

# DIVERSITY SUMMIT

February 25, 2025

Chaos  
or  
Community?

The Choice is Ours

# SUMMIT SCHEDULE OVERVIEW



The first activity of the Diversity Summit is Summit Sunrise Yoga at 8:00 a.m. in the Multicultural Center. Sessions officially begin at 9:00 a.m. All sessions between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. take place on the first and second levels of Bailey Hall. There is an intentional 10 minute break between each session block. Most sessions are 60 minutes in length. There is a 30 minute series of six sessions for those looking for meaningful content in a shorter timeframe. There is a 40 minute break in sessions beginning at 12:20 p.m. Sessions resume at 1:00 p.m. The keynote address begins at 2:30 p.m. in the College Union Ballroom. The final session of the day will be hosted in the MacVittie College Union Hunt Room at 4:00 p.m.

## 8:00 AM

Summit Sunrise Yoga

## 8:30 AM

Diversity Summit Information Table open. Stop by to learn more about the summit schedule, grab a sticker and cup of coffee, and just say, "Hey!" Welcome to the seventh annual Diversity Summit!

## 9:00 AM

Session I

- Reimagining a STEM Culture in which Belonging is Fundamental
- Promoting the Respectful Workplace
- Building a Beloved Community: Get to Know the CDO - What is the Work?
- Part I: Speaking Truth to Identity: Using Spoken Word Literature to Honor Intersectionality (30 min)

## 10:10 AM

Session II

- Building a Beloved Community: Advancing Equity Centered Mission in Challenging Times - Advancing the Work
- Identity At Home and Abroad Student Panel
- Stigma Free Baking Therapy
- Understanding Identities & Creating Community with Athletics DEI Committee
- Equity in Action: Crafting DEIB Together

## 11:20 AM

Session III

- The Hair Monologues
- How Policies, Practices, and Places Impact Collective Campus Wellbeing
- The First Generation Experience
- Banning Children's Books: Resisting Attacks on Diversity and Community
- Confronting Islamophobia: A Training for SUNY Geneseo

## 12:20 PM

Summit Break

No Race, Only Human (39 min) A student led interactive session on race and humanity.

## 1:00 PM

Session IV

- Building a Beloved Community: Where Do We Go from Here? - Relationships at Work
- Fostering LGBTQ+ Community and Solidarity in Divisive Times
- How Do Requests for Reasonable Accommodations Work?
- Part II: Speaking Truth to Identity: Using Spoken Word Literature to Honor Intersectionality
- Power of the People: How Unions Build Power Through Community

## 2:30 PM

Diversity Summit Keynote Address

## 4:00 PM

Session V

- Film Screening: "Invisible Warriors: African American Women in World War II" (150 min)

## 30 Minute Series

### 9:00 AM

Session I

- Broadening the Geneseo Experience

### 9:40 AM

Session I

- Disability Inclusivity

### 10:20 AM

Session II

- Navigating Identity Formation: Multicultural Students in a Dual-Cultural World

### 11:00 AM

Session III

- Navigating the Waters of Chaos: A Fishbowl Dialogue on Building Community

### 11:40 AM

Session III

- Feedback to Results: Buildings and Menus that Reflect Community

### 1:00 PM

Session IV

- Lo que paso en Hawaii (A Deep Dive)

# DIVERSITY SUMMIT KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Chaos or  
Community

What Do We Do  
Now?

Danielle Ponder  
2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.  
MacVittie College Union Ballroom



Our keynote speaker, Danielle Ponder, will prompt us to consider, "What Do We Do Now?" in her address and performance.

A once-in-a-generation talent, Danielle Ponder's soulful and genre-defying sound and unique backstory are self-evident. Infused with a myriad of influences, from the gospel she grew up singing, to trip-hop, blues, pop, R&B and alt-rock, Ponder brings them together organically, effortlessly and powerfully.

At the tender age of 39, Ponder gave up a successful and rewarding career as a public defender in her hometown of Rochester, New York, to focus purely on her music, which up until then had been a passion on the back burner. By 2022, she signed her first record deal and became a trailblazer on her own unusual path to worldwide renown, developing a distinct style centered around her commanding voice.

