

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION NEWSLETTER  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, UMKC

*Spring 2022 Issue*

# THE Collective

**Welcome from the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.** Welcome from the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. We hope everyone had an amazing time celebrating holidays, and observances over the last few months including National Hispanic Heritage Month, Diwali, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, El Día de Los Muertos, American Indian Heritage Month, First Generation Student Day, Veteran's Day, World AIDS Day, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year's, Martin Luther King Day, the Lunar New Year, and Black History Month. Although the holiday season is behind us and the country continues to relax restrictions, please be mindful that we continue experiencing the ramifications of the pandemic. Consider innovative ways to celebrate and reach out to family and friends you have not heard from.

## Stay Woke Spotlight



This Stay Woke Spotlight highlights an incredible student in our Physician Assistant program, **Sahiba Grover**. Sahiba is from Lenexa, KS and enjoys spending her free time being creative and

explains, "I have been dancing since I was six years old and it is something I still love to do. I also love to work with clay, paint, and crochet as well. Since the pandemic began I have also found a new hobby of cooking and baking."

Her interest in medicine stems from her desire to become a healthcare professional that could serve others with her empathy and vulnerability. She states, "While on a service-learning trip to St. Louis I learned of the

struggles marginalized communities face with lack of access to adequate healthcare and was inspired to use these skills."

Grover mentions being a minority woman in medicine is not easy. Her passion for DEI is evident. "We are in an environment made by the majority, to help the majority succeed and quite frankly to only treat the majority. So many people of color that I have met prefer to see providers of color who take the time to understand their lifestyles and cultures. In order to change the field of medicine for the better, it is time we start advocating for better diversity of education in medicine, and I will do anything I can to help this movement."

As the graduate student representative on the SOM DEI Council, she has had the opportunity to work on multiple critical projects and she started an initiative called, "First Gen Fridays" to spotlight first generation PA students. She would love to see an integrated approach to medicine that embraces the individuality of patients and she has made it clear that she is up for any challenge.

We are proud of her hard work in her medical career thus far and know that she will be an incredible Physician Assistant. Stay positive and remain woke.

## Annual Shannon Endowed Lectureship



**MICHAEL L. WEAVER, M.D.**

President, Mission Vision Project KC  
Chairperson, Critical Mass Gathering

*DEI Does Matter! Reflections by a  
URiM Graduate of the Inaugural Class*

**VIRTUAL EVENT | NOON - 1 P.M. | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2022**  
[go.umkc.edu/shannonlecture](https://go.umkc.edu/shannonlecture)  
**Zoom Meeting ID: 947 1274 6415 | Passcode: 386553**


**Dr. Reaner &  
Mr. Henry Shannon**

**ENDOWED LECTURESHIP  
IN MINORITY HEALTH**



**Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

DEI Updates




**SATELLITE**  
**KANGAROO PANTRY**  
*University of Missouri-Kansas City*

**UMKC HEALTH SCIENCES DISTRICT CAMPUS**

**LOCATION:**  
Room I-402  
(first floor of the  
School of Medicine)

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**HOURS:**  
8 A.M. - 5 P.M.  
Monday - Friday

  
kangaroopantry@umkc.edu

**DID YOU KNOW THERE IS A NEW UMKC HEALTH SCIENCE CAMPUS PANTRY?**

The pantry is:

- Open to all UMKC Health Professions Students
- Always stocked so you can take as much food as you need
- Accessible the same hours as the Health Sciences Library
- Beginning to stock personal hygiene items and hand sanitizer
- Has enough items for you to take for breakfast, lunch and dinner



### **AMWA** American Medical Women's Association

- Watch for Women's History Month and National Women's Day events and programs in March 2022.

### **APAMSA** Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association

- Will be hosting a Refugee Healthfair in April 2022.

### **LGBTQIA Health District Alliance**

- Congrats to new Co-Presidents Brandi Jungels and Alex Schray and best wishes as they continue to lead this organization.

### **SNMA** Student National Medical Association **Presents Black History Month Celebration Week**

**February 14-18th (all are welcome to attend)**

**Monday:** Residency Panel **Tuesday:** Student Presentation

**Wednesday:** Trivia Night **Thursday:** Faculty Guest Speaker **Friday:** Talent Show

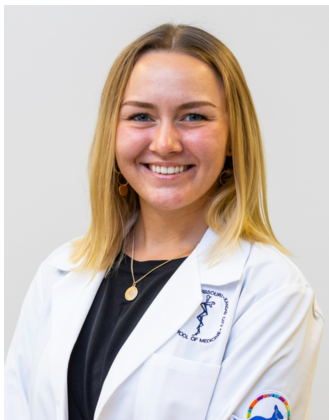
**All events are hosted on zoom at 6pm! Zoom ID: 980 5111 2248**

### **LMSA** Latino Medical Student Association

- Members are planning to attend the Regional and National Conferences for the first time in February and March 2022.

# Welcome St. Joseph MACS Liasons

We have new members to MACS to ensure we are truly collaborative and to build connections between the Kansas City and St. Joseph campuses. We welcome 5 liasons to serve on MACS and provide perspective, collaboration, and community. Each of which have joined at least one MACS organization.



Abigail Bowser

MD Year 1



Rahul Jilakara

MD Year 1



Sameer Khan

MD Year 1



Michaela López

MD Year 1



Priya Patel

MD Year 1

## STAHR

Students Training in Academia,  
Health, and Research

[Click Here for STAHR Updates](#)

## U.N.I.T.E.D.

Uniting Numerous medical Trainees for Equity and Diversity

UNITED has hosted 2 of 3 Mix and Mingle sessions for potential Interns to learn more about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts at UMKC. We've had 122 register for one of the three events! If you are interested in learning more please contact [Raquel McCommon](#).

[Learn More about UNITED](#)

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## The Learning Environment

### Project Expect Respect

The Learning Environment recently launched Project Expect Respect. This initiative is designed to highlight the stories and lived experiences of our SOM community in efforts to promote learning, teachable moments, and empathy from the experiences of others. Please click [here](#) to share your story or read the stories of others.

**File a Mistreatment Report using the QR code below:**



[Learn more about the Ombuspersons](#)

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## Affiliate Updates

[University Health](#)

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*In solidarity and unity,*

*The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*

*The School of Medicine Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council*

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If you would like to provide content for our newsletter, please email [Doris C. Agwu](#).

<https://med.umkc.edu/odi/>

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