All right, well, I guess we will go ahead and jump right in.

Good afternoon, everyone.

Welcome to today's session.

Congratulations on your acceptance to Suffolk.

We are so excited that you are here and that you're able to join us today,

as you continue your journey through the college search and decision process.

I know it can feel very exciting.

maybe a little bit overwhelming, maybe a mix of emotions as you're navigating this process,

but we're so excited that you're here today to learn a little bit more about Suffolk,

and hopefully we'll be able to answer any questions that you have about becoming a college student.

With that said, my name is Ellie Villa Wilson and I am an Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admission here at Suffolk.

I work mostly with incoming freshmen students from the Boston area, as well as parts of Greater Boston,

Texas, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin islands, but I'm really excited to work with any and all students that are interested in the university.

So, today, we have a really exciting session planned and joining me are two amazing student leaders from our Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion.

and they will be walking us through a really great session today.

And if you have any questions throughout the session, please feel free to use the chat or the Q and A function, which is found in the lower menu of your Zoom screen.

So, as we're going through today, if anything comes up please feel free to engage with us,

we're here to support you and welcome you to our community.

So, with further ado, I'm going to let our two panelists take it from here and introduce themselves.

Great, good afternoon, everyone.

Again, congratulations on getting accepted to Suffolk university, that's very exciting.

My name is Ahria ilyas, I use she, her pronouns, and I'm currently a Law major with minors in Spanish and Math.

And I'm a diversity peer educator in this department.

And I'll pass it to Alex.

Hi everyone, my name is Alex.

I also go by Op, Oppy, or Operetta.

I use they, them pronouns,

I'm a diversity peer educator on campus,

and I also am a Psych major with a Sociology minor.

So, if everyone can, we have...
02:30 We wanna do a little introduction
02:32 because we can't physically see your faces.
02:34 So, if you all feel comfortable saying your name
02:37 your preferred pronouns, so that we don't mis-gender you
02:40 in any way, or make any assumptions,
02:42 and then, where you're from.
02:44 So we'll give like 30 seconds to do that.
03:04 (indistinct)
03:24 While we're doing that,
03:25 so, I have a little activity
03:28 that you all can get involved in
03:30 if you want to, it's up to you.
03:33 It's a word cloud based on a question that we have.
03:35 So it's almost like a visual representation.
03:37 So, I'll share my screen in a second,
03:40 but for everyone on the Zoom today,
03:43 you can use this information here, menti.com,
03:48 and then put in the code listed here
03:51 to see a word cloud.
03:53 And the question of today is,
03:56 what's a word or a phrase that comes to your mind
03:58 when you hear diversity and social justice?
04:02 So, I will share my screen and we'll be able
04:04 to see the word cloud form
04:06 based on the words that you all decided to use
04:09 that comes to mind for you.
04:12 So, let me share my screen.
04:34 Celebration.
04:59 Anything else?
05:06 If not, that's okay too.
05:18 Okay, well, I will stop sharing the screen.
05:22 And, of course, this will be open
05:24 for the rest of the meeting today.
05:26 So, and if you can't access it,
05:28 you can also put it in the chat as well.
05:32 - The name of the website is menti.com.
05:34 - Yeah, I can copy and paste the information again.
05:45 I'll reshare my screen so you all can see it.
06:22 Okay, 15 more seconds, and then we can transition.
06:39 Ooh, okay, okay, two, equality and people of color,
06:43 those are good ones too.
06:46 And feel free to put your reasoning in the chat as well.
06:52 Opportunities, awesome.
06:58 Very good phrases.
07:06 All right, if that is, I can stop sharing my screen
07:09 but these are all amazing phrases and they're very relative
07:13 to the work that we do in this department
07:15 and that are just valuable for us doing
07:17 any type of social justice work.
07:19 So, thank you all for your contributions
07:22 and I will pass it to Oppy for the chat questions.
07:28 - All righty, so, for the chat question,
07:33 let me just (indistinct).
07:39 The first question is why did you come to the session?
07:43 And then the second question
07:46 is what is your involvement in high school?
07:50 So then, I'm gonna put them in the chat as well.
08:56 While we're waiting for some answers,
08:58 I can talk about my involvement in high school,
09:01 and how I kind of got to this path
09:02 of being a diversity peer educator really quick,
09:06 at least in terms of high school.
09:09 Oh, wait, we got someone, to learn about diversity,
09:13 and I do peer mentoring at school.
09:15 So, work, that's actually kind of like why I did it too.
09:18 I wanted to learn more,
09:19 and I was also like really involved at my schools
09:22 like GSA, and, I would help people out, and stuff like,
09:27 so, definitely understand.
09:32 - It was very similar for me as well.
09:35 I was pretty involved in a lot of social justice work
09:38 in high school.
09:39 I was on the Black Student Union,
09:41 and I tried to get involved in community organizing
09:44 in organizations and such,
09:46 that were outside of just my high school as well.
09:49 And I wanted to find somewhere on campus
09:52 and get a little bit more involved on campus.
09:55 And, this department and was having physicians,
09:58 and I was able to meet Oppy
10:00 and so many other peer educators,
10:02 which was really awesome too.
10:04 So it was really awesome that you're starting in high school
10:07 and have some have some experience, but it's also okay
10:09 if you don't have experience too.
10:13 - College is also a place of learning.
10:15 - Yes.
10:16 (indistinct)
10:18 - The most important lesson that you can...
10:21 Or the most important advice you can keep
10:23 in mind when you're going to school.
10:25 - Yup.
10:28 Are there other folks that feel comfortable sharing?
10:33 If not, that's okay, too.
10:44 Okay, and if I see something in the chat,
10:49 I can just read it, or we can read it.
10:52 Okay, so, this is sort of the panel question,
10:55 but also feel free to put any questions
10:57 that come to mind in the chat as well.
11:00 We wanna have conversations with you all
11:01 and have to be transparent about our experiences,
11:04 and what we got out of this department.
11:06 So, any question is a great question.
11:10 So the first question that we have
11:13 that we're gonna answer today is why we sort of
11:16 got involved with CSTI in the first place, so--
11:20 - It seems like someone else put something in the chat.
11:23 Is that okay if we just read that really quick?
Yeah, absolutely.

