



# Inclusive Excellence Award Grants

We are pleased to announce the Inclusive Excellence Grants awarded for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025. Each grant, awarded at \$1,200, supports initiatives that foster a more inclusive, equitable, and supportive community at EMU.

## Fall 2024

### **Lunar New Year APISA Trip**

*Project co-leaders:* **Leah Frankenfield**, student; **Arushi Sachan**, Admissions Counselor; Asian and Pacific Islander Student Alliance  
Amount Awarded: \$1,200

Trip to Washington, D.C. for Lunar New Year including Chinatown and the Asian Art Museum, promoting cultural celebration and exposure for all students.

### **Infusing Inclusion II DC**

*Project co-leaders:* **Ann Butwell**, WCSC – associate director of student life and program administration; **Ryan Good**, associate professor of urban studies, program director – WCSC.

Amount Awarded: \$1,200

Mural project at EMU's DC property led by WCSC to visually express inclusivity and solidarity in a diverse student and neighborhood setting.



## **ADA Compliance Improvement and Panel**

Project co-leaders: **Brandon Ewing**, student; **Mike Stellwag**, Aramark, Maintenance Supervisor, Disability Student Alliance, Club

Amount Awarded: \$1,200

Campus improvements for ADA compliance and a panel discussion to raise awareness of accessibility and disability issues.

## **BIPOC Student Support**

Project co-leaders: **Tamika Jackson**, Assistant Professor of Counseling; **Yennifer Dottin-Carter**, student

Amount Awarded: \$1,200

Support group for BIPOC students offering dialogue, workshops, mentorship, and resources to address systemic inequities.

# **Spring 2025**

## **Let's Talk About Mental Health**

*Project co-leaders:* Deanna Durham, Associate Professor of Social Work & Sociology; Program Director - Social Work; Bria Wright, student

Amount Awarded: \$1,200

Panel and discussion circles addressing mental health issues affecting diverse student populations, including LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC students.



## **Black Voices Matter: A Student Listening Summit**

Project co-leaders: **Venissa White**, Director Safe Together-Sexual Violence Prevention & Response Coordinator Student Life; **Celeste Thomas**, Director, Multicultural Student Services

Amount Awarded: \$1,200

Off-campus retreat for Black students to discuss barriers, foster belonging, and offer recommendations to improve racial equity at EMU.

## **LGBTQIA+ Support Training**

Project co-leaders: **Nikki Dovel**, LPC, Lead Counselor, EMU Counseling Services; **Kathy Evans**, Professor of Teacher Education; Program Director - Education

Amount Awarded: \$1,200

Training for faculty and counselors on supporting LGBTQIA+ students, especially transgender students, led by a certified EMU alum.

## **Stories of Belonging: A Visual and Narrative Exhibit**

Project co-leaders: **Rebekah Christens**, Adjunct Faculty Lancaster; **Wendy Kellogg**, Recruitment & Enrollment Specialist - Lancaster PA

Amount Awarded: \$1,200

Rotating exhibit at EMU Lancaster featuring stories and visuals from students, faculty, and staff about belonging and identity.



## **Tasting Mennonite Culture: Y1 and Y4 in Conversation**

Project co-leaders: **Marti Eads**, Professor of English; **Mary Ann Zehr**, Assistant Professor of Rhetoric & Composition; Program Director - Writing & Communication

Amount Awarded: \$1,200

First-year and fourth-year students read the same book and discuss it over dinner in a local Old Order community home.

## **Conversations about Trauma Awareness and Resilience**

Project co-leaders: **Melissa May**, Lecturer; **Wima Ranasinghe**, IEP tutor

Amount Awarded: \$1,200

IEP-led workshops on trauma awareness and resilience to foster inclusion and support for international and first-gen students.

## **[Click here to Support DEI](#)**

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## **Share Your DEI Story**

Would you like to share DEI stories with our EMU community? Do you have a DEI-oriented event, announcement, article or recognition you would like us to promote through our DEI communication channels? Contact [dei@emu.edu](mailto:dei@emu.edu).