SAHRA

Fri 5/12/2023 11:33 AM

To:Aimee Newman <aimee.nichols@penmac.com>



Engage. Equip. Empower.

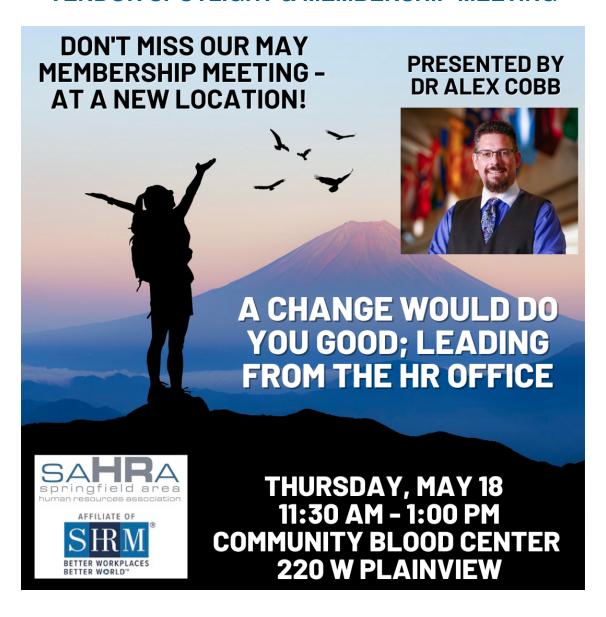








VENDOR SPOTLIGHT & MEMBERSHIP MEETING







Contact Kaycia Turner (<u>Kaycia.Turner@LakelandBehavioralHealth.com</u>) to discuss options for presenting Lakeland services, resources, and tools at your company.

UPCOMING EVENTS









The Workforce Readiness Committee is looking for volunteers for a SAHRA Group Serve/HR Day of Service at the Springfield Dream Center!

Community Dinner: Wednesday, May 17th at 5:30 pm 30+ Volunteers Needed!

Sign up using the QR code below or email workforcereadiness@sahramo.org







ASK THE EXPERTS: How to Control Pharmaceutical Costs

CITY UTILITIES

301 E CENTRAL, SPRINGFIELD, MO 65802

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023 8:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. WHEN:

REGISTER: REGISTER AT WWW.SAHRAMO.ORG/EVENTS \$10 REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES A LIGHT BREAKFAST

SA**HR**A

Engage, Equip, Empower,

WARREN BORDERS VICE PRESIDENT OF CLIENT ENGAGEMENT LEAF HEALTH

- ere are a few topics you can expect to hear about: © Market Dynamics © PBM Pricing © Rebates © Mail Order © Specialty © And many more!

INTERVIEW WITH CHELSEA CACERES



Chelsea Caceres

Adjunct Faculty, College of Graduate Studies Drury University

Why do you believe a Diverse workforce, full of all sorts of people with prior experiences, ages and aptitudes, can help make organizations **successful?** The answer is in the question: if a diverse workforce with people of various demographics, aptitudes, and experiences are part of an organization, then that organization is already at a competitive advantage over others who hire like-minded individuals who may look the same as everyone in the C-Suite. When your team consists of people who are physically and cognitively diverse, you're more likely to have a breadth of experience and knowledge that can help in decision-making processes. Diversity includes everyone—even those belonging to the majority—so what it really comes down to is inclusion, mattering, and belonging. Psychological safety is becoming increasingly more important to organizations, even though the term has been around since the 1960s. When organizations can provide a workplace where individuals feel they don't have to cover or compartmentalize any of their identities, they're creating a culture of acceptance, empathy, and authenticity. This can help with employee productivity, engagement, and retention.

What role does culture play in establishing an environment where all team members feel welcomed and comfortable in the workplace? Organizations with inclusive cultures help team members feel as if they matter and belong by removing systemic barriers and celebrating the uniqueness each team member brings to the table. A great way to be more inclusive is to create Employee Resource Groups that can be part of the new hiring process and major organizational decisions, where those from underrepresented groups will feel they have representation at all levels of the organization. We recently had a guest speaker who chatted about the Culture Grid O'Reilly Auto Parts utilizes. The Culture Grid connects the employees to the mission, vision, and values of the organization and the related expectations and results. At organizations with inclusive leadership, employees are educated on their roles and responsibilities and the roles of others, so they can see the big picture and have an understanding of how everything is connected. It's that ongoing education (bias training, self-awareness development opportunities, etc.) that creates successful organizations. But, again, ongoing and little and often educational opportunities are a must. One position or one department cannot change the culture of an organization; everyone has to put in the work.

