## **Equity and Inclusion News**

On the Horizon



As the academic year draws to a close, I want to thank you for making Hibbing Community College a warm and welcoming environment for all who enter our space. With our renovations nearing completion, I look forward to an even more inclusive environment for students next year. Bravo to Rachel Milani and our builders for the beautiful new library and academic center, especially—a place that welcomes, informs, and deepens our connections to one another.

Next fall, would you consider offering either some of your office hours or REDD hours in the library or PE104? That room will undergo a facelift this summer, with new carpet, computers,

and study space. It will be available to students throughout the day. I will continue offering a study table there from 3-4pm Mondays as part of my REDD hours in the fall. So far, two other faculty members have offered to add to those hours. If you want to join as well, let me know and I'll get the word out through posters and classroom visits in the fall.

Friday, May 3 at 7pm in the Planetarium, attend our Free Foreign Film, "The Charmer." Esmail is a handsome young Iranian immigrant living in Denmark, who is desperately searching for a bride so he can become a citizen. Amidst a series of fleeting relationships and failed one night stands, Esmail meets Sara, a beautiful Danish-Iranian woman who makes him question everything about himself and what he is doing. In Danish and Persian with English subtitles.



## On Summer



REI-sponsored, LGBT road trip and National Parks expert Mikah Meyer just completed a 3-year tour of every national park, monument, seashore and more, from the Arctic Circle of Alaska to American Samoa—419 sites—on April 29, 2019. Of all the places he could choose to settle now, he picked Minnesota: "... what this trip to all of America's most beautiful places has taught me is that they really don't mean a darn thing if you don't have someone to share them with... the people I've met in Minnesota and the experiences I had there made me believe that that's the best place for me, because of the people." His debut memoir about this experience is in the works, but until then check out his blog at https://www.mikahmeyer.com.

On a lighter note, Minnesotan model Halima Aden wears the first-ever burkini in the latest Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue. The full-coverage bathing suit conforms to the guidelines of her Muslim faith. I am conflicted about this as progress, as SI has traditionally kept women largely relegated to this once-a-year, eye-candy issue. Yet, Aden's photo is lovely, and I applaud her influence in making modest attire part of America's mainstream.



On Completion



Our Empty Bowls fundraiser was a great success! Thanks to Maggie Holmes for keeping our bellies and cupboards full. We look forward to next year! Our author visit from Linda LeGarde Grover also offered outstanding food, thoughtful information, and lots of one-on-one conversations. Thanks to Leanne Johnson for suggesting this event.



Our next Equity and Inclusion meeting will take place on Thursday, May 9, from 2-3 in D-20, at which time we will be strategizing for next year's initiatives. If you have even a tiny speck of interest in supporting the efforts of Equity and Inclusion on campus, please send me a note and you will be part of the team! We are grateful for your input and interest, regardless of how much (or how little) time you can commit. All are welcome.

Have a wonderful summer!

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