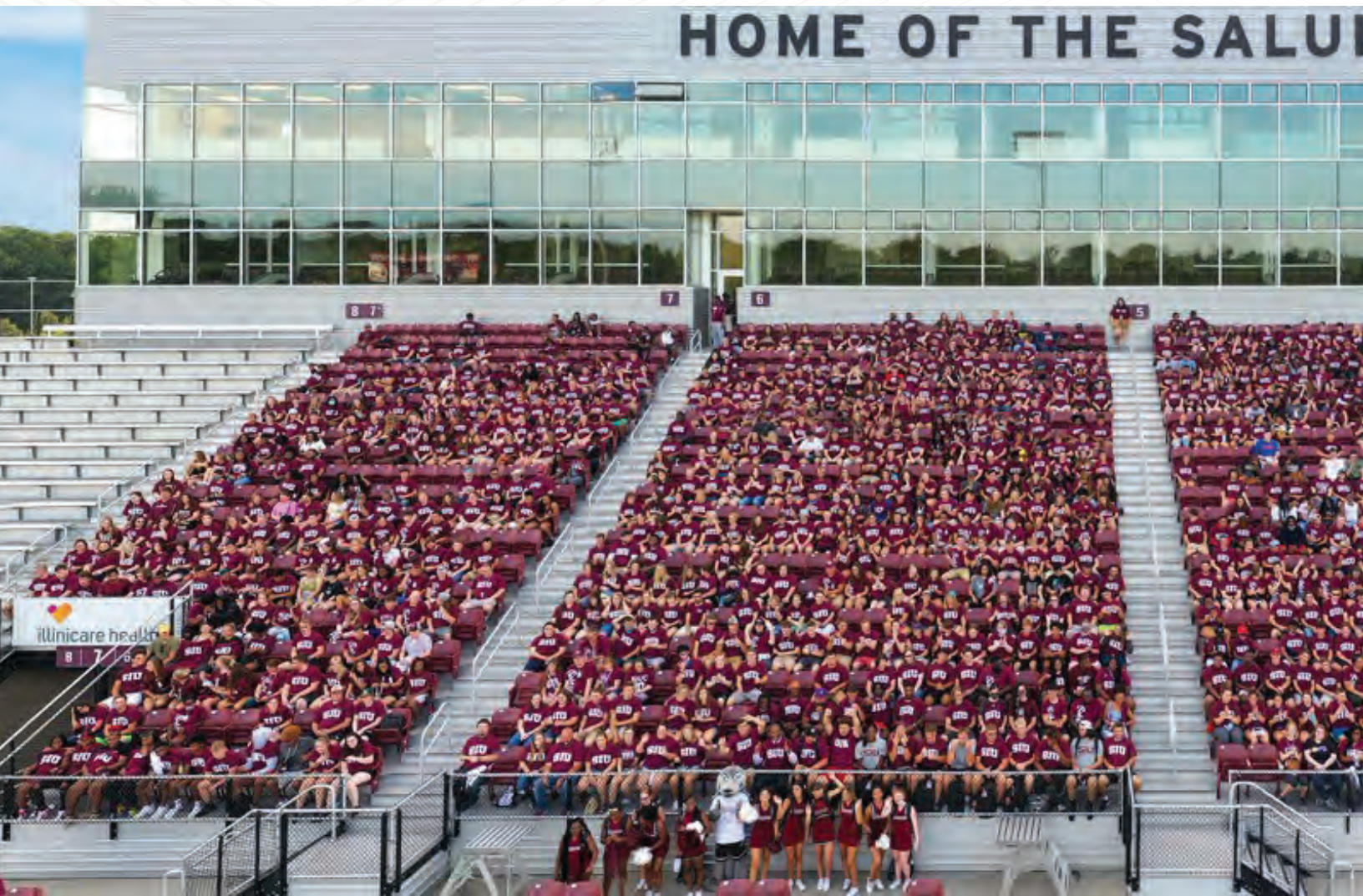


# IMAGINE 2030











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Imagine is where it begins. Reaching the bold dreams we've set for ourselves takes hard work. And that, right along with Imagine, is part of our Saluki DNA. Imagine 2030 is our plan, the collective dream of this university that is home-base for the Saluki Nation.

Imagine 2030 isn't one person's plan. It's a roadmap built by our community — one that takes into account where we've been, and also lays out the way forward. At its heart, this plan builds on our historical strengths and history of success. Among our strengths is grit. We're a community of individuals who know how to work hard, and to support each other.

This plan was put into words only after hundreds of one-on-one encounters and group discussions. The pillars are representative of what you, our university community, insisted were important parts of upholding our legacy and of going forward even more clear-eyed and intentional. Salukis are meant to be out in front — leading, exploring, discovering.

