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Cartoon Presenting URI's Digital Commons Cultural Collections for Community, Equity & Diversity To The Equity Council

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Establishing the URI's Digital Commons Cultural Collections for Community, Equity & Diversity

By Joseph A Santiago

Objective: To inform the Equity Council about URI'S Digital Commons as a Unifying force for the community that can centralize information across our community so that all individuals can come together as stakeholders to promote cross-campus interactions and inform each other directly. To ask for participation in the project and to settle on the name for the Digital Commons Cultural Collections that honors all parties involved.

At the University thousands of people pass through different areas of the campus and/or attend many different events that may not put them in relation to others who share alternative perspective. Every day there are countless programs from the cultural centers that may use language or share perspectives that individuals have never been exposed to. What do many people tend to do when they seek information today? They use their smart phones and their computers to seek out information from the source directly. They may find a site that will inform them on the topic they are seeking, but it may not be the one that directs them back to the information in our community. No websites on campus except for the Digital Commons can a person get what they are searching for in the URI community from a regular search engine, and also have the ability to discover their key words in relation to all of the works that are being done on campus once they have been submitted to the Commons.

The information that is uploaded to these Collections will instantly have the ability to be passed on and students coming in as freshman do not have to learn a new system to access it. All the docs we put up there will be search engine optimized. Which basically means that outside of the campus as well as on Campus, search engines like Google, Bing, and all others can point students, alumni, and community members to what we are doing. Utilizing the digital commons informs people and directs them back to the University to work with the information in a collegial atmosphere and allows them to recognize the partnership that people in the URI community have invested in these important issues. It supports open access and we can see how many people download and cite the information. This data can encourage people to work with the URI community and share up to date information on the issues that matter to them. While people work towards their goals and the causes that matter to them they will be part of the historical record of the times and can look back to see their place in URI's history.

Since the information for the community reaches students through the Collections so easily it can encourage them to work with current issues in their classes as well as their groups. This also changes the idea of a four to five year memory within the student body, because new people can discover and work with the information readily. As students seek to discover who they are and what they want by their experiences and questions here at the University, I hope this Collection will help them to see themselves as more connected within the URI community. Using the Digital Commons as a unifying force for the

community will give us all a centralized place to come together and discover the common elements in all our works so we may work together or simply not have to reinvent the wheel. Utilizing the Digital Commons Cultural Collections in this way allows us to present our community and our works as an active cultural resource.

This is where the commons presently is located <http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/cedc/>

To get involved please contact me.

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