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Franklin to Direct Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Aug. 2, 2016

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— Greta Franklin has been named director of Illinois Wesleyan University's [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#) (ODI). She replaces Brandon Common, who was promoted to Assistant Dean of Students for Campus Life.

Franklin most recently served nearly five years as associate director of multicultural affairs at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va. In this role she developed and coordinated academic and personal development programming for the RISE peer mentoring program in addition to leadership and management of numerous other programs and events for multicultural students.

She previously served three years as assistant director for student life at a campus of the Community College of Baltimore County, and was an associate director for campus life at Vassar College. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in art history from Mary Washington College (now the University of Mary Washington) and a master's degree from the University of Maryland at College Park.

ODI at Illinois Wesleyan is dedicated to the promotion of a campus community that appreciates, encourages and celebrates diversity with the purpose of bettering students to thrive in an increasingly diverse and global society. By paying particular attention to the experiences and needs of underrepresented and marginalized students, ODI services student populations including but not limited to: multiracial, African American, Latino/a-Hispanic, Native American, Asian American, lesbian, bisexual, gay, queer (LBGQ), first generation students, transgender non-conforming (TGNC), and women.

Franklin said she believes the broad range of her experiences will benefit her new role at Illinois Wesleyan. "I believe my personal experience as an African American, first generation college student from a working class background informs my work as a higher education professional," she said. "I can empathize with the experiences and challenges that underrepresented students encounter during their time in college."

She said ODI provides "a safe and brave space for not only students from underrepresented populations, but all members of the campus community to discuss issues pertaining to diversity, inclusion and social justice. I am a big proponent of observing what is currently done and continuing what is working well and revising what can be improved."



Greta Franklin

