



Summer 2025 Office of DEI Newsletter, Issue 6



At Eastern Mennonite University, our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion includes creating a physically accessible and welcoming campus for all. Here's a look at what's been happening—and what's ahead—as we work together for a more inclusive EMU.

Thank You to the Ridge Room & Rhinestone Productions!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Ridge Room and Rhinestone Productions for their incredible partnership during this year's LovEMU Giving Day. Through their creativity and generosity—especially the Royal Blue-berry Cheesecake Trifles, HERM-osa cocktails, and the vibrant Drag Brunch—they helped raise an amazing \$2,242 for EMU's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fund. Beyond the dollars, their support created an atmosphere of belonging, celebration, and visibility that echoes our mission. We are so grateful for their continued commitment to inclusion and for uplifting EMU's DEI efforts in such joyful and meaningful ways.

Creating a Safer, More Inclusive EMU

Campus Accessibility Updates: Safety, Visibility, and Access

DEI has been working in close partnership with **Facilities** and the **Disability Student Alliance (DSA)** to improve accessibility and safety across campus. Below are a few recent and upcoming projects:

Library Steps Safety Upgrade

Due to weather delays in the fall and winter, **painting of the Library steps has been rescheduled for summer**. Please be aware of temporary closures or barriers while this work takes place.

Stair Repair: June 2–13 (CC Northeast/Southeast & Library North)

Painting with Safety Yellow Nosings: June 16–27

Improved Outdoor Lighting

To improve campus safety and sustainability, several LED lights have been installed or upgraded in key areas, including:

- **Suter Science Center**
- **Northlawn**
- **Cedarwood**
- **Facilities Management**
- **Hillside**
- **Annex Parking Area**
- **Parkwoods**
- **Roselawn**



These updates ensure **better-lit walkways and stairways** across campus.


Sidewalk Repairs

Damaged sidewalks have been identified and **replacements are underway**, with more scheduled this summer.

ADA Door Access

All but two previously malfunctioning **ADA door openers** have been repaired or replaced. The remaining updates will be completed soon:

- Northlawn Main Entrance (Great Lounge)
- University Commons South Main Entrance

 **Your Input Matters:** Facilities welcomes your suggestions to improve safety and accessibility. If you see something, say something—**your voice helps make EMU safer for all.**

DEI and Campus Updates

DEI in the Community: Join Us This Summer and Fall!

We're proud to partner with **Admissions** and **Advancement** to show up and celebrate with our wider community. Look for the **EMU tent** at these upcoming events—stop by, say hello, and **pick up some swag!**

Juneteenth Celebration

-  Pale Fire Co., Harriosnburg |  June 15 |  3–7 PM

Cheroenhaka Indian Tribe Pow Wow

-  Courtland, VA | July 5 |  12–7 PM

Harrisonburg Hispanic Festival

-  Smithland Fields, Harrisonburg |  August 3 |  12–6 PM

Harrisonburg African American Festival

-  Ralph Sampson Park, Harrisonburg |  September 13 |  12–6 PM

International Festival

-  Downtown Court Square, Harrisonburg |  September TBA |  12–6 PM

Valley Pride Festival

-  Downtown Court Square, Harrisonburg |  September 21 |  12–6 PM

We're excited to continue building bridges with our community through these vibrant celebrations. **See you there!**



[Click here to Support DEI](#)

Join us on our transformative journey, where every donation, big or small, becomes a catalyst for a positive impact in shaping our future of belonging.



Visit DEI's [Resource](#) and [Communication](#) pages.

Share Your DEI Story

Would you like to share DEI stories with our EMU community? Do you have a DEI-oriented event, announcement, article or recognition you would like us to promote through our DEI communication channels? Contact dei@emu.edu.



Shannon W. Dycus

Vice President for Student Affairs, Equity and Belonging

Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

emu.edu/dei

1200 Park Road, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802

