



Dear Maxwell Community,

## Maxwell DEIA Newsletter Spotlight



Our spotlight feature for this issue is Gabriela Vasquez Jimenez, a dedicated professional with a diverse background in administrative operations, research, and education. Currently, she serves as an Administrative Specialist at Syracuse University, where she supports the Chair and Associate Dean of the Public Administration and International Affairs Department. In this role, Gabriela manages faculty searches, oversees event coordination, ensures compliance with university financial policies, and facilitates critical reporting and strategic planning processes.

Gabriela holds an MRes in Food Industry Management from Harper Adams University, where she conducted research on the social, economic, and environmental impacts of food redistribution. Her previous experience includes roles in customer service, where she was recognized for her

outstanding performance, and as an English Second Language teacher, where she developed strong communication and leadership skills.

As an active member of the Syracuse University community, Gabriela serves on the Maxwell Staff Council and is a member of the Staff of Color Affinity Group. As a native Spanish speaker fluent in English, Gabriela thrives in multicultural environments and is passionate about leveraging her organizational and analytical abilities to support meaningful initiatives.

What does diversity mean to you?

Diversity, to me, is about creating environments where individuals from all walks of life feel valued and respected, regardless of their backgrounds or perspectives. It extends beyond visible differences to embrace diverse experiences, viewpoints, and ideas. As an international student from the Dominican Republic, I experienced firsthand the importance of inclusive spaces where people can openly discuss their differences and learn from one another. These experiences deepened my commitment to fostering diversity in everything I do.

How does your approach to your work highlight diversity, equity, inclusion, and/or accessibility?

My approach emphasizes creating opportunities for open dialogue and learning about diversity. I am an active member of the Staff of Color affinity group, which allows me to engage with a range of perspectives and experiences. Through collaboration with other groups such as the LGBTQ+ affinity groups, I've expanded my understanding of the diverse needs within the community. Additionally, I continuously seek to learn through books, conversations, and university-hosted workshops. These efforts help me integrate diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility into my work and interactions.

Last great book you read?

Learning to Disagree by John Inazu. The book explores how to engage in meaningful conversations even when we disagree. It emphasizes listening—not to persuade others into our viewpoint, but to hold constructive and respectful discussions.

Favorite spot at Syracuse University?

I love People's Place, but my favorite spot is the third floor of the library. There's a cozy reading area with U-shaped couches that are incredibly comfortable. It's always quiet, making it the perfect spot to relax and focus.

Are you excited for the snow this year?

I saw snow for the first time while studying in the U.K., where the cold and snowy winters helped prepare me for Syracuse. I enjoy the snow here, but I do miss the comforting noise of my fan during the winter months—it's a sound that reminds me of home.

## Syracuse University Wellness Initiative

### Habit Stacking: Create Your Ideal Routine

Habit stacking is about creating a new habit by attaching it to something you already do regularly.

All those who view the habit stacking video by Tuesday, Dec. 17, will receive an email on Wednesday, Dec. 18, with an evaluation. Complete the evaluation by Friday, Dec. 20, to win the book **Atomic Habits by James Clear**.

[Send Me the Video](#)

### Webinar: Prevention in Focus

Wednesday, Dec. 11, noon-12:30 p.m.

Prioritize your health and wellness as another new year approaches. Join Katie Keller-Burgess, Wellbeing Team Leader with Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, as she discusses healthy living, the role of the primary care physician, and the value of preventive screenings.

[Register Now](#)

## Family Skate Day at Tennity Ice Pavillion

Saturday, Dec. 14, 1-5 p.m.

Faculty, staff, and their families are invited to an open skate at Tennity Ice Pavilion! A trip to the ice rink is a great way to get moving together and have fun this winter. Use of the rink and skate rentals are complimentary for you and your family members.

Family open skate is on a walk-in basis; no registration is needed. Syracuse University I.D. required.

## Reduce Holiday Stress with Mindful Meditation Practice

Tuesday, Dec. 17, noon-12:30 p.m.

Take 30 minutes out of this busy holiday season to focus on your breathing with our live, virtual, mindful meditation practice. Carebridge presents this webinar.

[Register Now](#)

## Letting Go of the Need to Know

Wednesday, Dec. 18, noon-12:30 p.m.

In this virtual workshop, we'll dive into the brain's response to the unknown and explore practical ways to handle the natural discomfort of not knowing to live our lives more easily and less fearfully.

[Register now](#)

## Salt City Market

For a decade, a vision has brewed in the hearts of Syracuse residents – a market to showcase the diverse culinary treasures hidden in the city's neighborhoods. Inspired by successful ventures like Westside Bazaar in Buffalo and Midtown Global Market in Minneapolis, community organizers collaborated on World Market Square. The dream persisted despite an initial attempt to reach the national semifinals for funding.

Enter the Allyn Family Foundation, a beacon of community support since 1954. The foundation formed the Syracuse Urban Partnership (SYRUP) to empower Syracuse. Unusually proactive for a private foundation, they committed \$25 million to turn the dream into reality. With VIP Architects, iCrave, and Snow Kreilich, they designed a unique space for small businesses, emphasizing community engagement through focus groups.

Construction began in 2019 and was funded by grants and tax credits, including the historic New Market Tax Credits secured in 2020. The vision? A vibrant space captures Syracuse's essence – its culture, glory, richness, and grit. A platform for generational wealth and a haven where everyone finds belonging ownership, and civic pride. The journey is unpredictable, but the big picture is one of confidence and excitement.

Learn more about [Salt City Market](#).

## Discover Winter Wonders in Syracuse: Your Ultimate Guide

Syracuse transforms into a winter wonderland, and [visitsyracuse.com](https://visitsyracuse.com) is your gateway to all the excitement. Whether you're a local seeking new experiences or a visitor eager to explore, this site is your one-stop-shop for discovering the city's best winter activities.

Sneak Peak at upcoming events:

- [Putting Art to Work: Prints of the Works Progress Administration](#)

- [Sound Bath](#)
- [2024 Newhouse Photography Annual](#)
- [Lights on the Lake](#)

For more on Syracuse Events: [Events Calendar](#)

## Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Office Hours with Vice President Almandrez- December 13, 10:30-12 pm,  
306 Steel Hall.

Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University

[Diversity Equity and Inclusion Resources \(answers.syr.edu\)](https://answers.syr.edu)

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