

00:00 - All right, well, I guess we will go ahead  
00:02 and jump right in.  
00:03 Good afternoon, everyone.  
00:06 Welcome to today's session.  
00:08 Congratulations on your acceptance to Suffolk.  
00:12 We are so excited that you are here  
00:16 and that you're able to join us today,  
00:18 as you continue your journey  
00:19 through the college search and decision process.  
00:23 I know it can feel very exciting  
00:26 maybe a little bit overwhelming, maybe a mix of emotions  
00:29 as you're navigating this process,  
00:31 but we're so excited that you're here today  
00:34 to learn a little bit more about Suffolk,  
00:36 and hopefully we'll be able  
00:37 to answer any questions that you have  
00:40 about becoming a college student.  
00:43 With that said, my name is Ellie Villa Wilson  
00:45 and I am an Assistant Director  
00:47 of Undergraduate Admission here at Suffolk.  
00:50 I work mostly with incoming freshmen students  
00:53 from the Boston area, as well as parts of Greater Boston,  
00:56 Texas, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin islands  
01:00 but I'm really excited to work with  
01:02 any and all students that are interested in the university.  
01:06 So, today, we have a really exciting session planned  
01:10 and joining me are two amazing student leaders  
01:13 from our Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion  
01:16 and they will be walking us  
01:18 through a really great session today.  
01:20 And if you have any questions throughout the session,  
01:23 please feel free to use the chat or the Q and A function  
01:27 which is found in the lower menu of your Zoom screen.  
01:31 So, as we're going through today, if anything comes up  
01:34 please feel free to engage with us,  
01:36 we're here to support you and welcome you to our community.  
01:41 So, with further ado, I'm going to let our two panelists  
01:44 take it from here and introduce themselves.  
01:48 - Great, good afternoon, everyone.  
01:51 Again, congratulations on getting accepted  
01:53 to Suffolk university, that's very exciting.  
01:57 My name is Ahria ilyas, I use she, her pronouns,  
02:00 and I'm currently a Law major  
02:02 with minors in Spanish and Math.  
02:05 And I am a diversity peer educator in this department  
02:08 and I'll pass it to Alex.  
02:11 - Hi everyone, my name is Alex.  
02:13 I also go by Op, Oppy, or Operetta.  
02:16 I use they, them pronouns,  
02:17 I'm a diversity peer educator on campus,  
02:19 and I also am a Psych major with a Sociology minor.  
02:24 - 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?

11:25 - Yeah, absolutely.  
11:27 - Yeah, so someone said, I came to the session  
11:30 just to gain some insight of diversity at this school,  
11:33 my involvement in high school  
11:35 is in the Black Culture Club, work.  
11:37 - Nice.  
11:40 - Well, you definitely, again,  
11:41 we'll talk about it now a little bit  
11:42 but there are definitely plenty of opportunities  
11:45 for you to get involved at Suffolk  
11:47 and plenty of opportunities to learn as well.  
11:50 So, yeah, Ahria, do you wanna take it over again?  
11:53 Sorry about that.  
11:54 - Never apologize, you're good.  
11:56 So, the first talking point was,  
11:59 talk about why you got involved with CSTI.  
12:02 So, I don't know if you wanna go first.  
12:05 - Alrighty, so, this is actually kind of a story  
12:08 'cause I wasn't expecting to get involved with CSTI.  
12:11 When I first got admitted to Suffolk,  
12:15 I lived in Florida, so I wasn't...  
12:17 I didn't really know about any  
12:19 of the admitted student events,  
12:20 neither, like, I couldn't really go to any of them, either.  
12:23 So, when I came, I was just, I...  
12:26 My first time coming to actual campus,  
12:28 I didn't even tour Suffolk,  
12:29 I just kind of like accepted it.  
12:31 And, my first time on campus was at orientation  
12:36 and in orientation, when you get there in the summer,  
12:42 whether it'd be via Zoom, or in person,  
12:45 whatever that may be, there's gonna be like  
12:50 these Ram rotations.  
12:53 And I went to the diversity one  
12:55 and I was just like, as my boss describes it,  
12:59 like a little kid in a candy store,  
13:01 I was like, "Oh my gosh, I wanna be here."  
13:03 And I did really wanna be there.  
13:04 So, I remember as soon as freshman year started,  
13:08 I found the office and I was like,  
13:09 "I want to be a work study here."  
13:12 And they hired me, and, since then, I've just kind of taken  
13:16 like a social justice path.  
13:17 Being in the Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion,  
13:20 that's kind of really guided my education as well  
13:24 and what I wanna do in Suffolk, and with my life, as well.  
13:29 And so, yeah, that's kind of just  
13:32 how I started getting involved.  
13:34 After my freshman year, I applied to be a diversity  
13:38 peer educator, which I'm sure is something  
13:39 that we'll touch on, in a little bit later.  
13:44 And I got accepted for my position  
13:45 and I've been one since my sophomore year,  
13:47 and I'm a senior now, so.