Ponder's debut album, *Some Of Us Are Brave*, immediately garnered critical praise, as well as dozens of major sync placements including the latest Apple campaign for the iPhone 16 Pro. Her live performances have included four major TV appearances and sold out shows across North America and Europe including festival appearances at Bonnaroo, Lollapalooza, Afropunk and Montreux Jazz Festival.

Defying all of the odds, Ponder is poised to continue her revolutionary path to success with her hotly anticipated sophomore album, due for release in 2025 via Secretly Canadian/Saddest Factory Records.

Keynote funded in part by Mandatory Student Activity Fees.



# DIVERSITY SUMMIT FEATURED SPEAKER



## Building a Beloved Community

**Dr. Rodmon King**

**SUNY Geneseo, Chief Diversity Officer**

Join the Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) for an enlightening three part series entitled, “Building a Beloved Community” where participants will engage in a set of sessions focused on the summit theme. Attendees may choose to attend choose any combination of sessions in the hope of inspiring the advancement of our equity centered vision.

### **Session I: Get to Know the CDO – What is This Work?**

**Bailey 202 | 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

The role of the Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) has become increasingly vital in organizations striving for equity, inclusion, and belonging. But what does this work truly entail? This session will provide an in-depth look at the responsibilities, challenges, and impact of the CDO. Participants will explore the strategic initiatives that drive organizational change, from policy development and cultural transformation to talent management and community engagement. Through interactive discussion and personal insights from Dr. King, we will demystify the role, examine key priorities, and highlight best practices for fostering sustainable diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts. Whether you're new to DEI or looking to deepen your understanding, this session offers valuable insights into the work of the CDO and how it shapes a more inclusive future.

### **Session II: Advancing Equity Centered Mission in Challenging Times - Advancing This Work**

**Bailey 101 | 10:10 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.**

Amid shifting societal and political landscapes, advancing an equity-centered mission requires sustained commitment, strategic adaptation, and bold leadership. Recent presidential executive orders have underscored both the urgency and complexity of fostering diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) in public institutions. This session will explore how organizations, particularly within higher education, can navigate these challenges while reinforcing their equity commitments. Drawing from the mission of SUNY Geneseo, which seeks to center equity by honoring lived experiences and fostering a learning environment grounded in diversity, justice, and belonging, this discussion will provide insights into sustaining and operationalizing an inclusive institutional vision. Topics will include leveraging policy frameworks, embedding equity in academic and administrative practices, navigating resistance, and ensuring that DEIA remains integral to decision-making and institutional culture. Participants will leave with practical strategies to advance this work, even in the face of external pressures, and to uphold an equity-centered mission that is both aspirational and actionable.

### **Session III: Chaos or Community? The Choice is Ours. Where Do We Go from Here? - Relationships at Work**

**Bailey 101 | 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

In an era of deep divisions and social unrest, the work of building and sustaining authentic community has never been more critical. Drawing from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s conception of the Beloved Community as well as the principles and practices of cultural humility and restorative practices, this session will explore how relationships—rooted in mutual respect, accountability, and continuous learning—serve as the foundation for strong, inclusive communities. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. posed a defining question in *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?*—a question that remains urgent today. This session will examine how we can move toward community by fostering genuine relationships, embracing discomfort as a catalyst for growth, and committing to shared responsibility for equity and justice. Participants will engage in discussions on repairing harm, addressing power imbalances, and creating spaces where all voices are valued. Through interactive dialogue and real-world applications, we will explore how we can navigate conflict, bridge divides, and co-create a future grounded in connection and collective well-being.

Rodmon King, PhD, is SUNY Geneseo's new chief diversity officer. He assumed the role on November 7, 2024.

With nearly 10 years of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) experience, King comes to SUNY Geneseo from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst's School of Public Health and Health Sciences, where he developed and evaluated DEIB initiatives, programming, and training in collaboration with faculty and staff. Before his UMass role, he served as dean of institutional equity and inclusion and interim Title IX coordinator at Connecticut College. King served as the deputy chief diversity officer for the SUNY System, following positions as the inaugural chief diversity and inclusion officer at SUNY Oswego and associate vice president for academic affairs and diversity initiatives at Centre College.

