

Changes to the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement

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Dear Saint Louis University community,

As we begin this week where we are commemorating Occupy SLU and the important changes required for our campus to achieve inclusive excellence, I want to take a moment to announce and celebrate what were formerly called the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement, the Center for Service and Community Engagement, and the Cross Cultural Center.

Under the leadership of Dr. Amber Johnson, Interim Vice President, the division's charge and team have grown. The Office of Diversity and Community Engagement is now titled the **Division of Diversity and Innovative Community Engagement (DICE)**.

The team chose DICE for more than its fun acronym. An increasing number of higher education institutions have offices devoted to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, and the success of such offices requires building authentic relationships that embrace true inclusive excellence. Building a robust inclusive community requires innovation, creativity, and enthusiasm. The DICE acronym emphasizes innovation and an enthusiastic welcome to “come roll with us!” The new name reflects the expansion of the team and renewed commitment to innovative cultural and structural transformation.

The Center for Service and Community Engagement is now titled the **Center for Social Action (CSA)**. Many AJCU institutions have rebranded their offices of service learning to emphasize social action and justice as opposed to service and volunteerism. Social Action encompasses service, advocacy, voter engagement, activism, and community outreach, which aligns better with the scope of their new charge and work. Moreover, as the late Dr. Norm White said, “Social justice is not a concept to be defined, it is an action to be taken.” The center hopes to honor Dr. Norm White’s legacy at SLU with this name change.

Finally, the Cross Cultural Center is now titled the **Cross Cultural Center for Global Citizenship (CCCCG)**. The Cross Cultural Center has been branded and imagined as a space mostly benefitting our Black and Brown students, however, the Cross Cultural Center's charge is much bigger and more complex. The name change pushes us to think more broadly about what culture is, who has a cultural identity, and how we prepare ALL of our students to be the best global citizens they can be. The name change also highlights the building name, the gift agreement, and brings attention to the physical space, which is not utilized as often as it can be. Our goal is to increase foot traffic and bolster programming.

Along with the name changes, new charge, and restructure, DICE has also grown in size. Their team grew from two people to eleven, and we will continue to work toward ensuring the division has the resources needed to serve our community. This investment of resources highlights our commitment to the Clock Tower Accords and gets us closer to achieving Inclusive Excellence. Please join me in congratulating the team on their efforts.

And please take a moment to let the team introduce themselves and the Division's new name in [this video](#).

Sincerely,

Mike Lewis, Ph.D.
Provost