



Council for Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Change

Co-Chair Message

Welcome to the inaugural **"Connections"** e-newsletter of the LSU AgCenter/LSU College of Agriculture's Joint Council for Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Change. These Connection emails will keep our faculty and staff updated on the joint council's activities and how everyone can be involved in this important opportunity. We hope that you find the content informative and can use it as a resource to help our campuses move forward in creating a more welcoming environment.

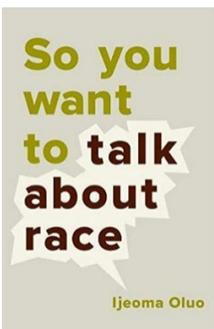
Whitney Lathan and Mark Schafer
September 2020



About the Joint Council

The joint council advises our organizations on policies, programs and actions that support and guide our students, faculty, staff, partners, and communities in working toward a more diverse, safe, positive, equitable, and inclusive environment for all citizens of Louisiana regardless of their race, color, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, disability or age.

[Council Members](#)



Book Club

The Council will recommend books and other resources to broaden our awareness of diversity, equity and inclusion. The inaugural Book Club meeting will be held on Thursday September 24th at 5:30 p.m. The book to read is ***So You Want to Talk About Race?*** by Ijeoma Oluo and it can be found on [Amazon in audio, kindle, and hard cover.](#)

For more information about the council's book club contact [Joy Sims.](#)

Youth Connection

For more than 100 years, 4-H has been the nation's leading youth organization to welcome young people of all beliefs and backgrounds, giving youth a voice to express who they are and how they make their lives and communities better.

Visit the [National 4-H Council's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion site.](#)

Council Member Spotlight

William Gaspard

William is a junior in the College of Agriculture majoring in agriculture and extension education with a concentration in agricultural leadership and development. His passion and love for agriculture first began when he attended Louisiana School for the Agricultural Sciences. His passion grew by being involved in FFA and serving in chapter, area, and state offices. He aspires to serve as a communications specialist in governmental relations and crisis communications and transition into a position working with a lobbying firm. William serves as brand ambassador for Collegiate FFA and is the president of the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow.



"I joined this council because I believe that having a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment on our campus, in the workplace and our community is vital to ensuring that every person feels welcome, included and appreciated."

ABOUT the LSU AgCenter

The LSU AgCenter provides Louisiana with research-based educational information to improve lives and economic well-being. The AgCenter plays an integral role in supporting agricultural industries, enhancing the environment and improving the quality of life through 4-H youth, family and consumer sciences and community development programs. The AgCenter is one of the 8 LSU campuses, and consists of 16 research stations, 64 parish extension offices and 13 academic departments, a statewide campus bringing university information and outreach to every corner of Louisiana.

MISSION of the LSU College of Agriculture

The LSU College of Agriculture provides innovative academic programs, creates essential knowledge, advances collaborative research, and drives outreach to solve local and global challenges.

Visit the Diversity and Inclusion website: LSUAgCenter.com/DiversityandInclusion

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