

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

Bridging the Divide: UWS Students Discuss Immigration in Third Civil Discourse Event

Emmet Appleby
eappleby@uwsuper.edu

Students tackled another controversial subject at Bridging the Divide's third civil discourse event. Participants were given a series of prompts about immigration and discussed questions such as: who is allowed to enter a country? How long are they allowed to stay? What rights do they have in that country?

The event was focused

specifically on immigration as it relates to the United States, and Oreoluwa Sofolahan, UWS' Bridging the Divide student leader, gave participants some important details about U.S. immigration policy.

"At the start of 2024, the current backlog of cases for asylum seekers is 3-5 years by some estimates. However, for naturalization the length of time is 6-10 months," Sofolahan said.

Students discussed poli-

cies such as DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, which "is aimed at protecting qualifying young undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children, temporarily shielding them from deportation and providing them work authorization with possible renewal every two years" (National Immigration Forum).

One student mentioned that the United States is a country founded by immigrants, saying that should be considered when talking about immigration in the U.S.

Sofolahan expressed that she was "impressed and grateful" for the way Bridging the Divide has panned out so far. Prior to this event, she facilitated two other civil discourse events: one on affirmative action and one on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Sofolahan's passion for civil discourse is what drew her to be part of Bridging the Divide.



UW-Superior's Bridging the Divide student leader Oreoluwa Sofolahan.

Photo by Emmet Appleby | The Promethean

UWS Recognized for Student Voter Engagement



Jackets Vote in the Yellowjacket Union assisting student voters.

Photo by Maddie Schaffer | The Promethean

The University of Wisconsin-Superior has been recognized as a 2024 ALL IN Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting.

UWS is one of 471 colleges and universities being recognized for their outstanding efforts to boost nonpartisan student voter participation in the 2024 election. The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge recognizes different colleges for committing to civic engagement. UWS has been acknowledged for its significant work in boosting voter education and turnout.

UWS' Jackets Vote program focused on connecting with students and faculty, as well as the community through events, classroom presentations, and voter registration drives. The Jackets Vote program wouldn't be able to do it without the help of students like Lakotah Littlehawk, who worked as a community and voter engagement intern. Littlehawk is a non-traditional student, and a senior majoring in interdisciplinary studies.

"Being recognized as an ALL IN Most Engaged-Campus is an honor," said

Littlehawk. "One of our goals this semester was to connect face-to-face with the students, faculty, staff and community around UWS. We accomplished that goal by having many events, working with instructors to involve students, tabling and giving in class presentations. Not only is this work necessary, but it is also incredibly rewarding."

Isabella Lyste, who was also a community and voter engagement intern with Jackets Vote, is a junior majoring in history with a minor in instruction. Lyste pointed out how their efforts to increase voter participation wouldn't be possible without the students.

"This acknowledgement highlights our collective efforts to increase student nonpartisan voter participation, and we thank students for their dedication to increasing their voter and civic engagement. We are excited to continue our efforts in registering, educating, and getting students out to vote," Lyste said.

The ALL IN Challenge currently has engaged over 10.8 million students across over 1,000 institutions in the United States. It promotes a larger voter participation and democratic engagement. Executive Director Jennifer Domagal-Goldman praised UWS' role in setting an example for nonpartisan civic engagement.



Holiday card signing for veterans during Red Cross Day.

Photo by Maddie Schaffer | The Promethean

Editor's Note: On Page 7, in the Nov. 15, 2024 issue, "Undergraduate Research Symposium," the Promethean published a story which misquoted students and included misinformation. Our college newspaper strives for accuracy and truthfulness and apologizes to any people affect by our mistake. The Promethean regrets the error.



UWS student Holland Venhuizen presenting her research on vampire novels and folklore.

Photo contributed by Holland Venhuizen

Letter to the Editor

Holland Venhuizen
hvenhuizen@uwsuper.edu

The 2024 Undergraduate Research Symposium here at UWS was an exceptional experience for myself and all who I spoke to about the event following it.

Students of all backgrounds - arts, humanities, sciences, mathematics, and more - were afforded the opportunity to present research on a topic of their choice in exchange for a scholarship courtesy of either TRIO McNair programming or the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship grants. An incredibly fulfilling and incredibly unique opportunity, especially at such a relatively small institution.

To me, the diversity and creativity in regard to foci was the most impressive. As someone who is extremely passionate about the legitimization and encouragement of research in all fields, especially at an undergraduate level, it was extremely heart-warming and encouraging to see so many topics being covered with such depth and high standards of excellence in academics. Students displayed research on music, mathe-

matical and scientific concepts, literature/storytelling, and more.

My topic was on the trajectory of vampires as an iconographic figure through fiction, folklore, and culture, and I was ecstatic to see other projects at SURF that resembled these interests. Other deep, complex, and achingly intriguing dives into storytelling, culture, and literature surrounded me at the event, legitimizing the so often forgotten fields of arts and culture within research. This gave me immense joy, that so many other like-minded students were also deeply invested in pursuits within these fields!

My only unfulfilled wish about the event was that I wish I could have heard everyone's presentations. The passion, ambition, drive of all the students present was palpable and exceedingly inspirational for myself and I'm sure others. Overall, SURF served as a resounding success and a phenomenal display of the hard work and academic standards within the student body here at UWS.



Senior Commentary

Sami Tough
sboyd4@uwsuper.edu

Being a fully online student has advantages and disadvantages. One of the big advantages has been being able to complete my bachelor's degree four-thousand miles away from the UW-Superior campus. A big disadvantage is that being that far away can make you feel a little isolated and disconnected from the people you're working with.

Over the last year, I've gotten to know and work with the current Promethean team and am incredibly grateful to have been a part of this organization. Everyone helps each other, whether it's finding a contact for a story that someone's stuck on or going to an event to get pictures.

The whole team is ready to help wherever they can. Being a part of the Promethean has made my college experience feel more like being a part of something. My first

year at UWS, I only had an occasional Zoom call; often, I was on my own, staring at a screen and completing assignments. Having meetings to attend and a team to collaborate with has made me feel closer to campus than I ever could have otherwise.

This semester, I started doing more design-based work, like social media and some of the layout for the print editions. While I'm nowhere near a professional, I understand the basics of both from getting to try what works for me and what doesn't.

I'd like to thank our advisor, Tom Hansen, for making this experience possible. Tom has gone above and beyond to make sure myself and the other online students are included in as much as possible. It's been a pleasure being a part of the team and I can't wait to see where the staff takes the Promethean next.