



# SIUE Celebrates International Graduates

by Kalli Collins  
April 26 2023 10:48 AM



**EDWARDSVILLE** – On Friday, April 21, The Office of International Affairs held its Spring and Summer 2023 International Graduation Celebration. Numerous students were honored for their graduation achievement by receiving an international stole and a photograph. A delicious meal, beverages and cupcakes were also provided.

The number of international students at SIUE has shown consistent growth each year, and this was the biggest international graduation celebration SIUE has ever seen. Many friends, family members, instructors and staff were present to celebrate the international graduates.

“The event was so meaningful and motivating to students,” said Mary Weishaar, Ph.D., executive director of the Office of International Affairs. “The number of students attending was very impressive.”

The celebration also included encouraging and uplifting words from Timanye Watson, international student program advisor, Min Liu, PhD, MPH, professor of applied communication studies, Rahmat Salau, student speaker, and Nick Niemerg, assistant director of constituent relations.

The event was largely organized and planned by one of SIUE's international students and graduate assistant from the Office of International Affairs, Emanuel Chon Sin.

“Emanuel's leadership on this project was inspiring, and I was honored to work with him on creating such a memorable event,” stated Watson.

[Southern Illinois University Edwardsville](#) provides students with a high-quality education that powerfully transforms the lives of all individuals who seek something greater. A premier metropolitan university, SIUE is creating social and economic mobility for individuals while also powering the workforce of the future. Built on the foundation of a broad-based liberal education, and enhanced by hands-on research and real-world experiences, the academic preparation SIUE students receive equips them to thrive in the global marketplace and make our communities better places to live. Situated on 2,660 acres of beautiful woodland atop the bluffs overlooking the natural beauty of the Mississippi River's rich bottomland and only a short drive from downtown St. Louis, the SIUE campus is home to a diverse student body of more than 12,500.