Transformative Experiences Promoting Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

Vernese Edghill-Walden, PhD
May 2023
ADEI Transformative Student Experiences

University Goal 4B: Social Justice Education, Inclusion and Belonging

- Continue to create transformative experiences that encourage students to think critically, develop compassion and acquire the skills needed to integrate complex and conflicting realities. Leverage the success of Greenwood Rising tour and Rebuilding Democracy Lecture to design domestic and international student experiences that incorporate restorative history.

Baccalaureate Learning Outcomes

Global Interconnections and Interdependencies

Students should develop a global perspective and knowledge through cultural self-awareness and by encouraging them to compare and contrast themselves with others.

- Global Knowledge
- Global Intellectual Skills
- Global Perspectives
- Global Self-awareness
May 2022 Manzanar Summer Interim Trip
- Manzanar Japanese Incarceration Camp
  - Incarceration camp established during WWII

"After touring Manzanar, the group sat down with Rose, a National Park Ranger who helped us connect with the site and its stories...Sitting down with Rose provided us with context and aided in beginning to digest our experience at Manzanar...I was empowered by the resilience of those who were incarcerated and the community they were able to build for themselves..."

~Zoe
• The Japanese American National Museum
  o Virtual reality exhibit on life in an incarceration camp
  o Understand the conditions in which Japanese Americans lived while imprisoned.
Barbados

- March 11-18, 2023
- Partnership between Illinois State University, NIU and the Center for Black Studies
- Faculty Directors
  - Dr. Doris Houston
  - Dr. Tina Williams
  - Dr. Vernese Edghill-Walden
- The courses associated with the study aboard experience:
  - Management and Quantitative Methods
  - Independent Study
International

Ghana

- May 20, 2023, through June 9, 2023
- Partnership Institutions
  - NIU Center for Black Studies
  - Illinois State University
  - Clemson University
  - College of Charleston (South Carolina)
- Faculty Directors
  - Dr. LaVerne Gyant
  - Dr. Taylor Duckett
  - Dr. Clint-Michael Reneau
- Courses
  - Black Studies 302 & 445
  - Independent Study 501 (Graduate Course)
- Alumni Engagement
Mitraya Williams
Your Future. Our Focus.
1 | INTRODUCTION

The Enslaved Burial Ground at Newton houses some 570 burials on a half-acre site. Those interred would have worked on the Newton plantation from 1660-1838. By the end of the Emancipation period, the newly freed moved to settlements on non-agricultural lands of the plantation. The enslaved cemetery ceased operation in 1838. Its rediscovery in the 1970s was as a site of archaeological excavation and analysis that allowed for the rethinking of how enslaved populations lived and died. Today the site is a sacred space and place of contemplation for the descendants of those who live on this island and in the diaspora.
Plaque Mapping the Enslaved Burial Ground

**The Enslaved Burial Ground**

**Legend**

- **Plantation House**
- **7-Acre Lime Kilns**
- **North & South Pond**
- **Laver & Upper Grass Pond**
- **Upper Well**
- **Lower North Negro Yard**
- **Upper North Yard**
- **Lower South Negro Yard**
- **Upper North Negro Yard**
- **Lower North Negro Yard**
- **Barbhill**
- **ENSLAVED BURIAL GROUND**

The map above allows you to view the layout of the plantation from this stage. The **NEO DOT** indicates where you are right now. The enslaved lives of these individuals were documented by the Chincoteague. The Enslaved Burial Ground is surrounded by cane fields in which enslaved Africans and their pre-emancipation descendants toiled.

---

*Your Future. Our Focus.*
Jaelyn Logan
Your Future. Our Focus.
Thank you!

Your Future. Our Focus.