

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HEALTH & HUMAN BEHAVIOR

# SEHHB INSIDER 2024



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
EDWARDSVILLE**



**Greetings and glad tidings!**

Welcome to a good read of the happenings in the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior (SEHHB). We are excited about a new school year and elated about the possibilities!

Whew! Let me begin by saying that we have been busy these last few years. While I arrived just prior to a disruptive pandemic, we all worked together and kept the great work moving.

The SEHHB can be described as unique, dynamic and innovative. Since 2019, we have hired a number of new faculty and staff. We started new programs—the number was and still is in the double digits. For instance, we started a new program in athletics that I have co-taught with Cheresse Fine, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership, and Dan Mahony, PhD, SIU System President. We fine-tuned our offerings online before the pandemic and subsequently increased enrollment significantly. We move with intentionality. We work hard to stay two steps ahead and we pay close attention to the needs of the state of our external stakeholders and communities through partnerships, grants, and program support.

Thank you for reaching out, volunteering and showing up with enthusiasm for events. We recently hosted our second Partio, or Party on the Patio, where we host a luncheon and goodies for students, staff, faculty and others who happened to stroll by. The Partio is a way to say, “We see you, thank you and support you; you belong here, and we look forward to seeing your greatness.”

Additionally, thank you in advance to our newly formed SEHHB Advisory Board for all you will do. This advisory team has been a long time coming. Nick Niemerg, our director of development, led the way to recruiting this team of individuals.

Ultimately, we are looking forward to the future! Thanks, again, for your efforts and support. We need you!

*Robin L Hughes*

**Robin Hughes, PhD**  
Dean



# SEHHB STUDENT Demographic

## STUDENT COUNTS

**1,255**

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

**602**

GRADUATE STUDENTS

**1,857 Total Students**

HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY

**HEED AWARD**

**INSIGHT INTO DIVERSITY**

10 YEARS IN A ROW

*Recognized for excellence in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*

**25%**  
PELL-GRANT ELIGIBLE



## DIVERSITY

**62%**  
EUROPEAN AMERICAN

**13%**  
AFRICAN AMERICAN

**6%**  
HISPANIC/LATINO/LATINA

**2%**  
INTERNATIONAL

**78%**  
FEMALE

**21%**  
MALE

**1%**  
NON-BINARY



## SIUE Stands Out at AASP Conference

Lindsay Ross-Stewart, PhD, associate professor, was awarded the Association for Applied Sport Psychology (AASP) Foundation 2024 Teaching Excellence Award at the annual conference in October, acknowledging her demonstration of teaching excellence and advancement in the profession of sport psychology through teaching.

“  
**I am aware daily of the privilege of teaching the incredible people in the Exercise and Sport Psychology program. Their insights, humor, passion and engagement are why I do this job. The award is just an unexpected bonus.**

— LINDSAY ROSS-STEWART, PHD  
 Associate Professor, Department of Applied Health

Ross-Stewart, along with other SIUE students, faculty and alumni, presented on various topics at the conference. SIUE was represented by Cherese Fine, PhD, assistant professor, higher education and student affairs; graduate students Cassidy Barclay, Darrian Stapleton and Lindsay Miles; and Master of Science in kinesiology alumni Kerry Guest '18, PhD, Emily Schwabe '22 and Elia Burbidge '23.

SUPPORT APPLIED HEALTH DEVELOPMENT BY GIVING TO **FUND #3210!**  
[connect.siu.edu/g/sehnb](https://connect.siu.edu/g/sehnb)

## Providing Free Hearing Screenings and Overcoming Cultural Barriers

Speech-Language Pathology graduate students partnered with the St. Louis International Institute to provide free hearing screenings for immigrants and refugees. The partnership is helping these graduate students meet their program requirements for hearing screenings and introducing them to overcoming cultural barriers in their field.

“It really was a challenge for me,” said Grace Boeschen, a graduate assistant in the Department of Applied Health. “I had a majority of non-English speakers, so I had to get creative.”

“It opened my eyes to see that there are people who really do need these free services,” said Boeschen. “It is easy to conduct a hearing screening, and it does not take much time. But it really helps people.”