What specifically has your organization done to help promote a diverse, and inclusive environment? Culturally, we've added Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statements to the mission and vision of the university. These are displayed in offices, shared in handbooks, and made visible in all course

syllabi. There are several opportunities for employees and students to learn with and from unique individuals and programming, such as panel discussions on intersectionality, mental health conferences, annual and seasonal training sessions on a variety of topics, and more. Being a higher education institution, we do have multiple departments dedicated to underserved or underrepresented groups such as Disability Support Services, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, International Support Services, Counseling Services, and others. Drury Allies supports LGBTQ+ students and straight allies, and the institution has a long history of supporting active military, veterans, and their families. The institution is also a registered supporter of the Missouri Safe Space initiative, which opposes workplace discrimination and provides support to non-heterosexual and transgender individuals. Diverse faculty and staff are hired, and students from all walks of life are admitted.

In my three years of being part of the institution as an educator, I've noticed inclusion has been embedded in the university's systems and processes—it's just a natural part of the university at this point. Is there room for improvement? Absolutely. Inclusion is an *ongoing* educational process. With that said, I should probably mention the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Leadership Graduate Certificate program that began Fall 2021. Students can choose to participate in only the certificate or combine the certificate with another as part of the Master in Integrative Leadership program. Because it is offered online, individuals from all over the globe and those working in different industries have participated, which has added to each cohort's special, collaborative experience.

What is your definition of equity? And what things do you believe can be done to create a more level playing field for students? My favorite definition of equity comes from Dr. Rohini Anand, previous Senior Vice President Corporate Responsibility and Global Chief Diversity Officer for Sodexo and current CEO of Rohini Anand LLC: Equity is eliminating systemic barriers that inhibit full participation and equal access to opportunities. Another way to look at it is *equality* is giving everyone a pair of shoes; *equity* means everyone gets a pair of shoes that *fit*.

The second question is quite large—I don't know where to begin, ha. In addition to scholarships and other financial aid opportunities that give students a chance to enroll in an institution, universities and colleges should constantly be looking at what they can do better to serve the entire student population, and especially, those who are marginalized. We need unified, inclusive leaders who are empathetic, authentic, open-minded, and creative. A culture of mattering and belonging is important to instill at any organization. Each student's uniqueness should be celebrated in the classroom, on campus, and in the community.

Springfield unfortunately has a checkered past and continued struggle with incorporating all groups of people into our community – specifically

people of color, and those of other religious backgrounds – but in recent years has had some major successes. What else do you think we as a community can be doing to continue moving forward? As you've mentioned, we've seen the City of Springfield make some major moves toward becoming more diverse and inclusive. I haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting Springfield's Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Mr. Taj Suleyman, but several colleagues who have interacted with him only sing his praises. I think his hiring showed this city is open to change despite how its been historically viewed. Continuing to provide educational events and programming that highlight and support the diversity of our community and the many benefits associated with collaborating with different people, will be imperative to seeing growth, acceptance, and empathy in Springfield.

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS



Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Organizational Development Business Partner
Human Resources Business Partner
(Springfield, MO)

Highland Springs Country Club

Human Resources Manager
(Springfield, MO)

SAHRA ANNOUNCEMENTS

2023 Wage Access Survey

Surveys improve organizational success by comparing current business practices and policies to best practices of similar thriving companies.



Survey Period:

March 1- May 15

Benefits of Participation:



FREE RESULTS

 THE COMPENSATION SURVEY RESULTS ARE FREE TO SAHRA MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATE



VALUABLE INFORMATION

• THE SURVEY WILL BE SENT TO 272 MEMBERS AT 171 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS!



SURVEY SUBSCRIPTION

- 12-MONTH ACCES:
- 24/7 ON-DEMAND REPORT TOOL
- CUSTOM JOB REPORTS
- UNLIMITED EXCEL
 AND PDF EXPORTS
- CUSTOMIZED DATA TIMELINES

We look forward to your participation in the surveys! For any questions regarding survey registration please contact Liz Redohl at liz.redohl@aaimea.org.













"Taking on a challenge is a lot like riding a horse, isn't it? If you're comfortable while you're doing it, you're probably doing it wrong."

- Ted Lasso









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Our mailing address is:

PO Box 4252 Springfield, MO 65808

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