



2012

## IWU Engages Diversity

University Communications, Illinois Wesleyan University  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

---

### **Recommended Citation**

University Communications, Illinois Wesleyan University, "IWU Engages Diversity" (2012).  
*News and Events*. 1890.  
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/1890>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

## IWU Engages Diversity

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The Engaging Diversity program invites interested white students from the incoming class to help them understand and meaningfully engage diversity while at Illinois Wesleyan.

Participants are randomly selected from volunteer first-year students, who come to campus three days early to participate in meetings and activities about diversity. The 2012 program is scheduled Saturday-Monday, Aug. 18-20.

Assistant Professor of Sociology Meghan Burke and former faculty member Kira Hudson Banks co-direct the program, which began in 2010.

“We want to give students a safe space to come together and be able to ask tough questions about diversity, and how they as white students can play an active role in the campus climate,” said Burke.

The students discuss the definitions and history of diversity, affirmative action and college admissions, white privilege and racial identity and open communication and dialogue. They also network with MALANA (Multiracial, African-American, Latino-American, Asian- American, and Native American) students, international students and IWU faculty and staff.

“We focus a lot on racism but also talk about the intersectionality of our identity affiliations,” said Banks. “Some of the students come in thinking we should all be color blind and not see race. But then they are able to see how our society is constructed around race, and they realize being color blind is not the answer. They realize that seeing race is part of seeing who people are.”



*Students have open discussions during the Engaging Diversity Program.*