So I thank our community for its honesty and dedication. Imagine 2030 represents the best of all of our community.

Over this past year, we have kept the momentum of the preceding year going.

We are building on our constant strengths, and we are reaching and growing as we strive to become agents of change — to be the diverse and inclusive, sustainable and research-oriented, student-success-forward SIU we know we can be.

These are our strategic pillars:

- Student Success and Engagement
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Branding and Partnerships
- Research and Innovation
- Sustainability

The factors that make SIU unique — our history, our geography, our legacy, our worldwide network of dedicated alumni, our constant focus on innovation — are the building blocks that will bring us to our 2030 goals.

I ask you to celebrate our success, highlights of which we present here, in this Imagine 2030 Progress Report 2023. Even as we celebrate, we are planning our next steps. We have our eyes on the goal, and we are striving to reach it.

I want to thank you, our Saluki community — faculty and students, staff and administration, alumni and Southern Illinois neighbors — for getting us closer to this collective dream we have of a university built on these pillars. I am proud to be your Chancellor.

Thank you for being part of Imagine 2030.  
GO SOUTHERN GO!

Austin A. Lane  
Chancellor, SIU Carbondale





# IMAGiNE 2030

**IMAGINE.** That's where it starts. With an idea, a dream, an ambition. A belief that there is more to do. Faith in the possibility of achievement. Trust in the support of a community. It all comes from Imagine.

**MAKING IT REAL.** A plan. Leadership. Community cooperation. That's what it takes to put Imagine to work. To get results. To reach goals.

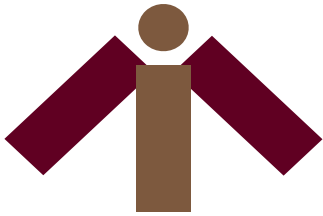
And we are reaching. We're making progress. We're forging ahead with our collective dream of what a university can be. What we want it to be.

These pages offer a glimpse at what we've done. Where we are headed.

We welcome you to our dream.  
We invite you to join us in getting there.

SIU. Imagine the Possibilities.





## STUDENT SUCCESS & ENGAGEMENT

**47 Major objectives aligned with this Pillar**

– **144** specific plans pursued these objectives

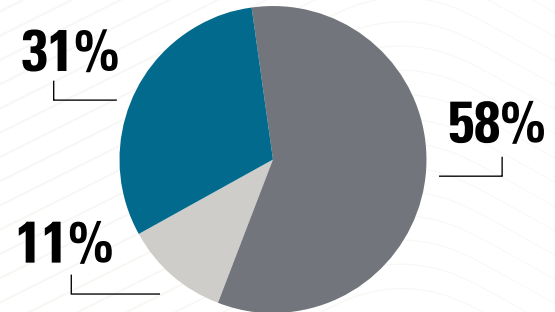
- **31%** (44) plans were achieved
- **58%** (84) plans are in-progress
- **11%** (16) plans are to be implemented in the future

Objectives

**47**

Plans

**144**



**We are building a community of scholars.** Of achievers. Of world-changers and leaders and teachers and healers. It's part of our mission. SIU exists to keep the flame of intellectual achievement burning, and to ignite new thinking, challenge-meeting, and problem-solving. Our students come here because they want an education that offers innovation.

## GROWING THE PACK

For the first time since 2014, enrollment has grown. Let's look at these numbers.

- Overall enrollment, fall 2023: **11,359**  
+252 students — 2.3% more than last year
- New freshmen: **1,621**.  
+103 students — 6.8% more than last year  
+5.5% on campus student population

This is the first time in at least **50** years we've increased our freshman class four consecutive years.

- Southern Illinois region: **754**  
+7.2% from last year  
+7.7% new freshmen from the area
- New students with a GPA of 3.5 or better: **+9.8%**
- Graduate / professional student enrollment: **+11.8%**
- International student enrollment: **+6.5%** — **853** students

***"It's not magic — this was part of a plan," Chancellor Austin A. Lane said. "Over the last three years, our faculty, staff, students, alumni and donors set out to strategically increase our enrollment. That work has paid off. There's more to come as we continue to hit targets within the Imagine 2030 strategic plan. This proves that Salukis imagine ambitious goals — and then we make them reality."***



## SALUKI STEP AHEAD

We are trailblazing new paths for transfer students. Saluki Step Ahead is our innovative agreement with more than 40 community colleges (so far) to provide maximum online access to SIU for students in a dozen academic programs. Saluki Step Ahead encourages transfer students to choose SIU even if they can't come to the Southern Illinois region.

**Here are some highlights:**

- Scholarship! \$8,000 (\$4,000/year for two years)
- This scholarship combines with other grants and scholarships. Many of our Saluki Step Ahead students earn their degrees for free!
- Students apply for the program during their first year at a partner community college where they earn an associate degree.
- Early admittance to SIU.
- Personalized assistance to outline a 4-year degree track.

