assistive Technology and Accessibility Center. Michael and his team focus on helping people create engaging, inclusive, active-learning educational experiences that meet students where they are in their educational journey. Michael frequently presents on topics like universal design for learning and creating equitable digital course experiences on the various IU campuses and at various industry conferences. Michael is also the chair of the accessibility subcommittee for learning technology with the Unizin consortium. Michael holds a bachelor’s degree in Management Information Systems from Marian University and a master’s degree in Learning Design and Technology from Purdue University.

[IU Indianapolis Beyond Awareness Equity Stories presented by Faculty Dr. Kathy Marrs and Dr. Sharon Miller](#)

Dr. Kathy Marrs- is a Professor of Biology in the School of Science at IUPUI. She teaches Introductory Biology annually for about 800 science majors and Honors Introductory Biology. She teaches a project-based Microbiology lab for upper-level students and is part of an

interdisciplinary Senior Research Capstone course with colleagues in Biology. She also team-teaches in several interdisciplinary Themed Learning Community (TLC) first-year seminars with colleagues from Chemistry and Neuroscience in Biomedical Engineering.

Her research has focused on a range of educational initiatives from K-12 outreach, undergraduate education, graduate education, and teacher preparation, funded through several National Science Foundation programs. She was selected for the Advocate for Equity Accessibility Award from the IUPUI Diversity Equity and Inclusion in October 2022 for her work to ensure that students with disabilities enjoy all campus life benefits.

Dr. Sharon Miller- is currently the Assistant Vice Provost for Purdue University in Indianapolis providing leadership for Purdue in Indianapolis with a focus on curriculum and the student experience. Dr. Miller received a Bachelor of Science degree in Materials Science and Engineering from Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN) and Master of Science and PhD degrees in Biomedical Engineering (BME) from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI). Most recently, she served the IUPUI BME Department as Associate Chair and Director of the Undergraduate Program, helping develop, implement, and assess curricular changes that embed engineering design, ethics, and technical communication within the BME curriculum. Her grant funded engineering education work has been supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Office of Naval Research (ONR), in addition to many internal seed awards. This scholarship of teaching and learning and engineering education work focuses on learning how undergraduate student self-efficacy relates to design achievement. Dr. Miller enjoys teaching, advising, and mentoring students and has been awarded the Outstanding Materials Engineer (2024), IUPUI Advocate for Accessibility in Equity Award (2023), IUPUI Trustees Teaching Award (2022), the IUPUI Wisner-Stoelk Outstanding Faculty award (2021), the Jaguar Academic Advising Association Faculty Advisor of the Year (2020), and the Aurora University Mark and Marcus Trumbo Excellence in Teaching Award (2015). Her effective coaching of senior capstone design teams has led to local and national design student awards such as an NIH-VentureWell DEBUT award and her creative leadership has forged opportunities for students to connect with several Indianapolis companies and resources including the IU School of Medicine and the IU Health 3D Innovations Lab.