Purpose

Welcome to the Indiana University Northwest Bicentennial 2020 Education Conference. The purpose of this conference is to provide campus and community stakeholders with an opportunity to explore the pressing concerns of the region related to educational access and achievement, while also celebrating the contributions IU Northwest has brought to this community through its many and diverse alumni. These conversations will provide stakeholders, including community members, students (college and high school), administrators, policy makers, and resource providers, with an opportunity to both identify and discuss ways to partner together to improve educational outcomes and thus, enhance the quality of life of the most diverse, urban, and industrialized region of the state.

What is the Bicentennial?

January 20, 2020, marks the 200th anniversary of Indiana University. As such, the Office of the Bicentennial encourages campuses to host lectures, performances, and conferences to explore IU’s history and its contributions to enhancing the quality of life in the communities it serves. This conference is one of many events and activities planned to celebrate IU’s Bicentennial. More information on additional activities can be found at 200.IU.edu.
Eric Deggans is National Public Radio’s (NPR) first full-time TV critic. He came to NPR from the *Tampa Bay Times*, where he served as TV/Media Critic and in other roles for nearly 20 years. He also serves as a contributor and media analyst at MSNBC/NBC News. A journalist for more than 20 years, he is also the author of *Race-Baiter: How the Media Wields Dangerous Words to Divide a Nation*, a look at how prejudice, racism, and sexism fuels some elements of modern media, published in October 2012 by Palgrave Macmillan.

A Gary native, Andrean High School graduate, and IU Bloomington graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in political science and journalism, Eric has won reporting and writing awards from the Society for Features Journalism, American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors, the Society of Professional Journalists, the National Association of Black Journalists, the Florida Press Club, the Florida Society of News Editors, and the 2016 distinguished Alumni Award in Journalism from the IU Media School.

His talking points include mass media, TV industry, music industry, pop culture, racial issues, media ethics, journalism, and media technology.
Do Black Minds Matter in Indiana? Where do We go From Here?

Speakers:
Adra Young, M.A., GCSSBM Education Sub-Committee Member
Dr. Angela Johnson-Wells, GCSSBM Education Sub-Committee Member
Cheryl Smith, Parent Liaison, Charter School of the Dunes

Although there is evidence of progress within the state of Indiana as it relates to higher learning for African American students, studies indicate a significant achievement gap still remains between student populations by income-level and race/ethnicity. Within the two- and four-year institutions, as it relates to progress, African American students are the furthest behind of all races. This presentation will examine the data findings from a GCSSBM report identifying the barriers and the steps GCSSBM will implement with the community to close the gap.

Organization:
Gary Commission on the Social Status of Black Males (GCSSBM)

Raintree Hall: Room 102

Schedule

8:30 to 9 a.m.
Registration

Savannah Center, Bergland Auditorium

9 to 9:15 a.m.
General Welcome

9:15 to 10 a.m.
Our Community Presentation

10:10 to 11 a.m.
Concurrent Sessions

- Center for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE)
  Community Engagement Student Fellowship (Raintree Hall: 102)
- Adjusting Instructional Practices to Enhance Student Engagement and Performance with Individualized Curriculum (Hawthorn Hall: 107)
- LGBT+ Community in Northwest Indiana: Educational and Community Barriers (Hawthorn Hall: 104)

11:10 a.m. to Noon
Concurrent Sessions

- Do Black Minds Matter in Indiana? Where do We go From Here? (Raintree Hall: 102)
- The Excel Center (Hawthorn Hall: 104)

Moraine Student Center

12:15 to 12:45 p.m.
Welcome & Awards Presentation
Mark Sperling, Earl Jones, and Dorothy Ige-Campbell

12:45 to 2 p.m.
Luncheon

1 to 2:30 p.m.
Keynote Speaker: Eric Deggans

Savannah Center, Lobby

2:30 to 3 p.m.
Book Signing: Gary, a Pictorial History with James Lane and Ron Cohen

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Display of IU history on IQ Wall
Session One  ●  10:10 to 11 a.m.

Center for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE) Community Engagement Student Fellowship

Speakers:
Rodina Iacovacci, CURE Student Fellow
Jennifer Webber, CURE Student Fellow
Amanda Smith, CURE Assistant Director

This presentation will describe the CURE Community Engagement Student Fellowship. The fellowship provides individuals with opportunities for leadership development and meaningful engagement experiences that are of mutual benefit for both the university and community partners.

Organization:
IU Northwest Center for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE)
Raintree Hall: Room 102

LGBT+ Community in Northwest Indiana: Educational and Community Barriers

Speakers:
Kaden Alexander and Carl Crayton

Lambda Delta Xi Diaternity is the all-inclusive LGBT+ focused, service organization originated in Pennsylvania. The Beta chapter has been established at IU Northwest. This presentation will discuss the barriers that affect the LGBT+ community in an educational and social context. Some topics that will be discussed include the lack of inclusive spaces, limited support within school systems for LGBT+ youth and college students, and suggestions for change to help LGBT+ students succeed in the future.

Organization:
Lambda Delta Xi Diaternity, IU Northwest Chapter
Hawthorne Hall: Room 104

Session Two  ●  11:10 a.m. to Noon

Adjusting Instructional Practices to Enhance Student Engagement and Performance with Individualized Curriculum

Speaker:
Larue Fitch, Principal, Higher Institute of Arts and Technology

This presentation will help teachers enhance their instructional practices to address students’ growth level in English Language Arts. This approach to learning enables teachers to focus on the individual student while providing them with achievement-level instruction.

Organization:
Higher Institute of Arts and Technology (HIAT)
Hawthorn Hall: Room 107

The Excel Center

Speakers:
Amy Balchak, Life Coach, Excel Center

The Excel Center is a high school for adults (18+) that allows students the opportunity to return to high school to earn a Core 40 High School Diploma, with a workplace certification or dual credit, at no cost to the student. Students are taught a rigorous curriculum based on Indiana Department of Education requirements, by licensed certified teachers. This presentation will discuss this resource.

Organization:
The Excel Center
Hawthorn Hall: Room 104