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Common To Lead Newly Named Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Aug. 8, 2014

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—Brandon Common has been named director of the newly renamed Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Illinois Wesleyan University. The office was formerly the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA).

OMSA's purpose historically was to aid in the success of minority students through advocacy, education and programming. As Illinois Wesleyan has become increasingly diverse, these efforts have become more important.

By renaming the office and creating programs for a broader range of student populations, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) will promote a campus community that appreciates, encourages and celebrates diversity, University officials said.

Specifically ODI will pay particular attention to the experiences and needs of underrepresented and marginalized groups on campus, including but not limited to: Multiracial, African-American, Latina(o), Native American, Asian-American, LGBTQ, First Generation, and Women. Common will direct efforts to educate, advocate and program with the purpose of better preparing students to thrive in an increasingly diverse and global society. Eileen Galvez, who joined Illinois Wesleyan in 2013, continues as assistant director of ODI.

Common and Galvez explain ODI's broadening role in a video [on their website](#).

Common most recently served as assistant director of fraternity and sorority affairs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His accomplishments in this role included revamping the curriculum for the President's Leadership Academy, developing risk management policies for the Black Greek and United Greek Councils, and designing the curriculum and program for the first Black Greek Summit.

The new director recently earned a Ph.D. at Illinois. He received a master's degree at Ohio University, where he served as peer mentor and advisor to the LINKS program that aids in the transition and success of first-year multicultural and disproportionately represented students. A native of St. Louis, Common earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri.



Brandon Common

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