Division of Student Affairs Priorities:
The Division of Student Affairs, under the direction of Dr. Lyn Redington, has adopted five priorities. These priorities will add to the wonderful work already being conducted by each of you and your various areas. Each priority will be highlighted over the next five months in the Division newsletter. The five priorities are as follows:
- Citizenship & Scholarship
- Inclusive Communities
- Leadership Development & Engagement
- Health & Wellness
- Communication & Partnerships

This month’s priority of focus is Inclusive Communities. This priority embraces the concept of belonging. Everyone should belong. Everyone should be valued. If someone is not there, they should be missed and we should reach out to them. This priority also focuses on social justice and inclusion for all. No matter our race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, etc, everyone is welcome.

Inclusive Communities also features a concept called Third Place. Third Place is a belief that we all need to have three places that we consider "home." These three places differ for each of us. They may include home, work, school, church, a barber shop, a restaurant, biking/hiking trails, etc. By making our communities inclusive through this priority, we can all make ISU a Third Place for all of our staff and our students.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 3: Pocatello Spring NSO (2pm; Wood River Room)
Jan. 4: Idaho Falls Spring NSO (9am; Multipurpose Room)
Jan. 7: Spring Classes Begin
Jan. 15: ISU Day at the Capital
Jan. 21: MLK March (1pm; March from Holt Arena to the SPAC)
Jan. 21: MLK Program (1:30pm; SPAC)
Jan. 21: MLK Day of Service

"Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one."
- Brad Paisley
MLK Day at ISU:
The Diversity Resource Center and the newly renamed Office of Equity and Inclusion host a very special event every Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to celebrate the work of Dr. King and the continual progress toward greater equality, inclusion, and tolerance.

The event begins at Holt Arena at 1pm on Monday, January 21st. All are welcome to march together from Holt Arena to the Stephens Performing Arts Center (SPAC). Marchers are encouraged to start arriving at Holt Arena at 12:30pm... and to dress warm! Transportation will be provided between the SPAC and Holt Arena as well.

The program, which includes various student speakers and music, begins at 1:30pm at the SPAC. This year’s theme is “Reinvigorating the Beloved Community.” Come join the celebration and the march toward a truly beloved community.

Staff Spotlight - Karina Mason Rorris:
What do you do on campus and how long have you worked at ISU?
I am currently the Director of Disability Services. I started working for ISU in March 2011 in the Office of Human Resources and I have been with Disability Services since August of 2013.

What does an average day look like for you and your office?
An average day in our office is very busy! We spend each and every day helping students, employees, and visitors with disabilities who need accommodations. We have an amazing team who truly cares about others.

What do you wish people knew about Disability Services?
I want people to know that we truly care and "dig deep" everyday in hopes of making a positive difference in the lives of those we serve. I am extremely blessed with having an extremely hard working and caring team!

How did you arrive in this field/area of service?
Honestly, I am not really sure! I just love serving people and our community, I love helping vulnerable populations, and I love making a difference in individual lives so everyone can experience their greatest potential. This is my "why" to what I do everyday.

Do you make New Year resolutions? If so, what is one for 2019?
I do make resolutions! I typically take time reflecting on the past year, try and learn from mistakes and work toward being a better person. My resolution for this year is to be positive, strong, and fearless, as highlighted by my favorite quote:

"Standing for what you believe in, regardless of the odds against you, and the pressure that tears at your resistance means courage. Keeping a smile on your face, when inside you feel like dying, for the sake of supporting others means strength. Stopping at nothing and doing what's in your heart you know is right means determination. Doing more than is expected to make another's life a little more bearable, without uttering a single complaint, means compassion. Helping a friend in need, no matter the time or effort, to the best of your ability means loyalty. Giving more than you have and expecting nothing in return means selflessness. Holding your head high and being the best you know you can be when life seems to fall apart at your feet, facing each difficulty with the confidence that time will bring you better tomorrows, and never giving up means confidence." - Unknown

January Fun Facts:
- In Italy, people wear red underwear on New Year’s Day to bring good luck all year long.
- The Time Square New Year’s Eve Ball was first dropped in 1907 after there was a fireworks ban.
- The earliest known New Year celebrations were in Mesopotamia and date back to 2000 B.C.

If you would like an item added to next month’s newsletter, email sargjess@isu.edu.