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SCII Agenda Newsletter

February 2021 Issue

The mission of the Schoolcraft College International Institute (SCII) is to coordinate cross-cultural learning opportunities for students, faculty, staff and the community.

Chris Kelly and the Rotary Club



Christopher Kelly is passionate about philanthropic outreach in our communities and across the globe. You may recognize Mr. Kelly from his work on our campus as the Director of Major and Planned Giving for the [Schoolcraft College \(SC\) Foundation](#); his thirty years in trust, estate and philanthropic planning bring a dedication to our students and the Schoolcraft community.

Mr. Kelly is an active member of a local chapter of [Rotary International](#) and encourages others to become involved. The mission of Rotary International is to “provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through their fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.” A main focus of Rotary is on fighting disease across the globe, ensuring clean water and education of children. For those of us looking for a good source on outreach and global issues for use in the classroom, [The Future](#) is a free digital publication by Rotary International.

Interestingly, Mr. Kelly’s work with his local [Plymouth AM Rotary](#) grew out of his work with the SC Foundation. Mr. Kelly attended his first Plymouth AM Rotary meeting to meet its members as they fund a yearly SC Foundation student scholarship; and as Mr. Kelly tells it, he was so impressed by the group that he became a member and this June he will become its President. Many of you may not be aware of Rotary Clubs and so Mr. Kelly was gracious enough to be interviewed for this issue of the SCII Agenda.

Mr. Kelly is extremely proud of the Plymouth AM Rotary work on [building schools in a village in Ghana](#) where the children had previously been learning sitting under a tree, which meant that during the monsoon season schooling could not even occur. Mr. Kelly noted that there are two Plymouth Rotary clubs with his association having the “AM” distinction as they meet early mornings,

which he says speaks to the quality of the group that members get up early every month to attend. This early morning time slot is convenient for those that need to then leave to go their job. Mr. Kelly invites those that want to engage meaningfully with others in community outreach to attend one of their meetings. He states that this isn't a group that just "sits around and talks" outreach, but actively works on fundraising, and community and global projects.

In line with Rotary's mission of disease prevention, Mr. Kelly has organized a joint collaboration between The Schoolcraft Foundation and the Rotary Club of Plymouth AM to better understand and help alleviate community fears about vaccines. Mr. Kelly invites everyone to attend the presentation [A Discussion on COVID-19 and the Vaccines](#) by Dr. Emily Somers, Epidemiologist at the University of Michigan, and Ms. Kara Gavin, the Research and Policy Media Relations Manager for the University of Michigan Healthcare. The virtual discussion will occur on Wednesday, February 24th from 9:00am until 10:15am; it is free to everyone on campus and in our larger Schoolcraft community; please take a moment to quickly [register](#) by visiting the Schoolcraft Foundation webpage.

Schoolcraft Conversations Partnership Program (SCPP)



[International Learning Support](#) at Schoolcraft College is excited to offer a new

program titled *Schoolcraft Conversation Partners Program (SCPP)*. We hope that faculty and staff can become involved and also actively promote this new program with our Schoolcraft students.

How does it work?

We match our English as a Second Language (ESL) students with an individual on campus who is interested in helping them practice their conversation skills. Their "Conversation Partner" will help them practice their conversational English every week for about an hour.

The program has been implemented at many other colleges and universities in Michigan and strives to create a connection between ESL students and other students, faculty, and staff. SCPP aims to foster a sense of growing community, learning, and cultural awareness across our campus.

How can I become involved?

If you are a student, faculty or staff member who is interested in becoming a Conversation Partner, please complete the Interest Form to [Volunteer to be a Conversation Partner](#). If you are an ESL student who would like to practice your conversational skills, please complete the [Student Request for a Conversation Partner](#).

What a wonderful way to meet someone new and help in learning English! If you have any questions please email Academic Success Coach for International Learning, Annika Sholander (asholand@schoolcraft.edu).

Campus Events



Indigenous Education and Sovereignty Rights

This presentation, on Monday, March 15th at 11am, provides a historical overview of Indigenous Education in Canada. It includes an examination of Eurocentric practices and laws which were forced on Indigenous nations through the imposition of European-style education supported by state-sanctioned legislation. Despite continued acts of violence in the settler-colonial Canadian state, Indigenous people continue to develop and build their own education and intellectual systems to enhance their well-being. [Join Zoom Meeting](https://schoolcraftcollege.zoom.us/j/89969094911) (<https://schoolcraftcollege.zoom.us/j/89969094911> Meeting ID: 899 6909 4911)

Erica Neeganagwedgin (Taino) is an assistant professor in Critical Policy, Equity and Leadership Studies at Western University in Indigenous Education.



The Schoolcraft International Institute and Student Activities are proud to present a virtual event: [Multicultural Education Week](#). Please join us for 3 days of lectures, conversations, entertainment and other events.

- A presentation on Arab American history and culture given by the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, MI
- A lecture on the experiences of expat millennials in China who have been directly involved in Chinese education as university students and as teachers at various levels
- Cultural Conversations where attendees can learn more about various countries around the globe.
- Short film screenings surrounding issues of human rights around the globe
- A presentation on the ways art can bring disparate cultures together and can also be used to bring awareness to issues of social injustice

This is just a sneak peek at the many offerings we have planned. More detailed information will be coming soon. This event is free and open to the public. We look forward to seeing you all there.



[Pageturners](#) invites you to explore the bravery, heroism, and struggle with racism by [Tuskegee Airman Lt. Colonel Alexander Jefferson on February 24th at 1:30pm](#) (Meeting: ID:868 3836 2538 Passcode:011170). In this virtual Meet-the-Author event, LTC Jefferson will discuss his book *Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free: The Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman and POW, Revised Edition (2017)*, co-authored with Lewis H. Carlson; he is also the subject of the documentary, *The Luft Gangster: Memoirs of a Second Class Hero (2016)*.

Internet Resource



United Nations

**Peace, dignity and equality
on a healthy planet**

<https://www.un.org/en/>

"As the world's only truly universal global organization, the United Nations has become the foremost forum to address issues that transcend national boundaries and cannot be resolved by any one country acting alone.

To its initial goals of safeguarding peace, protecting human rights, establishing the framework for international justice and promoting economic and social progress, in the seven decades since its creation the United Nations has added on new challenges, such as climate change, refugees and AIDS.

While conflict resolution and peacekeeping continue to be among its most visible efforts, the UN, along with its specialized agencies, is also engaged in a wide array of activities to improve people's lives around the world – from disaster relief, through education and advancement of women, to peaceful uses of atomic energy.

This website offers an overview of some of these issues in depth, and links to other resources where you can get additional information." *Global Issues Overview from the United Nations Website*

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