

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

April 2023, Issue No.8



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Word of the Month: **Humanity**

the quality of being humane; kindness; benevolence.

Dictionary.com

WELCOME!

By Ethan C. Brown

March was a busy month at Jacksonville State with the many things going on around our campus. We had everything from drives, award celebrations, and even our Women's March. Despite how hectic it can seem when having so many things to do, we can always appreciate the amazing things that so many on our campus do!



Award Winners from March

Womens History Month Awards

Directly following the Women's March around Trustee circle, the Women's History Month Awards were held in McClure Chapel. The awards program highlighted a few individuals who, through their extended efforts, bring about a positive change to our campus. Many nominations were sent in for the student and faculty awards, which made it a tough decision. It was empowering to see the amount of hard work and advocacy on this campus. We appreciate each and every nominee and thank you for all that you do.

With all of that being said, the winners of our Women's History Month Awards for the 2022-2023 year are as follows: Dr. Ashley Turner was awarded Woman of the Year for Faculty and staff. In the student division, Trinity Elston received the award for Woman of the Year. During the awards program, Dr. Teresa Reed was awarded Gender Equality Advocate of the Year for faculty and staff. Gender Equality Advocate of the Year was also awarded to student Erin Dempsey.

Again, we are beyond grateful for the extended efforts of all winners and nominees. Thank you for working to keep our campus inclusive!

NAACP Image Awards

On March 29th, Jacksonville State's NAACP hosted their second annual Image Awards. The theme for the night was "Through The Decades," and I will say that everyone looked amazing! The NAACP Image Awards aim to honor individuals, along with their accomplishments and the dedication to advancement that they have. Jacksonville State's NAACP program is a leading resource for students of color. The group is centered around creating a platform in which students are able to have a political voice. Organizations such as the NAACP are a critical resource for marginalized youth. Through such groups students are able to create personal connections with their own community members. Students are also provided with countless other opportunities, such as mentorships. We are beyond thankful to have so many individuals on this campus, who are dedicated to promoting representation.

The awards for the night went as follows: The Life Time Achievement Award was presented to Mrs. Catherine Chappell. Dr. Diane Best received the Presidential Award. For Most Outstanding Staff, Mrs. Kim B. Turner was awarded. The Most Outstanding Faculty award went to Dr. Khadeidra Billingsley. Ms. Franshay Kendyl Garrett received the Visionary Award. Last, and definitely not least, the Black Student Union was awarded Organization of the Year. It is amazing to see advancements and achievements highlighted on our campus. Congratulations to every winner and nominee, you should be very proud of yourselves.



White Box Drive

Zeta Tau Alpha, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Office of Community Standards and Title 9 organized a menstrual product supply drive throughout Women's History Month. The "White Box Drive" collected different products in hopes to benefit JSU's Gamecock Market. JSU Student Senators, Tavaria "MaCalaah" Johnson, and Madison Brooks organized a drive and dropped off hygiene products earlier in the month of March as well.

Drives such as the ones here at JSU last month bring an important topic to the table of discussion: Period Poverty. Individuals dealing with Period Poverty are at an increased risk for adversity. All across the world, and even this university, there are individuals struggling with a lack of access. The lack lies in access to sanitary products, and also the access to proper education about periods, among many other things.



April is Autism Acceptance Month!

Autism Acceptance Month was started by the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN) in 2011, as an autistic-centered countermovement to Autism Awareness Month, popularized by Autism Speaks. ASAN is an autistic-led non-profit organization that fights for an inclusive society for all autistic and disabled people. The Autism Acceptance Movement was created by and for the autistic community and aims to shift the public's view of autism away from negative stereotypes and stigma, towards equality and inclusion.

Many autistic people prefer to use the rainbow infinity symbol, the gold infinity symbol, or the periodic table's symbol for gold, Au, rather than the puzzle piece to represent autism. Additionally, the #RedInstead movement was started in 2015 as a countermovement to Autism Speaks' "Light it Up Blue." The Red Instead movement's goal is to re-capture the narrative of autism awareness and acceptance, and re-center themselves in the conversation.

On April 2nd, please consider wearing #RedInstead, and continue celebrating Autism Acceptance Month by fighting for the full inclusion and equality for all autistic people.

"Autism acceptance means respecting the rights and humanity of all autistic people. It means centering the perspectives and needs of autistic people with intellectual disabilities, nonspeaking autistic people, and autistic people with the highest support needs – not by speaking over them, but by listening and looking to them as leaders. It means fighting to ensure that the universal human rights of all autistic people are respected, including and especially the rights of those autistic people with the most significant disabilities. And autism acceptance means recognizing the ways ableism and racism interact in our society, following the leadership of autistic people of color, and making anti-racism a core part of our work." – ASAN, 2021.

–Christy Clasgens

DREAM Team

APRIL 2023



**OFFICE OF DIVERSITY
AND INCLUSION**
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

***Asian Pacific American
Heritage Month**

Celebrated in April.. Observed in May.

APAHM Events are labeled in yellow

April 11

Diversity Talk

11AM - 12PM
Houston Cole Library
Room 10B

Take a study and join the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and Leah Simmons as we discuss the importance of professional attire in business.