13:51 - Yeah, I actually didn't know the entire story.  
13:54 So, it's nice to hear it.  
13:55 (Arhia laughs)  
13:56 - Yeah, no, it was a really like by chance  
14:00 but really happy ending story.  
14:03 - Nice, no, I love that.  
14:07 My experience, like I said,  
14:09 in high school was very...  
14:11 Like, I was very, I found opportunities  
14:15 to do a lot of social justice work at an early age,  
14:18 even before high school.  
14:19 And I was sort of in a position as a student  
14:22 that I knew what path I wanted to go down,  
14:25 I wanted to be a civil rights lawyer,  
14:26 but I just didn't really have a lot of experience to back up  
14:29 like why I wanted...  
14:31 Like, what field I wanted to go into.  
14:32 So, I was trying to find different routes  
14:34 throughout my high school career  
14:36 to sort of figure out like,  
14:37 "Okay, let me find some experience  
14:39 before I go to college, so that I can use that information  
14:42 in college to support school somehow."  
14:45 So, I did a lot of social, I'm from Boston also, by the way,  
14:50 so, I did a of community organizing  
14:52 with March For Our Lives Boston,  
14:54 and different social justice orgs  
14:56 that are in the general Boston area  
14:59 just to learn a lot, and just get comfortable  
15:02 with using my voice to represent others  
15:04 who are consistently misrepresented.  
15:08 And, I came to Suffolk, number one,  
15:11 because they have a great Law Program,  
15:14 but also, because I sort of wanted to use the skills  
15:16 that I had learned in high school and learn a ton more  
15:19 'cause I a hundred percent accept  
15:21 that I don't know everything.  
15:22 And, I feel like Suffolk was a great opportunity  
15:25 to learn a lot more, but I wasn't really sure where to start  
15:28 because there are so many clubs here,  
15:29 and there are so many tracks that you can go down.  
15:33 So, my second semester of my first year here,  
15:37 I had a Social Justice class with Cameron Breither,  
15:41 who is one of the employees for CSTI staff.  
15:46 And, I used my voice a lot in that class.  
15:49 I had a lot of opinions on social justice  
15:53 in that sociology class,  
15:55 and they pulled me to the side and said,  
15:57 "We have this diversity peer educator position here,  
16:01 you should really apply, I'm telling you to apply."  
16:05 And I was like, "No, I'm really busy."  
16:10 And it took, I wanna say four times for me to apply.  
16:16 And I finally did, like, it took my friends  
16:18 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

19:05 because, transitioning from high school,  
19:07 I was so used to going to like, the AP,  
19:10 I had eight or nine periods a day in high school.  
19:13 And, it was weird having to,  
19:18 I have like a dorm that I would just go back to  
19:20 after one class for a couple hours  
19:22 and then walk to another building in a couple.  
19:24 So that was a little weird to transition to,  
19:26 and not being on like such a rigid schedule  
19:30 like high school can be a little jarring at first,  
19:32 but when you find your groove,  
19:34 and you find the places you wanna go  
19:36 with the different clubs you want to meet with,  
19:38 and the different organizations and stuff,  
19:40 you will start developing that schedule  
19:42 and your own kind of like...  
19:45 it's like its own better sense of freedom  
19:48 with your own time.  
19:50 And you really do feel like...  
19:52 You really do feel the amount of free time  
19:55 that you have, that you're able to fill with so much stuff.  
19:58 And Suffolk has so many things to offer.  
20:00 Like, there are so many different avenues you can go down,  
20:03 there's CSTI, and I'm sure there are a bunch  
20:06 of other panels that are gonna be happening  
20:12 for like, SLI, like, student involvement  
20:15 and clubs and stuff.  
20:16 So, like, or in other things  
20:19 like an orientation when they're talked,  
20:21 those are talked about too.  
20:22 It'll definitely be such a fun way for you to get involved.  
20:28 And then, my sophomore year, I went to a little bit more  
20:31 of a remote campus.  
20:32 I mean, a remote dorm.  
20:34 We don't have this dorm anymore,  
20:35 but it was 1047, on Commonwealth Avenue.  
20:38 And that was really nice  
20:39 because I got to take the train to campus  
20:41 and it kind of felt like I was a commuter,  
20:43 but I wasn't a commuter 'cause I was in the dorms.  
20:48 And we also got a little tea pass  
20:50 which was a little fun perk for living in that dorm.  
20:55 But, yeah, and so then, kind of as time went on,  
20:58 just making time on campus did get limited  
21:00 just because of the pandemic.  
21:02 But, again, when you're on campus  
21:04 and you're at Suffolk, it's literally  
21:07 such a fun experience to be there,  
21:09 and you're in Downtown Boston, there's so much around you,  
21:12 there's so much history around you.  
21:14 Like, you're next to Beacon Hill,  
21:18 which has somewhat like so many pretty streets.  
21:20 And, there's some of these sites  
21:22 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.

