



Meg Miner <mminer@iwu.edu>

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## Experiences of BIPOC students

1 message

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**IWU Update** <IWU-Update@iwu.edu>  
To: mminer@iwu.edu

Wed, Feb 3, 2021 at 11:16 AM

To: Faculty and Staff  
From: The Faculty Committee on Diversity

Good morning,

Part of our charge as the Faculty Committee on Diversity is, "to help develop and sustain a welcoming community based on respect and appreciation for individual differences." Illinois Wesleyan students that identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC) have been sharing their experiences on IWU's campus through an anonymous Instagram account ([@BIPOCatIWU](#)). The stories shared on this page indicate that our community has work to do, both in and out of the classroom, to achieve this mission. We have compiled, with the account's permission, [a select few to share with you](#). FCD is not endorsing every post to this account, nor is it our intent to call attention to any one professor or department, but rather to acknowledge the collective experience of our BIPOC students and listen as they share their truths with us. These posts are not easy to read, but our hope is that bringing these student experiences to your attention will spur action. It is easy to read these posts and become defensive, or to assume that they do not apply to each of us, but instead we'd like to challenge you to [reflect](#). Illinois Wesleyan University is not immune to the racism and prejudice that plague our nation, but we are committed to fighting those injustices. Systemic problems require systemic solutions. Our university mission statement says that IWU's commitment to diversity and social justice can be seen, "through our policies, programs and practices." It's time to reinvigorate that commitment and awaken our community to action. Our students' stories demand it.

In addition to calling your attention to these experiences, we would like to invite you to watch the documentary, "[All the Difference: Young African American Men and Their College Experiences](#)." One review from the Atlantic writes, "*A powerful reminder that school resources remain unequal, that bias continues to affect the opportunities black boys have access to, and that simply enrolling first-generation college students in universities is not enough; schools must develop support systems to help them graduate.*"

- FCD will hold a discussion on this documentary **Thursday, February 25 12:15-1:30pm** virtually over Zoom. The link and event reminders will be shared in the days leading up to the event. It is our hope that this documentary discussion will build upon our previous *Campus Counterspaces* book discussion while inviting new, additional experiences and insights. All faculty and staff are welcome to attend, please sign up [here](#).

FCD would also like to offer support to departments updating their Diversity Action Plans. We are happy to offer ideas or lead conversations to move your diversity agenda forward. Please contact the 2020-2021 FCD chair, Wendy Kookan ([wkooken@iwu.edu](mailto:wkooken@iwu.edu)), if you'd like to schedule a conversation or request suggestions or feedback for your Diversity Action Plans.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

2020-21 Faculty Committee on Diversity

Wendy Kookan  
Joe Williams  
Chris Sweet  
Julie Ballard  
Libby Haywood