SUPPORT SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY DEVELOPMENT BY GIVING TO **FUND #3472!**  
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## HIGHLIGHTS OF FACULTY EXCELLENCE



**Graham Slater, PhD**  
 ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

**BOOK PUBLISHED**  
 “Horizons of the Future: Science Fiction, Utopian Imagination, and the Politics of Education”

**PRESENTER**  
 “Theories of Excess in Education,”  
 American Educational Studies Association

**GRANT RECIPIENT**  
 Seed Grant for Transitional and Exploratory Projects, SIUE Graduate School

- *Education of desire in the era of ecological crisis and technological transformation*



**Derek Houston, PhD**  
 ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

**CO-FACILITATOR**  
 Research methods workshop, “Where is Your Head? Thinking through Theoretical and Conceptual Orientations of Critical Quantification,” Association for the Study of Higher Education Conference

**GRANT RECIPIENT**  
 American Educational Research Association and National Science Foundation

- *Study the impacts of STEM teacher and student race match on post-secondary related outcomes for special education students*

**PRESENTER**  
 “Toward a Black Radical Tradition of Critical Quantitative Education Policy Research,” American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting



**Linda Morice, PhD**  
 PROFESSOR EMERITA

**BOOK PUBLISHED**  
 “Naked: Echoes of the Hiroshima Bomb in St. Louis”

**PRESENTER**  
 Presented her book “Naked: Echoes of the Hiroshima Bomb in St. Louis” to the SIUE community

- *The book explores the long-term effects of radiological exposure in St. Louis from the refined uranium used for the first self-sustaining nuclear reaction and the first atomic bomb*

SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT BY GIVING TO **FUND #3043!**  
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## SIUE Teacher Candidates' Unforgettable Immersion Experience in El Salvador

SIUE teacher candidates felt like celebrities during their immersion trip to El Salvador in May as local students greeted them with enthusiasm.

"My favorite part of the trip was going to the elementary classroom," said Clare Huels, a senior elementary education major, as she reflected on the time she spent working with students who were learning English. "Seeing their faces is something I will never forget. Before our group could enter the room, the first graders were jumping up and down with nothing but joy on their faces."

"One of the little first graders whispered in my ear in Spanish and said, 'I have always wanted to meet someone from the United States,'" Huels continued. "This moment almost sent me into tears and will be something I remember for the rest of my life."

The trip included eight SIUE students and two faculty members from the Department of Teaching and Learning.



**Both the experiences with language learners and the historical and cultural experiences taught me so much. As a result of my experiences throughout the trip, I feel that I grew not only as a learner but also as a future teacher.**

— SAMANTHA TOOLEY

*Senior, Foreign Languages and Literature, Spanish, Teacher Candidate*



"The purpose of the trip was to immerse SIUE teacher candidates into an environment that challenges them to understand a different culture and belief system, to work with students who are learning English as a second language, and to reflect on Salvadoran history from Mayan origins," said Barbara O'Donnell, EdD, professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning.

During the trip, the group visited various landmarks and took part in many activities including hiking.

"My favorite part of the trip was the hike we took up to the mountains," said Rachel Henss, senior elementary education major. "It was difficult, but the views were gorgeous."

The group also connected with students from the Universidad Gerardo Barrios (UGB) and partnered with them on presentations and projects. SIUE is working to expand its partnership with UGB to increase the School's collaboration and develop an international graduate studies partnership between the two universities.



**As a teacher of history and culture, this trip introduced me to several events which reframed my understanding of the world.**

— NICHOLAS MUPPIDI-FOWLER  
*Senior, International Studies, Teacher Candidate*



## Inspiring Tomorrow's Educators

Since 2022, SIUE, along with Madison County Career and Technical Education, has hosted the Future Teachers Conference. The annual conference inspires and prepares the next generation of educators. Hundreds of high school students from various schools in the area participate in the conference each year.

Attendees engage with speakers, observe panel presentations and participate in various activities. The Future Teachers Conference returns to SIUE this November, continuing its mission to foster a passion for teaching among high school students.

SUPPORT STUDENT RESEARCH AND TRAVEL BY GIVING TO **FUND #4317!**  
[connect.siu.edu/g/sehhb](https://connect.siu.edu/g/sehhb)



### Psychology Students Showcase Their Research at Regional Conference

In April, 32 undergraduate psychology students attended the Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) Conference in Chicago. The annual event offers a platform for psychologists and students from all disciplines of psychology to get together, share research findings, and engage in training and mentoring activities. Maya Nieters, senior psychology student, presented on the effects of P-Factor, or general vulnerability to psychopathology, and daily functioning, on therapy utilization. Her research concluded that people are less likely to seek therapy if they have lower satisfaction with daily life.

Kiya Rainey '24, earned a bachelor's in psychology and is now pursuing a master's in clinical psychology. Rainey presented at MPA on the Strong Black Woman schema, a construct that leads Black women to believe they should suppress their emotions and care for others. Her presentation reported that the schema could potentially be correlated with higher symptoms of depression and anxiety and lower levels of perceived quality of life.

"The Department of Psychology has always encouraged students to engage in research that interests us," said Rainey. "Faculty works diligently with us throughout the school year to guide us throughout the research process and prepare us for the conference. I've had an amazing experience with the MPA conferences I've been to, and a lot of that is because of the psychology department's mentoring and encouragement."