Yeah, so someone said, I came to the session just to gain some insight of diversity at this school, my involvement in high school is in the Black Culture Club, work.

Nice.

Well, you definitely, again, we'll talk about it now a little bit but there are definitely plenty of opportunities for you to get involved at Suffolk and plenty of opportunities to learn as well.

So, yeah, Ahria, do you wanna take it over again?

Sorry about that.

Never apologize, you're good.

So, the first talking point was, talk about why you got involved with CSTI.

So, I don't know if you wanna go first.

Alrighty, so, this is actually kind of a story 'cause I wasn't expecting to get involved with CSTI.

When I first got admitted to Suffolk, I lived in Florida, so I wasn't... I didn't really know about any of the admitted student events, neither, like, I couldn't really go to any of them, either.

So, when I came, I was just, I...

My first time coming to actual campus, I didn't even tour Suffolk, just kind of like accepted it.

And, my first time on campus was at orientation and in orientation, when you get there in the summer, whether it'd be via Zoom, or in person, whatever that may be, there's gonna be like these Ram rotations.

And I went to the diversity one and I was just like, as my boss describes it, like a little kid in a candy store, "Oh my gosh, I wanna be here." And I did really wanna be there.

So, I remember as soon as freshman year started, I found the office and I was like, "I want to be a work study here."

And they hired me, and, since then, I've just kind of taken like a social justice path. Being in the Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion, that's kind of really guided my education as well and what I wanna do in Suffolk, and with my life, as well.

And so, yeah, that's kind of just how I started getting involved. After my freshman year, I applied to be a diversity peer educator, which I'm sure is something that we'll touch on, in a little bit later.

And I got accepted for my position and I've been one since my sophomore year, and I'm a senior now, so.
I actually didn't know the entire story.

So, it's nice to hear it.

(Arhia laughs)

Yeah, no, it was a really like by chance but really happy ending story.

Nice, no, I love that.

My experience, like I said, in high school was very...

Like, I was very, I found opportunities to do a lot of social justice work at an early age, even before high school.

And I was sort of in a position as a student that I knew what path I wanted to go down, I wanted to be a civil rights lawyer,

but just didn't really have a lot of experience to back up like why I wanted...