So far, we have agreements with community colleges in Illinois, Missouri and Texas.

**+10.8% in transfer students**



## SALUKIS ONLINE

Online degree students: 2,128 — +9.2%

Things change. Today's college student isn't necessarily straight-from-high-school-to-college. SIU has always insisted on opening doors — if you want to learn, we'll help. We're looking at diverse populations for student growth — and that includes online students. We're happy to announce significant growth in our online student community.

### SALUKI SHOUT-OUT

SIU Online Bachelor's of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice program — No. 7 in nation by Forbes Advisor.

SIU Online MBA — Top in Illinois. Ranked No. 58 by U.S. News & World Report.

## OFFERING MORE

- New laser certification available for Dental Hygiene students.
- New Occupational Therapy Doctorate debuted this academic year as an entry-level program.
- New online degrees in Elementary Education and Organizational Learning, Innovation and Development.
- SIU Aviation acquired seven new Cessna 172 flight training airplanes.
- Artistic Anatomy Drawing Workshop, a pilot program presenting the longstanding Renaissance-era tradition of artistic anatomy by studying cadavers — a rare opportunity.
- SIU is the first university-based mortuary science program in the U.S. with an on-site crematory. Students can earn certification on campus.

## BECAUSE WE CAN

- Saluki National Champion team — winners of the Deloitte FanTAXtic Case Competition.
- Saluki Student Investment Fund team — Top 12 in Bloomberg Global Trading Challenge. SIU finished 4th in North America, 12th in the world.
- Saluki AdLab students are district winners (for the third year in a row) at the American Advertising Federation competition.
- Flying Salukis keep up their winning ways by finishing third at the National Intercollegiate Flying Association championships — the 14th straight year the 9-time national champs have finished in the top 3.
- SIU Aviation recent-graduates Graci McDaniel and Meadow Boden successfully compete in the Air Race Classic, a 2,334 nautical-mile journey.

- SIU Soil Judging Team finishes second at the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) competition in Modesto, Calif.



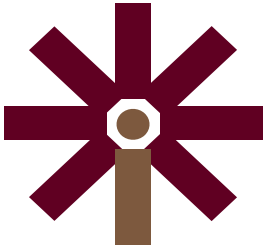
**Free tuition!** Shania Davis of University Park, Illinois, jumpstarted her college education by participating in the Dr. Seymour Bryson Future Scholars Program. And she won free tuition for the fall semester.



**Goldwater Scholarship Winner!** Aleida Iriarte, born in Bolivia and now from Chicago, chose SIU for our Zoology program, and for our support of undergraduate research. "I knew I wanted to get involved with research early, so that was a big selling point for me," she says. The Goldwater Scholarship is a prestigious, competitive national scholarship established by the U.S. Congress in 1986 to promote top students in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering.







## DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

### 22 Major objectives aligned with this Pillar

– 80 specific plans pursued these objectives

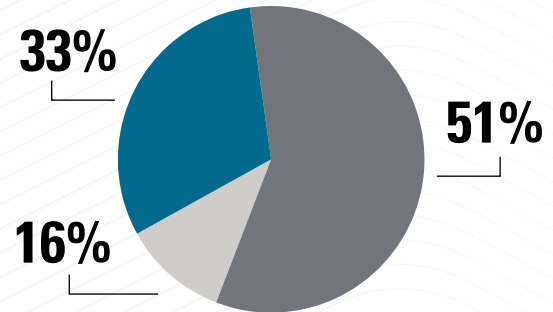
- 33% (26) plans were achieved
- 51% (41) plans are in-progress
- 16% (13) plans are to be implemented in the future

Objectives

22

Plans

80



**Open-Door University.** We've invited diversity from our very beginning. Not because it's something we're told to do, but because we know that diversity is necessary for growth — both personal and institutional. We can't have diversity without inclusion. Embracing different people, different backgrounds, different viewpoints and identities requires inclusion. And this leads to an understanding of equity as a path for success for all of us.

### STRUCTURING FOR SUPPORT

We aren't a university to sit back and hope for the best. We're more the "make it happen" type. This year, our leadership team has made some structural changes that encourage the right kinds of change we need for robust diversity, true inclusion, and opportunities that pave the way for equity.

- The University Affirmative Action Office and the Office of Equity and Compliance have realigned under the Human Resources umbrella. This allows for a comprehensive approach to managing people-related compliance issues, and lays a strong foundation for building a modern, proactive talent-acquisition strategy.
- The Office for Access and Accommodations is the new evolution of the former Disability Support Services. The office is home to Student Access and Accommodations, Workplace Accommodations and Campus Accessibility, and the Achieve program, our resource for neurodivergent learners.

