Dr. Joseph Croskey (RULE XVI) Named Inaugural Executive Director, Frederick Douglass Institutes

JD Dunbar-Program Director/Senior Educator (Author)
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PA Rural-Urban Leadership Program (RULE)
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Joseph Croskey was always the Leadership Scholar who ensured that everyone else was served. Whether it was our scheduled meals, a place in line, or inclusion of others during community exploration time, it was a guarantee that Joseph would not be the drum major, he was the rearmost, a shepherd.

"But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first." Matthew 19:30

Prior to employment as Clarion University Advising Center Director (a position he still holds), Joseph’s high calling to provide for others spanned his devotion to the military. He attended the United States Military Academy and then served six years as Infantry Officer in the US Army. He completed Ranger School and served with the Patriot Missile Unit in Desert Storm. This cumulative military and higher education leadership positioned Joseph to a debut keystone diversity position.

The Frederick Douglass Institutes, which exist across the 14 universities in Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education as part of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, are charged with creating inclusive university communities and fostering transformative connections among historically underrepresented students and faculty, as well as other communities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and beyond.

"We are so fortunate to have Dr. Croskey serving in this inaugural role and as a key member of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion’s leadership team. He brings such a broad and deep knowledge base that will benefit the State System and its universities in so many ways. The Frederick Douglass Institute will only get stronger under his creative leadership, and I am so excited to watch him anchor it as a strategic vehicle for elevating diversity, equity, and inclusion across the State System. Great addition to the Office of the Chancellor," said Dr. Denise Pearson, Vice Chancellor and Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer for the State System.

He was working on his dissertation on mindfulness during RULE and earned his doctorate in 2016. Joseph has been a RULE Diversity Speaker along with his wife, Kathy Ellwood, on “Ubuntu: Explore Perception As Reality,” and “Mindfulness & Self Care.” As the first named to a legacy flagship role for the State System, history will line up behind the first Frederick Douglass Executive Director.

Bravo Zulu, Joseph. Hooah!