King was a member of the faculty at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY, where he taught as a full-time instructor and assistant professor in the philosophy department. He previously served as an adjunct instructor at Roberts Wesleyan College and the University of Rochester. King earned his doctoral and master's degrees in philosophy from the University of Rochester and a bachelor's degree in religion and philosophy from Roberts Wesleyan College.

# DIVERSITY SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

Chaos or  
Community



## Summit Sunrise Yoga

8:00 a.m.  
30 minutes  
Multicultural Center (MCC)

Join fan favorite, Dr. Lee Pierce, for an invigorating start to the Diversity Summit. Summit Sunrise Yoga is hosted in the Multicultural Center. Come as you are and bring your yoga mat, towel, or blanket.

We ♥ our  
Volunteers



## Volunteers Make the Summit Work

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
MCC, Bailey, Ballroom, and Hunt

Please take a moment to thank a volunteer today! They are giving their time and energy to make the Diversity Summit a fantastic experience for our community. Special recognition to our Volunteer Coordinator, Cheyenne DeMarco, and Summit Support Leader, Karie Frisiras.

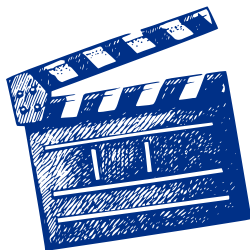


## Building a Beloved Community

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
Bailey 202  
Get to Know the CDO - What is the Work?

10:10 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.  
Bailey 101  
Advancing Equity Centered Mission in Challenging Times - Advancing the Work

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Bailey 101  
Where Do We Go from Here? - Relationships at Work

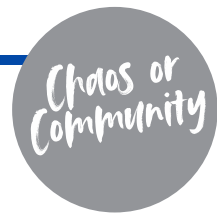


## Invisible Warriors: African American Women in World War II

4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
Ballroom

Join Dr. James Oigara and Gregory Cooke for a film screening and discussion. *Invisible Warriors: African American Women in World War II*, illuminates the wartime challenges and triumphs of 600,000 Black "Rosie the Riveters" - pioneers who courageously battle racism and sexism to help win the war, and create job opportunities in industry and government for all future generations of African American women. They are arguably the most significant group of Black women in the 20th Century.

# SUMMIT SESSION SCHEDULE



## 9:00 AM

- BAILEY 103 REIMAGINING A STEM CULTURE IN WHICH BELONGING IS FUNDAMENTAL
- BAILEY 104 PROMOTING THE RESPECTFUL WORKPLACE
- BAILEY 202 GET TO KNOW THE CDO - WHAT IS THE WORK?
- BAILEY 203 PART I: SPEAKING TRUTH TO IDENTITY: USING SPOKEN WORD LITERATURE TO HONOR INTERSECTIONALITY

## 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

- BAILEY 201 BROADENING THE GENESEO EXPERIENCE

## 9:40 AM - 10:10 AM

- BAILEY 201 DISABILITY INCLUSIVITY

## 10:10 AM

- BAILEY 101 ADVANCING EQUITY CENTERED MISSION IN CHALLENGING TIMES - ADVANCING THE WORK
- BAILEY 103 IDENTITY AT HOME AND ABROAD STUDENT PANEL
- BAILEY 104 STIGMA FREE BAKING THERAPY
- BAILEY 203 UNDERSTANDING IDENTITIES & CREATING COMMUNITY WITH ATHLETICS DEI COMMITTEE
- BAILEY 246 EQUITY IN ACTION: CRAFTING DEIB TOGETHER