31:41 So, that's where I kind of figure  
31:43 where a lot of my social justice knowledge comes from.  
31:47 And so, using that, when I got to college,  
31:50 I knew that I wanted to major in Psychology  
31:53 'cause I knew that mental health was something  
31:55 that I cared about a lot.  
31:56 But then, starting to break down, what are the causes  
32:02 in a more transformative justice kind of lens  
32:06 of like, how can we fix that?  
32:09 Or, not fix that, how can we look at the conditions  
32:14 of society and see what we need to do better.  
32:20 And so, that's kind of the framework  
32:22 that college gave me for my major,  
32:25 which is why I ended up minoring in Sociology,  
32:27 'cause I feel like that gave me a better frame of mind  
32:30 for what I wanted to do with my major.  
32:35 But again, and then being a DPE,  
32:37 I didn't really come in with a lot of experience,  
32:40 I just came in with the knowledge that I had  
32:42 and what I was gaining through the office at the time,  
32:44 and through how I was gaining my social justice knowledge  
32:49 as always.  
32:53 But yeah, so, kind of transitioning into college,  
32:57 I definitely got a lot more involved and specifically  
33:00 through being a DPE.  
33:02 I've done lots of different workshops with different clubs.  
33:05 I've managed to give presentations, like SGA,  
33:10 about certain topics.  
33:13 I've worked with, like I've said,  
33:14 Dean Coyne and (indistinct), and on certain projects  
33:18 and again, the Social justice summit.  
33:21 So yeah, definitely lots of cool opportunities  
33:24 to get involved with CSTI.  
33:26 And you don't even have to be a DPE to get super involved.  
33:31 There were tons of opportunities  
33:33 for students and our work studies,  
33:35 which is also another opportunity  
33:36 that you may be able to get.  
33:40 So, yeah, definitely keep an eye out for the opportunities.  
33:43 Also, I see a Q and A question.  
33:46 How strong is the LGBTQ community on campus?  
33:50 Also, is it difficult to arrange  
33:52 slash request inclusive housing?  
34:00 It says to type the answer.  
34:01 Should I just like say the answer?  
34:04 - Yeah, you can just answer. - Okay.  
34:06 - You don't have to type it.  
34:07 (Ellie laughs)  
34:09 - Yeah, sorry, I was like, there's this option,  
34:11 anyway, so I would say that I haven't personally  
34:17 requested of inclusive housing when I was at Suffolk  
34:20 but I know lots of people who have,  
34:22 and they didn't really seem to have an issue.  
34:24 It was remedied very quickly.

34:29 Like, the housing requests that the students had,  
34:32 whether it'd be like issues with a roommate,  
34:35 or feeling unsafe, or not feeling comfortable  
34:39 with where someone was placed,  
34:40 or where you were placed, anything like that.  
34:43 And if you have any sort of identity  
34:44 that you may feel is not being aligned  
34:53 within your housing, that can also definitely be remedied,  
34:58 just talk to your RA or your RT, and then,  
35:01 or you could come to CSTI.  
35:03 I know Cam has also helped students in the past,  
35:07 arrange of housing requests and stuff.  
35:09 So, I would definitely say  
35:11 that you are in good hands at Suffolk  
35:14 when it comes to housing.  
35:14 And the LGBTQ plus community is,  
35:17 I would say, it's strong, but it's small.  
35:20 There are a lot of...  
35:22 There aren't many people who get involved  
35:26 specifically with Queer Student Union.  
35:29 Although, there has been a lot more involvement,  
35:31 in more recent years.  
35:32 So, there's definitely ways to meet other queer people.  
35:37 And specifically in the office, and through CSTI events,  
35:42 it's like, we host a lot of events geared,  
35:46 and for queer people, as well.  
35:48 So, those are also great opportunities for us,  
35:51 for anyone to meet people,  
35:54 and get some friends and stuff.  
35:58 But, yeah, the only reason I say that it's small  
36:02 it's just because there aren't a lot,  
36:04 too, too many people who are super interactive  
36:06 who are queer, but there are lots of queer people  
36:08 at Suffolk.  
36:10 But yeah, just like a little bit of like a hidden community  
36:14 but they're all, like, everyone's definitely there,  
36:17 everyone's definitely there.  
36:23 - I guess, so, yeah,  
36:25 I guess to answer that question too.  
36:27 I just decided to just do random housing  
36:31 and I ended up in a nine-person suite,  
36:35 so we all shared a bathroom and such,  
36:37 but that also brought a lot of div,  
36:40 somehow, it was just coincidence  
36:41 that there was just a lot of diversity  
36:43 and voice perspective, and everything like that.  
36:46 So, I got extremely lucky and was able to learn a lot  
36:49 from my other roommates that I had.  
36:52 And, we were able to, I don't know, it was great for me  
36:56 but like, Oppy said, if there are circumstances  
36:59 where things do pop up that could potentially  
37:03 be discriminatory or anything like that,  
37:05 there are definitely resources here to support you  
37:08 in any choice that you decide to make