Like, what field I wanted to go into.

So, I was trying to find different routes throughout my high school career to sort of figure out like, "Okay, let me find some experience before I go to college, so that I can use that information in college to support school somehow."

So, I did a lot of social, I'm from Boston also, by the way, so, I did a of community organizing with March For Our Lives Boston,

and different social justice orgs that are in the general Boston area just to learn a lot, and just get comfortable with using my voice to represent others who are consistently misrepresented.

And, I came to Suffolk, number one, because they have a great Law Program,

but also, because I sort of wanted to use the skills that I had learned in high school and learn a ton more 'cause I a hundred percent accept that I don't know everything.

And, I feel like Suffolk was a great opportunity to learn a lot more, but I wasn't really sure where to start because there are so many clubs here,

and there are so many tracks that you can go down.

So, my second semester of my first year here, I had a Social Justice class with Cameron Breither, who is one of the employees for CSTI staff.

And, I used my voice a lot in that class.

I had a lot of opinions on social justice in that sociology class,

and they pulled me to the side and said, "We have this diversity peer educator position here, you should really apply, I'm telling you to apply."

And I was like, "No, I'm really busy."

And it took, I wanna say four times for me to apply.

And I finally did, like, it took my friends telling me to apply to, and I finally did,
16:20 and I was able to meet, Oppy,
16:23 and so many other amazing diversity peer educators.
16:27 And again, we can also go into that as well
16:29 and what that even means.
16:33 But yeah, CSTI has been really great for me
16:35 and learning a lot more,
16:37 and feeling comfortable doing trainings
16:39 around social justice issues
16:41 that I might not have had a lot of knowledge on,
16:43 in high school, but I have learned
16:45 throughout my time here, and this is only my first year
16:48 within the position, this is my second semester
16:50 as a diverse diversity peer educator.
16:53 And I've already learned so much.
16:55 So, I'm very, very, eternally grateful for this program
16:58 come and being able to even do this in the first place.
17:01 So, yeah, that's a little bit of how I got here,
17:06 and yeah, hopefully, when you all get on campus
17:10 if you decide to do in-person or if it's remote,
17:12 just depending on how it is in the upcoming fall
17:15 if you decide to come to Suffolk,
17:17 I can see some of you all and whenever you get the chance
17:21 because you start as a sophomore,
17:22 so, please apply for the program
17:24 if you're interested, please.
17:27 So, yeah, we're gonna transition to the next topic
17:33 which is just generally your experience on campus.
17:35 So it doesn't have to be limited to just CSTI.
17:40 - All righty, so do you want me to go again first?
17:44 - You can totally go first.
17:45 (Ahria laughs)
17:46 - All righty, so, I mainly was on campus
17:52 like my freshmen and sophomore year
17:55 mainly because junior, and basically
17:58 all of my senior year have been compromised
18:01 by the pandemic and being on Zoom you and stuff.
18:06 But, freshmen and sophomore year were so much fun on campus.
18:12 I remember being in the dorms, there were some,
18:16 different events that kind of like, you could go to
18:19 that kind of forced you to be social with people
18:22 and meet people.
18:24 And that's how I kind of got my first friend group,
18:27 my freshman year.
18:29 And, freshman year was honestly so much fun.
18:32 I remember staying up super late
18:34 and having fun with my friends in the dorms.
18:36 And, we would do study sessions together,
18:38 and we would all be out in the common rooms together
18:41 so like super late, like not being super loud
18:43 'cause quiet hours, and you will get clocks
18:46 for being too loud.
18:47 But, it's fun to be in the dorms and stuff.
18:56 And then, being on campus, like going to classes
19:00 felt like it was a different experience for me
because, transitioning from high school,
I was so used to going to like, the AP,
I had eight or nine periods a day in high school.
And, it was weird having to,
I have like a dorm that I would just go back to
after one class for a couple hours
and then walk to another building in a couple.
So that was a little weird to transition to,
and not being on like such a rigid schedule
like high school can be a little jarring at first,
but when you find your groove,
and you find the places you wanna go
with the different clubs you want to meet with,
and the different organizations and stuff,
you will start developing that schedule
and your own kind of like...
it's like its own better sense of freedom