## 10:20 AM - 10:50 AM

- BAILEY 201 NAVIGATING IDENTITY FORMATION: MULTICULTURAL STUDENTS IN A DUAL-CULTURAL WORLD

## 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

- BAILEY 201 NAVIGATING THE WATERS OF CHAOS: A FISHBOWL DIALOGUE ON BUILDING COMMUNITY

## 11:20 AM

- BAILEY 101 THE HAIR MONOLOGUES
- BAILEY 103 HOW POLICIES, PRACTICES, AND PLACES IMPACT COLLECTIVE CAMPUS WELLBEING
- BAILEY 104 THE FIRST GENERATION EXPERIENCE
- BAILEY 202 BANNING CHILDREN'S BOOKS: RESISTING ATTACKS ON DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY
- BAILEY 203 CONFRONTING ISLAMOPHOBIA: A TRAINING FOR SUNY GENESEO

## 11:40 AM - 12:10 PM

- BAILEY 201 FEEDBACK TO RESULTS: BUILDINGS AND MENUS THAT REFLECT COMMUNITY

## 12:20 PM - 1:00 PM

### SUMMIT BREAK

- BAILEY 101 NO RACE, ONLY HUMAN

## 1:00 PM

- BAILEY 101 WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? - RELATIONSHIPS AT WORK
- BAILEY 103 FOSTERING LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY AND SOLIDARITY IN DIVISIVE TIMES
- BAILEY 104 HOW DO REQUESTS FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS WORK?
- BAILEY 203 PART II: SPEAKING TRUTH TO IDENTITY: USING SPOKEN WORD LITERATURE TO HONOR INTERSECTIONALITY
- BAILEY 246 POWER OF THE PEOPLE: HOW UNIONS BUILD POWER THROUGH COMMUNITY

## 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

- BAILEY 201 LO QUE PASO EN HAWAII (A DEEP DIVE)

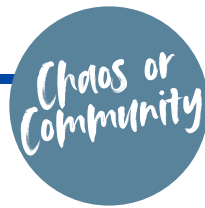
## 2:30 PM

- BALLROOM KEYNOTE ADDRESS - WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

## 4:00 PM

- BALLROOM FILM SCREENING: "INVISIBLE WARRIORS: AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN IN WORLD WAR II"

# SUMMIT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



## 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

### Reimagining a STEM Culture in which Belonging is Fundamental

Dr. Suann Yang and Dr. Mackenzie Gerring, Biology Department Learning Community

Bailey 103

STEM classrooms are built upon certain assumptions. It is time to question these assumptions. In this session, students, staff, and faculty will together examine how assumptions like the objectivity of science, perfectionism, and meritocracy harm both us as individuals and science's ability to rise to societal challenges. We will work toward dismantling these harmful assumptions by first identifying them in our spaces and our roles. We will then design reparative acts, from small to large, and with empathy, intentionality, and care. Together, we can reimagine a STEM culture in which belonging is not only desired but fundamental.

### Promoting the Respectful Workplace

Julie Briggs, AVP for Human Resources, Cyndee Fitzsimmons, Campus Auxiliary Services, Chad Foster, Facilities Services, Enrico Johnson, Provost's Office, Meg Reitz, Residence Life, Oriana VanBuren, Campus Auxiliary Services

Bailey 104

The college is committed to creating and maintaining a positive working and learning environment built upon mutual respect. This program, built around the college's Promoting a Respectful Workplace Policy, provides managers and employees with resources and tools to reinforce a positive work culture. It also draws on our collective dialogue and ideas as the primary tools through which we can learn, understand, connect and grow. The program provides participants with an opportunity to voice their experiences related to the topic, learn from others' perspectives, share ideas, and explore new possibilities about this topic.

### Building a Beloved Community: Get to Know the CDO - What is the Work?

Dr. Rodmon King, Chief Diversity Officer

Bailey 202

The role of the Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) has become increasingly vital in organizations striving for equity, inclusion, and belonging. But what does this work truly entail? This session will provide an in-depth look at the responsibilities, challenges, and impact of the CDO. Participants will explore the strategic initiatives that drive organizational change, from policy development and cultural transformation to talent management and community engagement. Through interactive discussion and personal insights from Dr. King, we will demystify the role, examine key priorities, and highlight best practices for fostering sustainable diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts. Whether you're new to DEI or looking to deepen your understanding, this session offers valuable insights into the work of the CDO and how it shapes a more inclusive future.