Going to MPA was absolutely one of my favorite experiences at SIUE. Presenting research in an environment like that is probably one of the most beneficial things a student can do to prepare for any kind of senior project or presentation, and especially for your future career.

— MAYA NIETERS  
Senior, Psychology



Being a part of a regional conference is such an enriching and exciting experience! People have so many amazing ideas, and it's nice to be able to have thoughtful conversations about your and other people's research. It's also exciting to see your research on display after the hard work.

— KIYA RAINEY '24  
Graduate Student, Clinical Psychology

YOU CAN HELP COVER THE TRAVEL COSTS FOR STUDENTS TO ATTEND FUTURE MPA CONFERENCES BY DONATING TO PSYCHOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FUND #3265!

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### Q&A WITH STUDENT Dannica Davis

SIUE EAST ST. LOUIS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE AND SIUE MERIDIAN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

**What was your experience like at SIUE East St. Louis Charter School (CHS)?**

CHS provided me with great opportunities. The administration, staff and teachers were caring and committed to helping the students succeed in school and life in general.

**What was your reaction when you were presented with SIUE's most prestigious academic award, the Meridian Scholarship?**

When I received the Meridian Scholarship, I was shocked and excited! SIUE was one of my top choices of universities to attend, so to receive a full-ride scholarship to my top university was an exciting moment for me. It was such a great feeling!

**Why did you choose to attend SIUE?**

SIUE has a wide range of educational programs. My education has always been my number one priority so knowing that I can continue to receive a quality education in my college years at SIUE was one of the main factors I considered when looking at colleges and universities.

**What is your career aspiration?**

I decided that I wanted to be an anesthesiologist in the 6th grade. Attending SIUE and majoring in biological sciences is a positive step toward achieving my career goals!

SUPPORT EAST ST. LOUIS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT BY GIVING TO FUND #3036!

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**Greetings SEHHB Alumni,**

I recently joined the SEHHB team as the new director of development. I am so proud and thrilled to have the opportunity to help shape the School's future and am eager to learn more about our vast, vibrant alumni base of over 30,000 and counting!

Your engagement with your alma mater is crucial to our continued success. There are so many ways to stay connected and have an impact. Whether you choose to serve on a department advisory board, offer career guidance and mentorship to current students, participate in our events across the country or support our fundraising initiatives, your involvement makes a tangible impact on our students' education. Help us advance our mission to provide high-quality academic programs committed to improving teaching, learning and human development. Read more about some of our recent scholarship recipients and consider contributing to the SEHHB today!

Dean Hughes and I welcome your help and input as we continue to grow and evolve our programs and offerings. Your active participation in the SEHHB remains pivotal. Together, we can shape future generations to affect change in the communities they serve. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey!

**Nick Niemerg '15**

Director of Development  
SIUE School of Education, Health and Human Behavior  
nniemer@siue.edu  
618-650-5043



**Join the SIUE School of Education, Health and Human Behavior Dean's Circle!**

Help sustain and strengthen the SEHHB by becoming a member of the Dean's Circle. The Dean's Circle recognizes those who contribute \$1,000 or more annually.

Your support and impact in the Dean's Circle are seen in the growth of academic excellence, enrichment of student opportunities, and strengthening of our collaborative relationships with community schools, agencies and organizations.



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**Celebrating Student Success Through Scholarships**

With support from alumni and friends, the SEHHB awarded over \$30,000 in scholarships to students across all departments this spring. The SEHHB aspires to award more scholarships in the coming years to meet the various needs of our students. With your contributions, we can make that happen!

**Interested in creating a new scholarship or contributing to a current one?**

Contact Nick Niemerg, director of development, at [nniemer@siue.edu](mailto:nniemer@siue.edu) or 618-650-5043.

JOHN L. AND BETTY L. MCDANIEL'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



**I am overwhelmed with gratitude for this generous scholarship. After graduation, I intend to work in education as a middle or high school English teacher. I have been working and paying my way through school; this award has greatly lightened the weight of paying for my education.**

— MARGARET WALLER  
Senior, Secondary Education-English



ROBERT O. ENGBRETSON OUTSTANDING PSI CHI AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT



**It is very heartwarming to see that all my hard work has been paying off by receiving this award. After I graduate in May 2025, I am hoping to work in the field of human resources focusing on talent management and selection.**

— KAIA FORD, '23  
Graduate Student, Industrial and Organizational Psychology



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN MEMORY OF LINDSEY ARNOLD-ZIMMER AND RILEY WILLIAM ZIMMER



**This is not just a financial award; it is an investment in my future. As I know the importance of receiving, I also understand the importance of giving back. As I complete my journey to become a speech-language pathologist, I hope to one day contribute to the field in this very same manner.**

— KYLA ARNOLD  
Junior, Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology



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