with your own time.
You really do feel like...
that you have, that you're able to fill with so much stuff.
And Suffolk has so many things to offer.
Like, there are so many different avenues you can go down,
there's CSTI, and I'm sure there are a bunch
of other panels that are gonna be happening
for like, SLI, like, student involvement
and clubs and stuff.
So, like, or in other things
like an orientation when they're talked,
those are talked about too.
It'll definitely be such a fun way for you to get involved.
And then, my sophomore year, I went to a little bit more
of a remote campus.
mean, a remote dorm.
We don't have this dorm anymore,
but it was 1047, on Commonwealth Avenue.
And that was really nice
because I got to take the train to campus
and it kind of felt like I was a commuter,
but I wasn't a commuter 'cause I was in the dorms.
And we also got a little tea pass
which was a little fun perk for living in that dorm.
But, yeah, and so then, kind of as time went on,
just making time on campus did get limited
just because of the pandemic.
But, again, when you're on campus
and you're at Suffolk, it's literally
such a fun experience to be there,
you're in Downtown Boston, there's so much around you,
there's so much history around you.
Like, you're next to Beacon Hill,
which has somewhat like so many pretty streets.
And, there's some of these sites
to see like the Esplanade, and like the Common,
21:24 and then the Garden, which is my favorite thing
21:26 during summer and fall and spring, and it's so iconic.
21:30 So, I definitely recommend,
21:31 I know I'm rambling and I'm sorry.
21:33 So, I'm gonna stop here, but I definitely,
21:34 yeah, being on Suffolk campus is fun.
21:38 I miss those memories, so fond, cherish it.
21:41 - Yes, I, a hundred percent ditto to that.
21:47 I only had one and a half semesters on campus
21:51 before the pandemic.
21:54 But what I can say for my fall semester,
21:56 it was very similar to what Oppy said.
21:59 You have this idea of like being independent,
22:02 which is very different for some, and especially
22:05 in high school, I was independent
22:09 but I also had a lot on my plate,
22:11 so, I was like, "Okay, I have class
22:12 from 7:00 to 1:40, and then I go right to work.
22:15 And then after that, I go to track.
22:17 Everything was just very strict
22:18 and I had something to do at all hours of the day
22:21 until I literally got home at 8:00 p.m.,
22:24 but at Suffolk, there's a lot more independence
22:28 to sort of like take...
22:31 Like seize your time and use it in a way
22:33 that you wanna use it.
22:34 So, I definitely, of course you're required,
22:37 well, you're not required,
22:38 but you go to class because you're in college.
22:41 You go to class and there are times
22:44 where you just have hours in between your next class,
22:47 or you only have one class that day,
22:49 and then you could have the rest of the day to yourself.
22:51 So, I tried to get as involved on campus as possible.
22:56 So, I was in, well, I'm still in the Black Student Union,
23:00 and go to those meetings that are once a week
23:03 or once every other week during activities period.
23:06 I tried to join the Environmental Club,
23:08 Like, just try to join everything at least once
23:10 but, wasn't fully invested in a club or anything.
23:17 So, it was great for me to have CSTI,
23:19 so another thing to like,
23:21 'cause I also didn't know a lot about Suffolk.
23:24 I knew about the program that accommodated
23:26 to what I wanted to do in an educational sense,
23:29 but not like, where you can get involved in
23:32 and the opportunities you have
23:33 for internships and jobs and such.
23:35 I just was very, just focused on my schooling.
23:38 But, my spring semester, so, last spring,
23:42 I was able to sort of like broaden my horizons a little bit,
23:45 and I auditioned for the dance team here,
23:48 and I got on the dance team.
23:49 So, we've been doing some socially distance practices
23:52 and we're currently in the process of making a dance video.
23:56 But, yeah, there are so many opportunities,
23:59 especially on campus and they...
24:01 Suffolk has really been trying to make,
24:03 or I should say, like the clubs,
24:04 and the involvement of students.
24:05 They've been really trying to make things
24:09 as interactive as possible, even if it is through a screen
24:12 just trying to create connections as much as possible
24:16 without actually having to be in person
24:18 for that type of stuff.
24:20 So, they're doing their best,
24:22 but I know it was a little weird.
24:23 But hopefully, in the fall, things will sort of die down,
24:26 and we get this new sense of normal again
24:29 to do that type of stuff.
24:31 And maybe I can see some of you
24:34 if you decide to choose Suffolk, yeah.
24:38 All righty, so, the third question,
24:42 I guess we can give some context
