

Student Engagement at SIUE Morris University Center

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Introduction

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Our photo essay focuses on the different ways students at SIUE can experience student engagement when they are willing to step outside of their comfort zones and become more involved in campus life. Student engagement can look different for everyone. For some students, it may mean joining a club, sorority, fraternity, or other student organization. For others, it may be attending campus events, participating in activities, spending time with friends, or simply being in popular areas of campus where students naturally interact with one another.

We chose this topic because getting involved can make a big difference in a student's college experience. Stepping outside of your comfort zone can help you meet new people, create friendships, learn about opportunities on campus, and feel more connected to the SIUE community. Our photo essay is meant to show that student engagement is happening all around campus, but students have to be willing to participate, explore, and take advantage of the opportunities available to them.





This picture shows one way I have seen student engagement at SIUE. In front of the Morris University Center in the Quad, members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. held a fundraiser where students could pay to have them splash them with water. I thought this was a fun way to get students involved because it caught people's attention, gave them something entertaining to participate in, and also helped the sorority raise money. To me, activities like this make campus feel more welcoming and show how student organizations can bring people together outside of the classroom.



This picture shows student engagement, with Ahnayah connecting with upperclassmen to gain insight on events happening within the Greek community. The upperclassmen were more than happy to share their experiences and tell us about what was happening right in front of the MUC, as well as other events taking place around campus. Having the opportunity to speak with students who were already familiar with the Greek community gave us a better understanding of the different activities, organizations, and social events that students can get involved in. It also allowed us to connect with people who could provide firsthand information and make us feel more comfortable engaging with the campus community. These conversations showed how important it is to interact with other students and build connections, especially when trying to become more involved and aware of what is happening around campus.



This picture shows members of Delta Phi Epsilon, a social sorority that focuses on sisterhood, leadership, service, and helping members grow personally and academically. Their table gives students a chance to stop, ask questions, learn about the sorority, and meet current members in a relaxed setting.

This is a good example of student engagement because it creates an easy way for students to connect with an organization they may not know much about. It also gives students the opportunity to meet new people, learn about campus involvement, and possibly find a community where they feel like they belong. Events and information tables like this can make campus feel more welcoming and help students become more active in college life.



This picture shows a brief moment of students interacting and socializing during breaks in the MUC. Student engagement at SIUE looks like getting out of your comfort zone and making an effort to meet new people and build friendships. While we were taking pictures of student engagement around campus, Bryce and Morgan ran into some friends, and I decided this was a good representation of what student engagement looks like. Sometimes, engagement does not have to involve a large event; it can be as simple as starting a conversation or taking time to socialize between classes. Moments like these show how interacting with someone once or twice can eventually lead to a long-term friendship and help students feel more connected to the campus community.



This is the Starbucks in the MUC, one of the most popular spots for students to get food or drinks. Students often meet up with friends here, and the line is rarely short, showing the importance it holds within the SIUE community. Like other food spots in the dining hall, students will sit in line with friends despite how long the wait may be and talk about classes, plans, and college life as a whole. This shows community engagement because it demonstrates how campus spots and resources can bring students together. Even something as simple as getting a drink can give students an opportunity to socialize, meet new people, and strengthen the connections they have with others on campus.

Thank You