**SIU is a Top 20 Wheelchair-Friendly College**  
– *New Mobility Magazine*



### CALENDAR

Black History Month  
**February**

Women's History Month  
**March**

Asian American/Pacific Islander  
Heritage Month  
**May**

LGBTQ Pride Month  
**June**

Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month  
**Sept. 15-Oct. 15**

Native American Heritage Month  
**November**





## LET'S GET TOGETHER

**ADEI Lifetime Achievement Award.** This award recognizes staff and faculty members whose careers include 20 years or more of documented service and advocacy in antiracism, diversity, equity, and inclusion at SIU's campuses. Our inaugural winner for SIU is Fr. Joseph Brown, S.J., professor of Africana Studies, a well-known advocate and champion of **ADEI**.

**ADEI Leadership Certificate.** Our invitation to students to learn to lead efforts advancing antiracism, diversity, equity, and inclusion. This certificate requires true dedication from the students. To earn the certificate, students participate in at least five events a year as students, complete 40 hours of certified training or other educational events, and complete at least one standardized assessment such as Implicit Bias Training, Hollaback Bystander Intervention Training, or Myer Briggs Leadership. Hands-on learning is the Saluki way. Our **ADEI** Leaders will gain valuable experience as students.

**Illinois Higher Education Equity Symposium.** A 2-day event bringing together educational leaders, legislators, and community partners to identify roadblocks to equity, and finding ways to flatten them.

**Diversifying the legal profession.** The SIU School of Law signed an agreement with Tougaloo College, an historically Black liberal arts college, to encourage students to enroll in a dual degree program.

**Inclusive Identities** Jaime Clark, director of Student Health Services, was selected to participate in the Higher Education Services (HERS) Leadership Institute, an inclusive, transformational leadership development program or people identifying as women and nonbinary.

## WELCOME

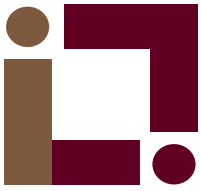
**Peter Li**, an attorney with extensive experience in collegiate international programs and services, joins the Saluki Community as the new director of the Center for International Education. **Asian Pacific Islander Faculty and Staff Council** is a new constituency group on campus, elected its first officers and staff and student representatives. Their goal is to promote a positive community and recognize the role and historical context of people of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage.

**Welcome back** to the Expanding Your Horizons STEM camp. Back after a two-year, COVID hiatus, the hands-on conference includes workshops in everything STEM from aviation to zoology.



**Learning Inclusive Leadership.** Interns and student athletes volunteer at the NubAbility Athletics Camp for limb-different children. In addition to coaching, SIU students worked with the web and social media teams, planned meals, ran the camp store, coordinated transportation and many other jobs. Here, Early Childhood major Blayne Spencer helps first-year participant Briggs Titus, 6, of Neoga, Illinois, with archery.





## BRANDING & PARTNERSHIP

**20 Major objectives aligned with this Pillar**

– **56** specific plans pursued these objectives

- **25%** (14) plans were achieved
- **71%** (40) plans are in-progress
- **4%** (2) plans are to be implemented in the future

Objectives

**20**

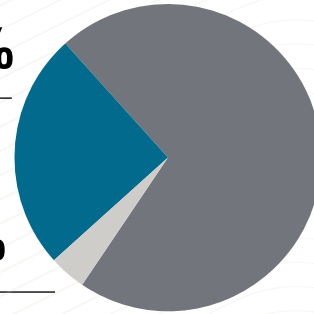
Plans

**56**

**25%**

**4%**

**71%**



**The Imagine 2030 Strategic Plan is an important part of defining who we are.** It's a key part of our mindful growth. Without will, there is no direction. We are stating our intentions: **Imagine the Possibilities. See What SIU Can Do For You. Once a Saluki, Always a Saluki. It's a Saluki Nation.** Every one of these current slogans we use on our marketing and recruiting materials is a snapshot of who we are. We are adventurous individuals who support our community. We are loyal. We are influential leaders, and we are conscientious servants. We strive to be our best selves. **All in, all the time. That's a Saluki.**

### NEW LOOK

Our new logo showcases our proud history, first-class academics, premier research, and the excitement, energy and enthusiasm of student life and Saluki athletics. It fits well with our Imagine 2030 strategic plan, especially the pillar to refine SIU Carbondale's brand and increase our visibility in the Southern Illinois region and beyond.







## SALUKI TAKEOVER TOUR

**Let's paint the town maroon!** The SIU Foundation and SIU staged Saluki Takeover events in Chicago, Springfield, St. Louis, Florida, and Nashville, Tennessee. During a Saluki Takeover, SIU officials visit numerous high schools and community colleges to tell the SIU story, and to connect with SIU alumni at receptions, social events. Establishing relationships that make it possible for the Chancellor and other university officials to talk directly to college-ready students is a way to take control of our brand. It may even be good luck. For the second year in a row, a Saluki Takeover of Chicago coincided with a Saluki Football victory!