24:44 for what you do as a DPE.
24:47 So, a diversity peer educator,
24:49 before we move on to the other question that we have here.
24:54 I can briefly explain, and then Oppy,
24:56 you can fill in the spaces
24:57 'cause again, this is only my second semester being a DPE.
25:01 So, I don't know everything.
25:03 But from what I have experienced so far,
25:07 there's a lot of social justice topics
25:09 that we value within being a diversity peer educator.
25:13 So, it is a paid and scholarship role
25:16 that you normally apply for an year,
25:19 and normally starting as at least a sophomore.
25:22 And you're able to do trainings
25:25 relating to social justice work
25:27 such as gender, race, a variety of sorts.
25:31 And you're able to do those trainings,
25:33 whether it's for staff members within the Suffolk community
25:37 you can sometimes do it like with actual,
25:40 like in classroom settings.
25:41 So, I've only experienced it virtually.
25:44 But, that is also a route you can go down,
25:46 like training, doing specific trainings in classrooms,
25:50 and sort of just using your knowledge and skills
25:52 on social justice to sort of make a positive impact
25:55 in the Suffolk community.
25:56 Whether it's through your actual education here,
25:59 so, like, making sure that you feel heard
26:01 and your identity is valued here on Suffolk campus
26:05 or it's just a general education or experience that you have
26:09 throughout your time here at Suffolk.
26:11 So yes, you can fill in the gaps that I missed,
26:14 but that's my interpretation.
26:19 - You covered most of the basis.
26:21 So, like Ahria said, it's a paid and scholarship position,
26:24 so you get paid like every two weeks
26:27 like a regular job, but you also get a scholarship added.
26:30 So, I believe it's like 900 each month.
26:32 I mean, not on each semester.
26:36 And, so again, we deal like lots of workshops
26:40 and trainings.
26:41 We've put on lots of different events too.
26:46 One of our bigger events that we usually
26:48 hold every year is a Social Justice Summit.
26:50 And that's a really fun event.
26:53 We usually bring a keynote speaker,
26:55 and we have different workshops set throughout the day.
26:58 And that's like a day-long teaching style conference
27:04 that starts at nine in the morning and ends at six.
27:07 And it's a project that's mainly run by the DPE's.
27:12 The DPE's are also set into little subclasses.
27:15 So, right now, we have our education coordinator DPE's,
27:18 which is what Ahria and I both do.
27:21 We have our outreach DPE's,
27:24 who kind of interact with SGA clubs,
27:27 and I believe one other liaison that I can't remember,
27:30 like student life, or SLI, maybe.
27:34 - Yeah.
27:35 - So, I think it's one of those.
27:37 And then, we have our data assessment.
27:39 So, it's the one who kind of takes that like,
27:44 our attendance and our other kinds of data
27:46 and creates our assessment workshop,
27:48 or our assessments for our workshops.
27:50 And, is the one who sends out the different surveys,
27:53 like, "Hey, tell us how we did
27:54 so we can see what we need to do better."
27:58 And we also have our marketing DPE's.
28:01 So the ones who kind of take over our social media,
28:03 and do a lot of our artwork and design and stuff like that.
28:11 Other things that we do.
28:13 So, being a DPE also does like allow you
28:17 to create your own programs within approval
28:21 or like, within approval by staff, like Cam, or,
28:26 who's our Assistant Director,
28:27 who kind of oversees the DPEs and like, B who also oversees,
28:32 and Bridgette, who's our office coordinator.
28:34 So, and these are the director of the office,
28:39 and yeah, I think that's about it.
28:43 A big part of being a DPE is like continuing
28:45 to learn and grow.
28:48 We do facilitate lots of different workshops.
28:50 and in order to do that, we kind of have to always
28:52 be updating our language and our knowledge
28:55 about different areas of social justice.
28:58 So, it can be a little bit rigorous
29:01 at times trying to keep up with everything.
29:03 But, it really is like an easy...
29:09 like a great opportunity if you wanna get involved
29:11 in social justice work, and like get involved on campus,
29:14 'cause you work with all different types
29:16 of departments and people.
29:17 I've worked with people from like CHW,
29:20 like, accounting, health and wellness
29:21 to Dean Coyne, and all kinds of people in Suffolk.
29:27 So, that's really cool.
29:29 - Yeah, and for me, honestly,
29:31 to build up a lot of my confidence
29:33 around certain social justice topics,
29:36 because, I have a lot...
29:38 Well, I brought in a lot of knowledge
29:39 but I also wasn't a hundred percent confident
29:42 always speaking my mind in certain situations
29:44 like, "Hey, that's not correct, that's not right."