### Part I: Speaking Truth to Identity: Using Spoken Word Literature to Honor Intersectionality

Hope Martin, Applied Learning Coordinator and Cori Quinn, Multicultural Student Success Coach

Bailey 203

This two-part series of workshops will provide participants with an opportunity to engage with their own intersectional identities through identity mapping and drafting spoken word pieces. The morning session will lay the foundation of identity in literature, while the afternoon workshop will provide participants with model texts, prompts, and the space to practice writing their own pieces.

## 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

### Broadening the Geneseo Experience

Joanna Santos-Smith, Project Director for Strategic Initiatives

Bailey 201

As SUNY Geneseo seeks to provide different experiences for students, we are reminded that there are many ways in which we can also expand the experience of a Geneseo education to different audiences in non-traditional ways. This workshop will provide background on the steps we have taken as a campus to prepare for different learning opportunities but also give our community a chance to come together and brainstorm ways we can do more.

## 9:40 AM - 10:10 AM

### Disability Inclusivity

Emilee Dauphinee, Access Counselor, and Grace Dorgan, Isabelle Hoff, Grace Hubbel, Julia Kimmel, Grace Quagliana, Audrey Ryan, David Sabol, Emily Warner, Samantha Vallone

Bailey 201

Understanding different things you can implement everyday to be more inclusive of more people. As we dive into topics regarding disability identity, ableism, assistive technology, language, and so much more we encourage you to think critically about small changes that you could make in order to create more inclusive communities.

# SUMMIT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



## 10:10 AM - 11:10 AM

### **Building a Beloved Community: Advancing Equity Centered Mission in Challenging Times - Advancing the Work** **Dr. Rodmon King, Chief Diversity Officer**

#### **Bailey 101**

Amid shifting societal and political landscapes, advancing an equity-centered mission requires sustained commitment, strategic adaptation, and bold leadership. Recent presidential executive orders have underscored both the urgency and complexity of fostering diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) in public institutions. This session will explore how organizations, particularly within higher education, can navigate these challenges while reinforcing their equity commitments.

Drawing from the mission of SUNY Geneseo, which seeks to center equity by honoring lived experiences and fostering a learning environment grounded in diversity, justice, and belonging, this discussion will provide insights into sustaining and operationalizing an inclusive institutional vision. Topics will include leveraging policy frameworks, embedding equity in academic and administrative practices, navigating resistance, and ensuring that DEIA remains integral to decision-making and institutional culture. Participants will leave with practical strategies to advance this work, even in the face of external pressures, and to uphold an equity-centered mission that is both aspirational and actionable.

### **Identity At Home and Abroad Student Panel**

#### **Jordain Moore, Assistant Director of Study Abroad/International Programs, Study Abroad Office and Study Abroad Alumni**

#### **Bailey 103**

In this panel discussion, students will speak about their experiences with identity and how it changes and grows through international experience. This is an opportunity to share, learn, hold space, and explore ways to positively impact student experiences abroad.

### **Stigma Free Baking Therapy**

#### **Riley Mahar and Makayla Garrison, Psychology Majors**

#### **Bailey 104**

Baking therapy is a great alternative to traditional therapy. We want to spread awareness to alternative approaches to therapy. We use baking therapy as a way to reframe the experience of therapy, offer a creative outlet for everyone and break the stigma of mental health.

### **Understanding Identities & Creating Community with Athletics DEI Committee**

#### **Geneseo Athletics DEI Committee - Hunter Drews, Makayla French, Jenne Garvey**

#### **Bailey 203**

Since its formal establishment in Fall 2021, the Athletics Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee has taken important steps towards understanding and improving the landscape of DEI within the Athletics department. In this session, committee members will describe the structure & inner-workings of the committee (led by student-athletes!), actions taken & lessons learned in the last four years, and current goals to continue to move the needle towards equity in Geneseo's campus community. Participants will then be encouraged to participate in the Committee's "Understanding Our Identities" training. In this training, participants will reflect on the labels they use to define themselves and others while exploring key ideas related to race and diversity. This workshop is modeled after the trainings that have been facilitated by the Athletics DEI Committee for all Student-Athlete Mentors (SAMs) over the last three academic years. Participation and an eagerness to learn about these important topics is a must!