April 13

Chinese Brush Painting

w/ Guest Speaker Ms. Amber Dong

2:00PM - 3:00PM
Houston Cole Library Room 10B

Learn the basics to Chinese brush painting by guest artist Amber Dong and experience the art of Chinese Culture and Brush Painting.

April 18

Holocaust Remembrance w/ Guest Speaker Brenda Hancock

7:00PM to 9:00PM
Merrill Hall Auditorium Room 103B

Join us for our annual Holocaust Remembrance with Guest Speaker Brenda Hancock as she discussed her family's own past during World War II.

April 20

Unveiling Asian American Contributions:

Hollywood, Internment, Model Minority, Railroad
Panel Presentation led by Dr. Helen Kaibara

12:00PM - 1:30PM

Houston Cole Library Room 1103C

Students in Asian Pacific American history classes will present their research papers on the Asian Pacific American experience from the 1880s to the present. Presenters are Trent Moody, Alexandria Quintero, Jameson Houston, and Troy Range. Food from the Mein Bowl will be available to the first 40 student who attend the lectures.

April 20



OFFICE OF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

INCLUSION

6:00PM - 9:00PM |
Leone Cole Auditorium

This April 20th in a final celebration of inclusivity, YOU are invited to celebrate the end of the semester for a night of appreciation and entertainment!

CELEBRATION

We will have music and games, food, drinks, awards of appreciation for students, balloon arches, a grand prize raffle, and more! Come and celebrate while you destress with us for the fall 2023

The Gamecock Market

"The Gamecock Market is an initiative on JSU's campus that serves Faculty, Staff, and Students in need. We offer a variety of free services to our campus community that include food, clothing (professional and casual), hygiene products, school supplies, and maternity needs."

The Market, which is located in the basement of Sparkman Hall, provides JSU with a multitude of services. Faculty, Staff, and Students that are experiencing tough times can acquire these needed products, and in an anonymous fashion. To place an online order, or set up an appointment, visit The Gamecock Market page on jsu.edu.

Aside from providing these services, The Market also provides students with volunteer opportunities. This is a great way for students to give back to their JSU community. Volunteers pack orders, stock shelves, inventory donations, and also help keep the market clean.

The Gamecock Market holds different drives throughout the year to acquire needed products. The Market is always accepting donations as well. To find out about current drives, volunteer hours, or anything else, visit The Gamecock Market page on jsu.edu.

The goal of The Gamecock Market is to decrease the stigma and shame about asking for help, especially surrounding food insecurity. We must all fuel and take care of our bodies so that we can be the best version of ourselves.

For any other information about The Gamecock Market, contact Mrs. Tashua Dennis at tbdennis@jsu.edu



JSU Gives Back

At the end of March, tornadoes swept through Mississippi. The town of Rolling Forks was flattened. Rolling Forks, MS is home to JSU's Dr. Kim Warfield, and her father is currently the mayor. The damage to Rolling Forks is beyond devistational. Almost all lost everything. The CEPS team, Mrs. Charlcie Vann, And Dr. Diane Best have been in frequent communication with Dr. Warfield to evaluate needs and determine how we can best support as her JSU family.

Visa gift cards are the best way to donate. Walmart and Kroger gift cards are also welcomed. The families also need any household, clothing (new or gently used), toiletries, bath, and nonperishable items.

We truly appreciate everyone who has donated to, or shared information, about Rolling Forks. If you have any questions about what you can do to help, please contact Mrs. Charlcie Vann at cvanne@jsu.edu.



STUDENT RESOURCES

Preferred Name Request (Registrar's office)

http://www.jsu.edu/registrar/student_forms.html

Counseling Services

<http://www.jsu.edu/ccservices/>

Student Health Center

<http://www.jsu.edu/studenthealth>

JSU Library LGBTQ+ Resource Collection

<http://libguides.jsu.edu/lgbtq>

Title IX

<http://www.jsu.edu/titleix/>

LGBTQ Vocabulary List

<https://thesafezoneproject.com/resources/vocabulary/>

D&I Glossary

<https://www.jsu.edu/diversity/glossary.html>

Diversity Discussion Request

<https://www.jsu.edu/diversity/event-request.html>

Cocky Cares

<https://www.jsu.edu/cockycares/>

Disability Resources

<https://www.jsu.edu/disabilityresources/>

Student Success

<https://www.jsu.edu/studentssuccess/>

Gamecock Market

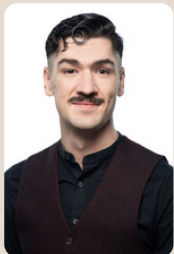
<https://www.jsu.edu/gamecockmarket/index.html>

JSU Safe Zone is a campus-wide program that works to ensure a welcoming environment for all gender identities and sexual orientations. By establishing an identifiable network of trained individuals committed to fostering an atmosphere of respect and inclusion, the program provides a safe space for members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies on campus.



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Ethan C. Brown

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**THANK
YOU FOR
READING!**



www.jsu.edu/diversity