29:48 So, especially doing the trainings
29:50 and being able to interact with various students,
29:53 and staff, and departments that I had no idea
29:57 that existed until the position.
29:59 It really does give you an opportunity
30:01 to sort of know your campus and know
30:03 the school that you go to.
30:06 So yeah, that's very helpful.
30:09 And also, again, if you have any questions,
30:13 feel free to put them in the chat
30:15 and we can answer them immediately
30:17 before we even continue doing other questions too.
30:20 So, it doesn't even have to be relative to this department
30:23 or it could just be about anything related to Suffolk.
30:28 So, if I see any, we can read them,
30:31 but, I'm going to read the next question just so that.
30:34 So, did I lost (indistinct).
30:41 Okay, how have you been able to take the knowledge
30:45 that you have within the setting as being a DPE
30:49 and take it to, well, the setting as like high school
30:52 and transition into being a DPE?
30:54 So did you have any prior experience
30:57 doing social justice work before coming here?
30:59 And how have you taken the stuff that you've known
31:01 in high school and brought it
31:02 to the next level as a DPE here?
31:05 Do you wanna go first, Oppy?
31:07 - Sure, so, I wasn't like super duper involved
31:13 when I was in high school.
31:14 I was involved in the GSA at my school,
31:19 but that's really like about it.
31:21 And I didn't have that strong of an experience
31:24 in social justice work when I first came to college.
31:30 But I was one of those kids
31:32 that kinda grew up on the internet
31:34 and, I grew up in those different parts of the internet
31:39 where they talked about identity
31:40 and social justice a lot.
So, that's where I kind of figure where a lot of my social justice knowledge comes from. And so, using that, when I got to college, I knew that I wanted to major in Psychology 'cause I knew that mental health was something that I cared about a lot. But then, starting to break down, what are the causes in a more transformative justice kind of lens of like, how can we fix that? Or, not fix that, how can we look at the conditions of society and see what we need to do better. And so, that's kind of the framework that college gave me for my major, which is why I ended up minoring in Sociology, 'cause I feel like that gave me a better frame of mind for what I wanted to do with my major. But again, and then being a DPE, I didn't really come in with a lot of experience, I just came in with the knowledge that I had and what I was gaining through the office at the time, and through how I was gaining my social justice knowledge as always. But yeah, so, kind of transitioning into college, I definitely got a lot more involved and specifically through being a DPE. I've done lots of different workshops with different clubs. I've managed to give presentations, like SGA, about certain topics. I've worked with, like I've said, Dean Coyne and (indistinct), and on certain projects and again, the Social justice summit. So yeah, definitely lots of cool opportunities to get involved with CSTI. And you don't even have to be a DPE to get super involved. There were tons of opportunities for students and our work studies, which is also another opportunity that you may be able to get. So, yeah, definitely keep an eye out for the opportunities. Also, I see a Q and A question. How strong is the LGBTQ community on campus? Also, is it difficult to arrange slash request inclusive housing? It says to type the answer. Should I just like say the answer? - Yeah, you can just answer. - Okay. You don't have to type it. (Ellie laughs) - Yeah, sorry, I was like, there's this option, anyway, so I would say that I haven't personally requested of inclusive housing when I was at Suffolk but I know lots of people who have, and they didn't really seem to have an issue. It was remedied very quickly.
Like, the housing requests that the students had, whether it'd be like issues with a roommate, or feeling unsafe, or not feeling comfortable with where someone was placed, or where you were placed, anything like that. And if you have any sort of identity that you may feel is not being aligned within your housing, that can also definitely be remedied, just talk to your RA or your RT, and then, or you could come to CSTI. I know Cam has also helped students in the past, arrange of housing requests and stuff. So, I would definitely say that you are in good hands at Suffolk when it comes to housing. And the LGBTQ plus community is, I would say, it's strong, but it's small. There aren't many people who get involved specifically with Queer Student Union. Although, there has been a lot more involvement, in more recent years. So, there's definitely ways to meet other queer people. And specifically in the office, and through CSTI events, it's like, we host a lot of events geared and for