### **Equity in Action: Crafting DEIB Together**

#### **Dr. Mackenzie Gerringer, Annabel Rupp, Grace Sutherland, Kaden Wheeler, Emily White**

#### **Bailey 246**

Equity and inclusion are essential values that require intentional action. This session aims to deepen participants' understanding of these concepts through a hands-on activity that simulates inequitable resource distribution. Groups will receive varying levels of resources to complete a creative task, such as designing a small sculpture. This activity will serve as a starting point for a reflective discussion about equity and inclusion. Following the activity, participants will work together to define what equity and inclusion mean to them. These definitions will form the foundation for crafting personalized DEI statements. Facilitators will provide examples and guide participants through structuring their statements to reflect their values and actionable goals. To conclude, the group will brainstorm practical ways to integrate these principles into everyday actions, whether in classrooms, clubs, or personal interactions. This session is designed to empower attendees to take meaningful steps toward advancing equity at Geneseo and beyond.

## 10:20 AM - 10:50 AM

### **Navigating Identity Formation: Multicultural Students in a Dual-Cultural World**

#### **Wiljar Ojuro, Graduate Student, Student Health & Counseling**

#### **Bailey 201**

This session aims to highlight the intricate process of identity formation for multicultural college students as they navigate the challenges and opportunities of living within individualistic and collectivistic societal frameworks. Drawing on research and clinical experience, this interactive workshop will explore how cultural expectations, family dynamics, and social norms influence students' sense of self and belonging. Participants will engage in thought-provoking discussions and activities created to foster empathy, awareness, and actionable strategies for creating inclusive environments. The session will also introduce evidence-based practices for supporting students in navigating identity conflicts and balancing community-driven values with personal autonomy. Whether you are a student, educator, or community member, this session offers a transformative lens on how we can move from "chaos" toward "community" by embracing the rich diversity of cultural identities on campus.



# SUMMIT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Chaos or  
Community

## 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

### **Navigating the Waters of Chaos: A Fishbowl Dialogue on Building Community**

**Danielle Avila, Peyton Biesiadecki, Bailey Miller, and Eryka Strohl, Department of Communication IDEA Committee**

**Bailey 201**

This collaborative session emphasizes the importance of dialogue and generous listening as community-building tools. As a committee within the Department of Communication, the IDEA Committee seeks to use the discipline of communication to bring students, staff, faculty, and administration together, emphasizing inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility. We invite participants to enter the conversation and share their reactions to this year's theme of "Chaos or Community: The Choice is Ours." Verbal participation is optional, and we encourage participants to engage in this conversation however they feel most comfortable. Together, we will foster a deeper sense of belonging, understanding, and empathy, cultivating a stronger sense of community both within and beyond SUNY Geneseo.

## 11:20 AM - 12:20 PM

### **The Hair Monologues**

**Sonya Bilocerkowycz, MFA, Archer Maduro, RA, Faeza Masood, LMHC and more**

**Bailey 101**

Hair is personal, political, and particularly salient to people of various marginalized identities. Whether you cut it, grow it, pick it, braid it, dye it, shave it, or lost it, we want to hear how your hair has influenced your identity, and how your identity has influenced your hair. This session will feature monologue performances from select speakers, as well as space for the audience to share their own hair stories.

### **How Policies, Practices, and Places Impact Collective Campus Wellbeing**

**Laura Swanson, Staff Counselor and Wellbeing Coordinator**

**Bailey 103**

This session will build upon work of the Wellbeing Collective and momentum for SUNY Geneseo in its efforts to become a health-promoting campus. We will talk about the social determinants of health, the collective impact model for social change, and ways our campus can best promote health of person, place, and planet.