**FOREVER SIU.** The heartbeat of success. What it really means to imagine. "Each step through campus tells stories of previous generations — generations that were strong enough to bear this name: the Saluki name." — Chancellor Austin A. Lane

- 38,621 gifts to the SIU Foundation
- \$31.2M+
- 1,645 — a record number of scholarships
- \$4,931,584 scholarship dollars
- >14% of all SIU students received an SIU Foundation scholarship in FY23
- New goal: \$500M

## SIU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

- \$75,099 in total student scholarships
- Awards up to \$5,000
- SIU Alumni Association members and donors + 18 regional and legacy scholarships + 25 textbook awards + 6 stipends given by the Black Alumni Group

**TRANSFER HONOR ROLL.** Our Saluki Step Ahead program — a smooth path for students at partner community colleges to earn select SIU bachelor's degrees online at a lower cost — is part of our commitment to our transfer students. We are honored to be named to Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society's

Transfer Honor Roll — a designation which recognizes excellence in the development and support of dynamic and innovative pathways for community college transfer students.

### **FUTURE SALUKIS. High school students on campus.**

Campus visits that coincide with a satisfying learning experience pave the way for college-bound area students to find their academic home at SIU.

- 250 students from Rend Lake College and area high schools toured the newly dedicated Glen Poshard Transportation Education Center, getting hands-on demonstrations of some of our highest-tech resources for students.
- 600 Future Business Leaders of America students attended the FBLA Southern Area Conference.
- 680 Future Farmers of America for FFA night — a record number.
- 300+ students competed in our Accounting Challenge.
- 900+ students celebrated World Languages Day at SIU.
- 225+ students attended the Southern Illinois School Press Association Winter Conference.
- 400+ students attended the Spring Convention of the Little Egypt District of Student Councils on campus.
- 300 future teachers turned out for SIU Education Day.
- 50 ambitious high school students competed at the Illinois Design Educators Association regional competition.

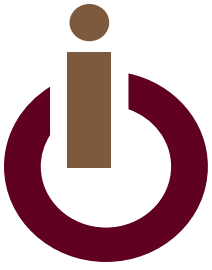


## SALUKI BALL. A CAMPAIGN FOR STUDENTS.

Black tie for maroon! More than 600 alumni and friends attended the inaugural Saluki Ball, raising more than \$600,000 for our students. The money raised will help students who require assistance with their bursar bills to stay enrolled. The debut event was April 22, 2023 at the Marriott Marquis in Chicago. Sponsors included Glenn and Jo Poshard, ULLICO, Inc., and Laborers' Local 773.

**Saluki Lifetime Achievement Award.** What a great venue to acknowledge Drs. Philip and Pamela Pfeffer for their distinguished careers and their ongoing dedication to SIU.





## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

**26 Major objectives aligned with this Pillar**

– **117** specific plans pursued these objectives

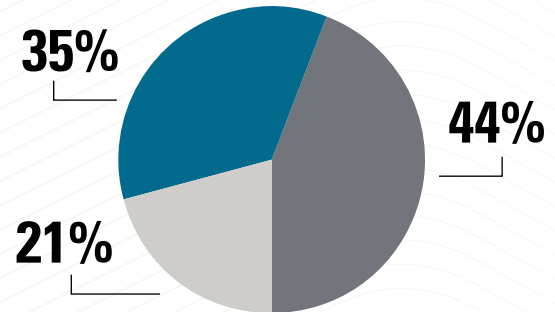
- **35%** (41) plans were achieved
- **44%** (51) plans are in-progress
- **21%** (25) plans are to be implemented in the future

Objectives

**26**

Plans

**177**



**Research is knowledge creation, discovery or innovation.**

It's exploration — a way to answer a question or investigate a key idea.

At SIU, research is everywhere. Every building that contains classrooms has at least one laboratory in it. The campus we walk through is an outdoor lab. Our partnerships within our community put us inside area schools, in the forest, on the rivers, and inside businesses. It's what we do.

We offer our students, even in their freshman year, experiences often reserved for graduate students or upperclassmen at other universities. We don't like to wait around. We like to do. That's what it means to be a Saluki.

## A CAMPUS CULTURE OF INNOVATION AND DISCOVERY

+21.6% increase in funding requests from faculty

**LET'S TALK RESEARCH:** Monthly sessions by the Office of Research Compliance covering topics such as "Resources for Innovators and Creators," "NSF Proposal Types," and grant finances.

