

DR. EARLEEN PATTERSON

Biography

Having worked in higher education for nearly 30 years, Dr. Earleen Patterson has made it her life's passion to encourage students to realize and obtain their full potentials. As the director of Student Opportunities for Academic Results (SOAR), Dr. Patterson found fulfillment while helping students develop the skills necessary to succeed at the university level. The SOAR Center is committed to improving the graduation and retention rates of SIUE by addressing the unique issues and concerns facing these underserved students. She also serves as the Director of the Johnetta Haley Scholarship Academy, which is a leadership development program for high-achieving SIUE students.

Dr. Patterson received her BS and MS in Education from Illinois State University and went on to earn a PhD in Higher Education from Saint Louis University. Prior to her appointment at SIUE, she worked at the University of Houston-Clear Lake and at Lewis & Clark Community College in Godfrey, IL. Her experiences have helped mold her straightforward approach to life and holistic approach to academics that take into consideration the diverse backgrounds of her students. Dr. Patterson promotes the importance of cross-cultural understanding and appreciation through educational, professional, and social programming. Under her guidance, the SOAR Center provides resources such as mentoring, networking, internship opportunities, and academic initiatives.

In addition to Dr. Patterson's professional pursuits, she gives back to the community in various valuable ways through her membership in the Edwardsville Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She devotes her knowledge and abilities to raising awareness of, and advocating for, issues of social justice; and often involves herself in educational events that directly impact the community in myriad positive ways. She is encouraging, motivating, and inspiring to everyone around her, with a caring and compassionate nature.

In June 2017, Dr. Patterson was named the 2017 winner of the Edwardsville Branch of the NAACP President's Award. In a related interview, NAACP President John Cunningham was quoted as saying, "Dr. Patterson has dedicated her life to helping students reach their educational, professional and personal goals, and she continues to give her time, both on and off campus, to help students advance and get involved on campus."