### **The First Generation Experience**

**RADICE Team: Hermei Herman, Renee Spencer, Edwin Alvarado Arriaza, Hermei Herman, Anamaria Santos Mendez**

**Bailey 104**

Join the RADICE in talking about the first generation experience. Learn about some of the concerns these students have and how you can help build a sense of belonging for first generation students.

### **Banning Children's Books: Resisting Attacks on Diversity and Community**

**Becky Leathersich, Research Instruction Librarian and Dr. Brian Morgan, School of Education**

**Bailey 202**

We will briefly outline the recent history of book bans and challenges in the US. We will describe the effects, implications, and possible motives for book banning and the groups and individuals behind the bans. Attendees will have the opportunity to read, evaluate, and discuss some banned picture books.

### **Confronting Islamophobia: A Training for SUNY Geneseo**

**Sarah Allam and Genevieve Labe, Assistant Director of Multicultural Affairs for LGBTQ+ Life**

**Bailey 203**

This session aims to discuss islamophobia on a societal level and a campus level. Islamophobia often goes unnoticed because of how normalized and systemic it has become, especially this century. As a liberal arts institution aiming to attract more students to the campus, it is imperative to prove to prospective Muslim students that they will be cared for and supported on this campus. To do this, those currently on campus must learn what islamophobia is, know how to identify it, and support those affected by it. While it is important to recognize bigotry, learning about Islam and how it plays a role in Middle Eastern/North African cultures is equally important. This will promote empathy and compassion within the Geneseo community.

## 11:40 AM - 12:10 PM

### **Feedback to Results: Buildings and Menus that Reflect Community**

**Bob Ames, AVP for Facilities and Planning and Mat Felthousen, Executive Director of Campus Auxiliary Services**

**Bailey 201**

Facilities Services and Campus Auxiliary Services (CAS) will describe the process of designing spaces and developing menus in response to the needs from the Geneseo community. Feedback comes in many forms, from formal meetings to social media posts, and it all has a part in shaping the campus experience.

## 12:20 PM - 1:00 PM

### **No Race, Only Human**

**Christopher Jose Morillo**

**Bailey 201**

This interactive session is about how the concept of race has been nothing but a calamity towards civilization that still has its affect in the modern day. Any and all differences that we have show how expansive our range is as a species and those differences are only result of environmental responses. By forgoing of the concept of race, we may all advance to a prosperous future.

# SUMMIT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Chaos or  
Community

## 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

### **Building a Beloved Community: Chaos or Community? Where Do We Go from Here? - Relationships at Work**

**Dr. Rodmon King, Chief Diversity Officer**

**Bailey 101**

In an era of deep divisions and social unrest, the work of building and sustaining authentic community has never been more critical. Drawing from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s conception of the Beloved Community as well as the principles and practices of cultural humility and restorative practices, this session will explore how relationships—rooted in mutual respect, accountability, and continuous learning—serve as the foundation for strong, inclusive communities.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. posed a defining question in *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?*—a question that remains urgent today. This session will examine how we can move toward community by fostering genuine relationships, embracing discomfort as a catalyst for growth, and committing to shared responsibility for equity and justice. Participants will engage in discussions on repairing harm, addressing power imbalances, and creating spaces where all voices are valued. Through interactive dialogue and real-world applications, we will explore how we can navigate conflict, bridge divides, and co-create a future grounded in connection and collective well-being.

### **Fostering LGBTQ+ Community and Solidarity in Divisive Times**

**James Aimers, Hanna Brant, June Bucci, Kendall Cruise, Orquidia Geraldino, Genevieve Labe, Amanda Roth, Max**

**Sparkman, and Brandon West**

**Bailey 103**

This session will gather a group of students, staff, and faculty to discuss strategies to support the LGBTQ+ campus community. Political polarization, shifting policies, and societal tensions can lead to feelings of isolation, fear, and instability. However, the session will emphasize the importance of building community in the face of this chaos. The interactive discussion/workshop will help foster solidarity as participants are encouraged to come together to share experiences and strategies for community building. The session emphasizes the importance of allyship, collective advocacy, and mutual support to safeguard the rights and well-being of LGBTQ+ people, while also exploring strategies for navigating a challenging political environment. The goal is to cultivate resilience and a sense of belonging, reinforcing the idea that community and compassion can thrive even in difficult times.