**\$67,318,266 – Research and Student Support Awards Fiscal Year 2023**

\$14,740,621 – Federal funding

\$36,295,374 – State funding

\$691,389 – SIU Foundation funding

\$3,300,955 – Industry-related funding

\$12,192,435 – Other funding



**Grant-funding and collaboration.** Sean Quisenberry, assistant professor of biomechanics in the School of Human Sciences, is focused on the intricacies of human movement with an eye toward establishing protective measures for high school and college athletes and reducing injury occurrences. The Human Performance and Sports Technology Laboratory, of which Quisenberry is director, is joining forces with SIU's Illinois Small Business Development Center, having secured a grant from the National Science Foundation for crafting an innovative medical device. It's also actively involved in the university's SAMs Initiative, an acronym for Saluki Athletic Monitoring System Initiative. This initiative collaborates with the recently launched biomedical engineering program, centering on pioneering technology designed for the betterment and surveillance of SIU's student-athletes.

## HEALTH

- Judith Davie, associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology in the SIU School of Medicine, earned a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for research aimed at finding genetic-based answers in the battle against rhabdomyosarcoma, a pediatric cancer that arises from changes to the DNA of normal skeletal muscle cells.
- Pravas Deria, associate professor in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Sciences, and her research team earned a \$418,000 grant from the National Institute of Health to develop more efficient and targeted ways of using light to drive chemical reactions, with the goal of improving medicine manufacture.

## ANIMAL KINGDOM

- Emily Donovan, doctoral student, studies the reproductive ecology of the giant Galapagos tortoise.
- Melissa Flores and Bradley Thompson, recent Electrical Engineering graduates, developed a transmitter and receiver to help a conservation group monitor kestrel breeding boxes.
- Shay Valentine, doctoral student in zoology, examines spatial dynamics of the Upper Mississippi River basin, an under-studied ecosystem
- Brent Pease and Kofi Akamani, faculty in the School of Forestry and Horticulture, study the economic / eco-tourism benefits of unusual appearances by off-course migrating animals.
- Adrien Macedo, doctoral student, researches a fungus that sickens hibernating snakes.
- Samantha Dennis, senior zoology student, uses radar to study the hidden homes of crayfish. Crayfish are a keystone species for ecological health.



## REACHING FOR R1

Eyes on the horizon, always. And right now we're looking at Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education R1 status — "Very High Research Activity." Currently, SIU is an R2 university, denoting "High Research Activity." This year, the Vice Chancellor for Research formed the Carnegie R1 Classification Exploratory Committee to examine the revised guidelines for an R1 university, and move us closer to our goal of R1 status.

## TECHNOLOGY

- Wasantha Jayawardene, dually appointed to School of Human Sciences and the SIU School of Medicine, is using VR to help train layperson responders to reduce opioid overdose deaths.
- Adrianna Goss, health care management senior, researches VR to help connect isolated older adults to the world.
- VR helps students in our Criminology and Criminal Justice program understand law enforcement challenges while providing a research mechanism to police decision-making.

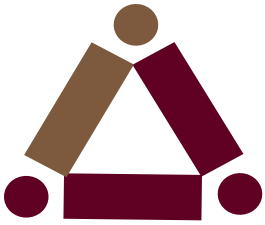
**Funding from outside sources skyrocketed** at Southern Illinois University Carbondale during the last fiscal year, according to records from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research. Faculty members received \$95.7 million in research, training and service grants during fiscal year 2023 – a more than 20% increase over the previous fiscal year, said Costas Tsatsoulis, vice chancellor for research and dean of the graduate school at SIU Carbondale.

*"Our faculty, staff and students continue to elevate SIU Carbondale's research and to set new external funding records," Tsatsoulis said. "As part of our Imagine 2030 strategic plan, our faculty have aggressively pursued external funding and have written large, increasingly successful proposals for such funding."*

Research projects ranged from controlling invasive species and wildlife disease surveillance to human health, high-tech communications and environmental issues.







## SUSTAINABILITY

### 26 Major objectives aligned with this Pillar

– 30 specific plans pursued these objectives

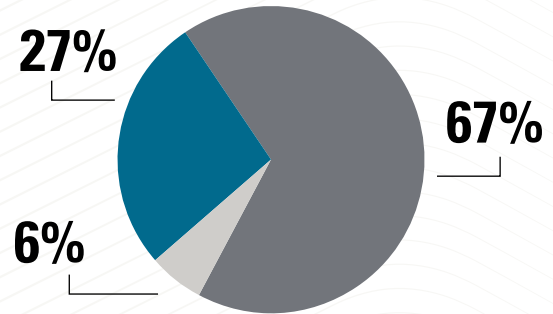
- 27% (8) plans were achieved
- 67% (20) plans are in-progress
- 6% (2) plans are to be implemented in the future

Objectives

26

Plans

30



**SHAPED BY NATURE, FORGED BY COMMITMENT.** Students fall in love with our beautiful campus. Faculty launch research and creative projects that can happen only here, in this part of the state where the glaciers came to rest. Is it any wonder we are committed to environmental responsibility, carbon footprint reduction, energy efficiency, and conscientious innovation?