queer people, as well. So, those are also great opportunities for us, for anyone to meet people, and get some friends and stuff. But, yeah, the only reason I say that it's small it's just because there aren't a lot, too many people who are super interactive who are queer, but there are lots of queer people at Suffolk. But yeah, just like a little bit of like a hidden community but they're all, like, everyone's definitely there, everyone's definitely there. I guess to answer that question too. I just decided to just do random housing and I ended up in a nine-person suite, so we all shared a bathroom and such, but that also brought a lot of diversity, somehow, it was just coincidence that there was just a lot of diversity and voice perspective, and everything like that. So, I got extremely lucky and was able to learn a lot from my other roommates that I had. And, we were able to, I don't know, it was great for me but like, Oppy said, if there are circumstances where things do pop up that could potentially be discriminatory or anything like that, there are definitely resources here to support you in any choice that you decide to make.
in terms of housing and where you live,
because, where you live is like,
it's supposed to be a safe space for you.
So, we definitely wanna make sure at Suffolk
that you're protected in your safe space.
And then, to answer the other question,
I feel like I already answered it too,
but I did have a good amount of experience
in terms of social justice work.
But I also, again, still learn a lot in college
and I feel like the one thing that I sort of lacked
was, like, I said earlier, the confidence.
So, doing a lot of the work in CSTI
of looking at previous presentations that we've done,
or just doing my own research on topics
that I'm not a hundred percent familiar with
always is very helpful when doing DPE work,
and always just like asking questions
and having those difficult conversations
'cause sometimes if you don't wanna offend anyone
or come off as a certain way, or like ignorant,
but at the same time, in order to be the best ally
for several communities, you do need to have
those uncomfortable conversations.
And sometimes you do need to be called out,
if your opinions derive in ignorance,
or are just not a hundred percent factual.
So, yeah, so, I think that, I don't know, high school,
I was sort of informed on a certain type
of social justice work, but definitely
within this DPE position and transitioning into college,
I was able to understand more of the intersectionality
and how different social justice topics interact
with others and they impact other topics as well.
So, yeah.
And that was also a really good question.
So, thank you for asking.
So yeah, that's pretty much all the questions
that we have for the panel.
I just wanna personally say thank you so much
for showing up and again, congratulations
for going to Suffolk.
I know you all are gonna do amazing
wherever you decide to go,
what other path you decide to go down.
So, I just want to personally say thank you for tuning in.
And I wanna say thank you so much
for having me, as well,
and I hope that even though I'm graduating this semester,
and I won't be able to see all of y'all,
I'm sure I'm gonna hear some great stories from Ahria
about how great y'all are when you get to Suffolk,
or if you choose to come to Suffolk.
But yeah, I definitely once again,
just to drive it home, Suffolk is a really fun place, and I have been able to feel at home. So, I hope that y'all will be able to, as well. - Awesome, well, I personally would like to thank both Aria and Alex for presenting today and sharing your experiences not only just in high school, but also what you've been able to do and accomplish at Suffolk. It's just really exciting to hear your stories, and know that you've been able to get so involved as well, during your time at the university. And then, I would also like to thank all of our students that are tuning in today, and congrats again on your acceptance. We really hope that you consider joining the Suffolk community, and joining our, what we call, Ramaley, which is basically our Ram family here at Suffolk. And if you have not yet had the opportunity to join the admitted Facebook community, I'm going to really encourage you to do so because it's a great way to know other students that have been accepted to Suffolk and start building that community now, before you come to orientation over the summer. And should you have any other questions from today's session or just about anything moving forward as you're making your college decision, I'm going to put in the chat, the information for the admissions office as well as the link to the admitted Facebook group. So, please let us know how we can or what we can do to support you. And once again, congratulations on your acceptance. And, thank you for tuning in today. Have a great day, everyone.