37:10 in terms of housing and where you live,  
37:11 because, where you live is like,  
37:14 it's supposed to be a safe space for you.  
37:16 So, we definitely wanna make sure at Suffolk  
37:20 that you're protected in your safe space.  
37:24 And then, to answer the other question,  
37:26 I feel like I already answered it too,  
37:29 but I did have a good amount of experience  
37:31 in terms of social justice work.  
37:33 But I also, again, still learn a lot in college  
37:37 and I feel like the one thing that I sort of lacked  
37:41 was, like, I said earlier, the confidence.  
37:44 So, doing a lot of the work in CSTI  
37:46 of looking at previous presentations that we've done,  
37:49 or just doing my own research on topics  
37:52 that I'm not a hundred percent familiar with  
37:54 always is very helpful when doing DPE work,  
37:58 and always just like asking questions  
38:00 and having those difficult conversations  
38:01 'cause sometimes if you don't wanna offend anyone  
38:05 or come off as a certain way, or like ignorant,  
38:08 but at the same time, in order to be the best ally  
38:11 for several communities, you do need to have  
38:13 those uncomfortable conversations.  
38:15 And sometimes you do need to be called out,  
38:18 if your opinions derive in ignorance,  
38:20 or are just not a hundred percent factual.  
38:24 So, yeah, so, I think that, I don't know, high school,  
38:29 I was sort of informed on a certain type  
38:32 of social justice work, but definitely  
38:35 within this DPE position and transitioning into college,  
38:38 I was able to understand more of the intersectionality  
38:42 and how different social justice topics interact  
38:45 with others and they impact other topics as well.  
38:49 So, yeah.  
38:52 And that was also a really good question.  
38:54 So, thank you for asking.  
38:57 So yeah, that's pretty much all the questions  
38:58 that we have for the panel.  
39:02 I just wanna personally say thank you so much  
39:04 for showing up and again, congratulations  
39:06 for going to Suffolk.  
39:08 I know you all are gonna do amazing  
39:10 wherever you decide to go,  
39:12 what other path you decide to go down.  
39:13 So, I just want to personally say thank you for tuning in.  
39:17 - And I wanna say thank you so much  
39:19 for having me, as well,  
39:21 and I hope that even though I'm graduating this semester,  
39:24 and I won't be able to see all of y'all,  
39:27 I'm sure I'm gonna hear some great stories from Ahria  
39:30 about how great y'all are when you get to Suffolk,  
39:33 or if you choose to come to Suffolk.  
39:36 But yeah, I definitely once again,

39:38 just to drive it home, Suffolk is a really fun place,  
39:42 and I have been able to feel at home.  
39:44 So, I hope that y'all will be able to, as well.  
39:49 - Awesome, well, I personally would like  
39:51 to thank both Aria and Alex  
39:53 for presenting today and sharing your experiences  
39:57 not only just in high school,  
39:59 but also what you've been able to do  
40:01 and accomplish at Suffolk.  
40:03 It's just really exciting to hear your stories,  
40:05 and know that you've been able to get so involved as well,  
40:09 during your time at the university.  
40:11 And then, I would also like to thank  
40:13 all of our students that are tuning in today,  
40:16 and congrats again on your acceptance.  
40:19 We really hope that you consider  
40:22 joining the Suffolk community,  
40:23 and joining our, what we call, Ramaley,  
40:27 which is basically our Ram family here at Suffolk.  
40:30 And if you have not yet had the opportunity  
40:33 to join the admitted Facebook community,  
40:36 I'm going to really encourage you to do so  
40:40 because it's a great way to know other students  
40:42 that have been accepted to Suffolk  
40:44 and start building that community now,  
40:46 before you come to orientation over the summer.  
40:49 And should you have any other questions  
40:51 from today's session or just about anything moving forward  
40:56 as you're making your college decision,  
40:58 I'm going to put in the chat,  
41:00 the information for the admissions office  
41:02 as well as the link to the admitted Facebook group.  
41:05 So, please let us know how we can  
41:07 or what we can do to support you.  
41:09 And once again, congratulations on your acceptance.  
41:12 And, thank you for tuning in today.  
41:18 Have a great day, everyone.