### NEW DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY



Welcome to Aimee Lemrise, our new Director of Sustainability. Lemrise, an SIU double alum, has been part of SIU as an academic advisor and teacher, both at SIU and at John A. Logan College. She has served as president and board member of Food Works, and as a

member of the Southern Illinois Community Food Assessment for Jackson and Union counties.

### GREEN FUND

- Sustainable Farm expansion.
- Touch of Nature trails improvement.
- Campus Climate Action funding to support a graduate research assistant to set up a greenhouse gas emissions monitoring data base.
- Clean electric energy from hybrid renewable energy system phase 4 — Arash Asrari (assistant professor in the School of Electrical, Computer, and Biomedical Engineering) for cyberattack protection for renewable microgrids.
- Sangmin Shin (assistant professor in the School of Civil,

Environmental and Infrastructure Engineering) for water use sustainability.

- Craft Shop energy-efficient kiln upgrade.
- Paper reduction project for the Dental Hygiene Clinic (Hannah Truax, student, and Katlynn Hutchcraft, assistant lecturer).
- Environmental education podcast led by Amanda Mulch, SIU School of Medicine assistant dean of student affairs.
- Surplus Gallery lighting renovation.



**TREE CAMPUS USA.** A diverse and healthy tree population is no accident. We've planted more than 100 trees on campus in our annual Arbor Day tree planting events.

Tree Campus • STARS • Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges • Sierra Magazine's Cool Schools • Level II Arboretum Accreditation • Bicycle Friendly University

## HOW WE ARE CHANGING OUR WORLD. It starts at SIU.

### SOLAR POWER + NANOPARTICLES v. TOXIC ALGAE BLOOMS.

Jia Liu, assistant professor in the School of Civil, Environmental and Infrastructure Engineering, is leading a research team of faculty and students in a quest to combat toxic algae blooms that afflict small bodies of water.



The team has received multiple grants since launching the project in 2019, including substantial grants from the U.S. EPA's People, Prosperity and the Planet.

The team is using a combination of solar panels and iron-based nanoparticles to mitigate the toxins. Algae blooms are harmful to wildlife and pets, and render small bodies of water unsuitable for fishing or swimming.

And now, in September, 2023, Liu and her team received a \$499,988 grant from the National Science Foundation, to explore efficient, pilot-scale treatment of toxins in groundwater using magnetic nanomaterials.

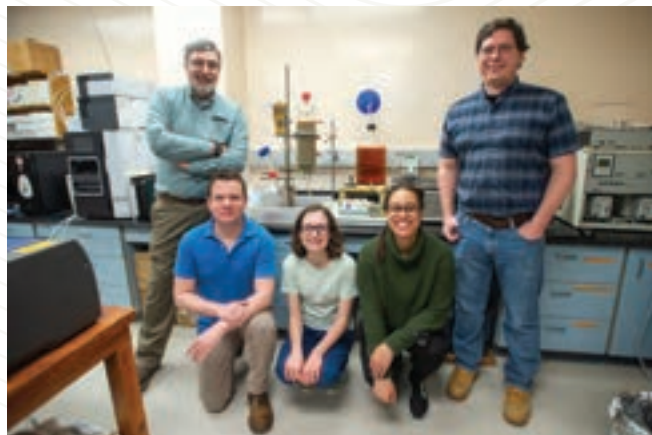
**MICROPLASTIC MITIGATION.** Habibollah Fakhraei, assistant professor in the School of Civil, Environmental and Infrastructure Engineering, earned a \$25,000 grant to lead a project aimed at mitigating microplastics in the water supply, thanks to the U.S. EPA's People, Prosperity and Planet program.

Fakhraei's research team studies ways of breaking down micro and nano-scale plastics, and observing the degradation rates under various environmental conditions — in surface water, ground water and seawater. The research is aimed at finding ways to modify water treatment systems.



**ENGINEERING MICROBES TO UPCYCLE PLASTIC.** Lakshika Dissanayake, who is earning her doctorate in microbiology, is working on an economical and environmentally friendly process that uses microbial factories to turn plastic waste into a value-added material. She seeks to create a novel bacterium that can break down the commonly used plastic polyethylene terephthalate, or PET. The process, which uses a genetically engineered microbe known as *Erwinia aphidicola* LJL01, could be the key to creating an efficient, fully biologically based plastics upcycling system — potentially resulting in a circular material economy that greatly reduces pollution.