### **How Do Requests for Reasonable Accommodations Work?**

**Julie Briggs, AVP for Human Resources, Dennis Glaser, Employee Relations Specialist, and Sara Mahoney, Title IX**

**Coordinator**

**Bailey 104**

This program will provide employees with the background, information, and process for requesting a Reasonable Accommodation related to a disability or pregnancy related condition. This will include information specific to the American with Disabilities Act, the New York State Division of Human Rights Law, NYS Executive Order 31, and SUNY Geneseo policies.

### **Part II: Speaking Truth to Identity: Using Spoken Word Literature to Honor Intersectionality**

**Hope Martin, Applied Learning Coordinator and Cori Quinn, Multicultural Student Success Coach**

**Bailey 203**

This two-part series of workshops will provide participants with an opportunity to engage with their own intersectional identities through identity mapping and drafting spoken word pieces. The morning session will lay the foundation of identity in literature, while the afternoon workshop will provide participants with model texts, prompts, and the space to practice writing their own pieces.

### **Power of the People: How Unions Build Power Through Community**

**Dr. Meg Reitz, Associate Director of Residence Life and Suzanne Neary, Degree Conferral Specialist and Geneseo**

**Chapter Officer for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

**Bailey 246**

In this session, Geneseo UUP union members will lead a discussion about the role of unions in social movements. Specifically utilizing community building as a strategy for disruption and progress. Unions have decreased in popularity over the past 100 years and have been overlooked as a social movement. The workers rights movement shares many similarities with the civil rights movement and can also create powerful social changes. Specifically, unions fight against power structures that favor those at the top of the hierarchy at the expense of the workers at the bottom of the hierarchy. Building community among workers is a key aspect of success. We'll explore how successful unions build community, disrupt the status quo, and create lasting change for the working class and what actions we can each take to support unions today.

## 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

### **Lo que paso en Hawaii (A Deep Dive)**

**Noelia Ruiz, Area Coordinator**

**Bailey 201**

Lo que paso en Hawaii (A Deep Dive): Join other community members in learning about the history of Hawaii and Puerto Rico, the current concerns they both face, and the role the United States plays in these issues. Explore how Bad Bunny's influence could make a difference. This session takes a deep dive into the reggaeton artist, Bad Bunny, compares Puerto Rico to Hawaii.

# SUMMIT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



## 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Diversity Summit Annual Keynote Address  
College Union Ballroom

Danielle Ponder, will prompt us to consider, "What Do We Do Now?" in her address and performance.

## 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

**Film Screening: "Invisible Warriors: African American Women in World War II"**

Dr. James Oigara, School of Education and Filmmaker, Gregory Cooke

College Union Ballroom

Join us as we host a film screening of *Invisible Warriors: African American Women in World War II*, followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Gregory Cooke. The film is an insightful documentary that shines a light on significant contributions that Black women have made to the United States. Their willingness to answer the call for the greater good of their families and society overall remains a pattern that needs continued recognition. The film illuminates the wartime challenges and triumphs of 600,000 African American "Rosie the Riveters" who fled lives as domestics and sharecroppers to help win World War II. Indeed, the "Invisible Warriors" were part of the foundation for the emerging civil rights movement that began a journey to transform our country. Inspired by his own mother, Prof. Cooke illustrates the multitudinous (and intersecting) social, cultural, political, and economic realities of World War II in the lives of African American women.

## Invisible Warriors Film Description

*Invisible Warriors: African American Women in World War II*, illuminates the wartime challenges and triumphs of 600,000 Black "Rosie the Riveters" - pioneers who courageously battle racism and sexism to help win the war, and create job opportunities in industry and government for all future generations of African American women.

They are arguably the most significant group of Black women in the 20th Century.



# Chaos or Community?

The Choice is Ours

What does the Diversity Summit theme mean to you?  
In one word, what comes to mind when you think of the theme?



Thanks for your  
support!

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