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SCII Agenda Newsletter

May 2025 Issue

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

*Maheshwari Global
Citizenship Award*

Tiffany Cabrera Armas



Each year the Global Citizenship Award is presented to a SC student who participates in the community at a range of levels from the local to the global and acts to make the world a more equitable and sustainable place. In addition to a certificate, the student receives a \$500.00 academic scholarship. More recently, to allow sustainability of the award in future years, SC Professors

Anna and Neal Maheshwari generously created a fund within the SC Foundation to fund this award in perpetuity.

The 2025 Global Citizenship Award winner Tiffany Cabrera Armas was nominated by numerous faculty members and was chosen unanimously by the selection award committee. Tiffany is originally from Peru and chose to study in Michigan as a member of the Honor College at Schoolcraft. Tiffany was a leader on campus and completed the two-year program in just a year!

In an application essay, Tiffany discussed her thoughts about community: *“Leadership has always been a driving force in my life, shaping my personal growth and guiding my contributions to my community. From an early age growing up in Peru, I have been eager to speak up, advocate for others, and create positive change. This passion has led me to take on leadership roles in various capacities, from high school to my current journey at Schoolcraft College, where I continue to develop my skills and make a meaningful impact.”*

Professor Errin Stegich articulated the thoughts and feelings of faculty when she said: *“Tiffany a.k.a. “Lulu,” is a bright and spirited young lady and I am thrilled that you have chosen her. Her Honors Capstone is working with Brilliant Cities Detroit, working closely with youth to provide equal access to education and resources. This project fits with her undeniable passion for childhood education. In addition to her requirements for the Honors Program, she also serves as a Student Ambassador for Schoolcraft College. She is constantly, and actively, involved in the campus community and is someone who always wants to make the world a better place. I am absolutely thrilled that she will be the recipient of this year’s award!”*

Recently, Tiffany was spotlighted by [Brilliant Cities](#) for her service learning with

the hopes of encouraging more volunteers. We hope Tiffany inspires our readers to engage in community work! Way to go Tiffany!

SC Multicultural Fair



With the support of the President's office and the Schoolcraft Foundation, Schoolcraft College's Multicultural Fair entered its 20th year with approximately 2,000 world 'travelers. Once again campus and community came together to explore cultures, food, and languages! The dancing, student exhibits, and community partnership exhibits were exceptional.

A huge success again this year was the showcasing of student culinary talent with their cooking demonstrations in the Collaborative Learning Studio (CLS). Our Schoolcraft Culinary Department faculty member Chef Chris Misiak

facilitated the student demonstrations of ethnic cuisine and of course tasting afterwards. Thank you, Chef Misiak and all your culinary students, for a wonderful global culinary experience!

Led by the Schoolcraft International Institute, Student Activities, and International Advising, the Multicultural Fair is one of the most beloved campus-wide events that continues to build bridges between students and community. A staple of the college for 20 years, this event continues to thrive because of the cross-campus collaboration of numerous departments and offices - as well as partners in the community including the Arab American National Museum, The Zekelman Holocaust Center, and several others. Most importantly, we recognize and celebrate our students who curate interactive country tables to showcase their cultural heritage with Schoolcraft students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community.

Some of our favorite photos are below for those that missed the event; we hope everyone can join us again in 2026.

If you have any questions about next year's event, please contact Professors [Anna Maheshwari](#) or [Helen Ditouras](#) our SCII Coordinators, or [Todd Stowell](#) the Director of Student Activities..







Past Globaleyezer Speaker
Dr. Raj Maheshwari
Distinguished Alumni Award



SCII members were so proud to hear the words of Dr. Raj Maheshwari as he spoke to graduating students at the 60th Annual Commencement where he was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award.

You may recognize Raj as a past Schoolcraft student and as a frequent International Institute Globaleyezer speaker who continues to support the College and in particular our global initiatives on campus.

Raj addressed the audience and talked about the impact Schoolcraft College faculty, staff, and the entire community had in shaping him into the person he is today. Raj attended University of Cincinnati's medical program, did his residency in Anesthesiology at Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital, and fellowship in Pediatric Anesthesiology at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. He currently practices at Advent Hospital in Tampa, Florida but continues to find time to support Schoolcraft College.

Raj stressed with the graduates the importance of family and community. He highlighted the fact that even though they are non-traditional students, nothing about them is traditional. He applauded their grit, hard-work resilience, tenacity

in working for a degree while working one or more jobs, and taking care of their families.

He stressed that the pursuit and not the ending is important, to be lifelong learners, and chase happiness. Most importantly find what you are good at and what the world needs, and get paid for it while embracing humility. *Finally, the most important assets in your lives are your family, friends, teachers, and your community.*

Midwest Institute Conference



On March 28th-29th, Professors Helen Ditouras (English) and Kristin Fruth (Biology) travelled to Lorain County Community College in Ohio to attend the 31st annual Conference of the Midwest Institute for International/Intercultural Education (MIIE). During the conference, Secretary of the Board, Helen Ditouras, presented updates on curriculum modules centered on Southeast Asia funded by a grant from Michigan State. Dr. Colleen Pilgrim (Psychology)

and Dr. Anna Maheshwari (English) both developed curriculum for Schoolcraft College students focused on Cambodia and Vietnam, respectively. Dr. Pilgrim's work reflected her experiences in Cambodia as a recipient of the CAORC funding she received to travel overseas last year.

In addition to Schoolcraft's participation at the MIIIE conference, other engaging presentations highlighted topics such as teaching philosophy students about the limitations of the Golden Rule in an international context, understanding social media's impact on English Language Acculturation, global pop culture and how it can foster belonging in community colleges, education in Türkiye and how the study of art and academics can reduce misconceptions of the Middle East, among many other interesting presentations.

For further information about the SCII events and initiatives, please contact Professor [Helen Ditouras](#) who teaches writing and film in the Schoolcraft English Department and is the co-chair for the Schoolcraft International Institute; or you may reach out to Professor [Kristin Fruth](#) who teaches in the Schoolcraft Biology Department with an expertise in microbiology.

Web Reading: Global Voices

Schoolcraft College International Institute members encourage you to read the article below by Clarisse Sih and Bibbi Abruzzini at Global Voices. Please note that Global Voices allows you to select the language at the top for translation. We also think Global Voices is a good resource for some summer reading.

'We are not just imagining power; we are claiming it': Women at the forefront of change in the Horn of Africa

Women continue to battle forced marriages, child labor, and a lack of social protections



Written by
Forus

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Hala Al Karib at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security. Photo by Forus. used with permission.

By Clarisse Sih and Bibbi Abruzzini

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