**CARBON DOWN UNDER X-PRIZE WINNERS – Ready for their close-ups.** The SIU Carbon Down Under team was one of just 23 worldwide to win funds in the XPRIZE Carbon Removal student competition, financed by the Musk Foundation. The goal: finding technologies to fight climate change and rebalance Earth's climate cycle. Now they are one of only 10 teams chosen for a highlight in a short, indie film. Check out the XPRIZE YouTube channel to see the team describe their carbon sequestration plan.





## EYES ON THE HORIZON

### ECLIPSE CROSSROADS OF AMERICA – APRIL 8, 2024

**Imagine a place where the sun and moon meet — twice in a decade.** The natural phenomenon of a total solar eclipse inspires awe — the sky darkens, the stars and planets are visible in the daytime sky, the temperature drops, the sunset spans the entire visible sky. It's as if the natural world holds its breath. And as the moon and the sun face each other, the sun's corona blazes around the moon in a ring of fire. There is nothing like being in the path of totality.

On April 8, 2024, at 1:59 p.m., the wonder comes to SIU. Four minutes, nine seconds. Even longer than the totality we experienced on August 21, 2017.

We welcome the world. Scientists and researchers. Media and teachers. Locals and world travelers who travel annually for eclipse events. We welcome them all to SIU where we seek to educate, to entertain, to enlighten.

It is our opportunity to demonstrate the best of what we are and what we strive to be. A university where nothing gets in the way of student success. Where anti-racism, diversity, equity and inclusion are our normal. A university that values devotion to research as a means of discovering and truth-finding. Where innovation makes the world a better place. Where we seek to take care of the world around us as a natural part of our legacy.





### **SIU leads nationwide NASA data-gathering project during 2024 eclipse.**

A team of SIU researchers, led by co-principal investigators Bob Baer and Matt Penn, will use a two-year, \$314,000 NASA grant for the Dynamic Eclipse Broadcast Initiative (DEB) effort. The citizen science project will have more than 40 teams largely made up of high school and middle school students – in sites spanning from Mexico up through the United States and into Canada – use telescopes to provide critical coronal data as the moon's shadow traverses the continent.

The effort not only will result in valuable data but also real-time views streamed online and broadcasted in cooperation with NASA EDGE.





## THE LAUNCHING POINT FOR THOUSANDS OF SALUKI JOURNEYS



A vision for the future and an appreciation of our legacy. With a \$6 million donation, Roger and Sally Tedrick are contributing to both. A planned new building — the Tedrick Welcome Center — is where campus visits will begin. And, as home to a philanthropy center, where Saluki community comes together. “We believe in the mission of the university and its leadership,” Roger Tedrick said. “[This welcome center] will be the launching point for thousands of Saluki journeys.”



### AS WE GROW, SO DOES OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR REGION

More and more. That’s how many reasons there are for college-bound students in our area to become Salukis. Welcome, Southern Illinois-native Salukis!

### SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SALUKI ROOTS

We are part of the legacy of this Southern Illinois region. And the Southern Illinois region is our home. No matter how far our vision reaches, our grounding is here. Now more than ever we are reaching out to the students of our region. Welcome, Southern Illinois-native Salukis!



### OUTREACH

- 173 events southern Illinois high school visits
- 14,659 recruitment pieces mailed
- 110,000+ email, phone, and text conversations





## IMAGINE UNLEASHED.



**When you are a Saluki, you are part of a community.** That means something. Our Saluki community is supportive. Encouraging. Proud. And loud about it.

**The Dawg Pound.** The Dawg Pound is one of the more visible parts of our supportive Saluki Community. For every field goal or basket, race won or record set, there is corresponding support for our students at academic conferences and collegiate competitions. We are loyal and encouraging when we are facing challenges. And the joy you feel in the stadium on game day is the same as at commencement.



**SALUKIS UNLEASHED.** Bold vision. Championship goals. In conjunction with the Imagine SIU 2030 strategic plan, we launch Salukis Unleashed, a \$100 million revenue enhancement plan. We will enhance the athletics experience for student-athletes, coaches and fans. Facilities. Scholarships. Wraparound services.



*"I greatly appreciate the opportunities that SIU has given me to prove myself as an academic."*

### Saluki Scholar Athlete Spotlight

**Ella Kerr**, Ajax, Ontario

Psychology major

Undergraduate lab assistant x3

Co-author: Systematic review of identity representation for anxiety and OCD. Research presented at Midwestern Psychological Association Annual Meeting 2023.

Co-Captain of the Saluki Swimming & Diving Team critical coronal data as the moon's shadow traverses the continent. The effort not only will result in valuable data but also real-time views streamed online and broadcasted in cooperation with NASA EDGE.





