[00:00:03 Announcer](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[The Missouri State Journal, a weekly program keeping you in touch with Missouri State University.](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[00:00:10 Emily Yeap](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[Themed “Inclusive Engagement: Uplifting the Power of Community,” Missouri State University’s 2024](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3) [[Collaborative Diversity Conference](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)](https://www.missouristate.edu/InclusiveEngagement/Conference/default.htm) [will take place from April 25-26. For the second year in a row, the conference will be held off campus at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Springfield. It’s open to the public. I’m Emily Yeap.

Joining me today to talk about the upcoming event is](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3) [[Dr. Algerian Hart](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)](https://search.missouristate.edu/people/ahart)[, assistant to the president for](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3) [[inclusive engagement](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)](https://www.missouristate.edu/InclusiveEngagement/default.htm) [at MSU.](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[00:00:39 Algerian Hart](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[For the 2024 Collaborative Diversity Conference theme, it’s significant to the thought life of why we moved it off campus a year ago, because there was so much needed community engagement and a desire from the community that wanted to be involved, along with us identifying the level of engagement of those on campus.](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[And so, what we have in store is kind of that part 2, where we have presentations from individuals outside of the state. We have some heavy hitters. One is Irshad Manji, who is going to be our keynote for lunch, as well as she's going to have an intimate professional development workshop, which is tremendous.](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[We also once again will have our 2nd annual gala, which is a great opportunity to celebrate community. We give out some awards for some of the stalwarts in our community that ultimately do much of this work in terms of access, assistance, uplifting the Ozarks as a whole. Our keynote speaker for the gala is President Smart, so we're very excited about that.](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[00:01:45 Emily Yeap](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[Hart elaborates more about Irshad Manji, the lunch keynote speaker at the event.](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[00:01:50 Algerian Hart](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[So Irshad is known as just a tremendous and brilliant individual in terms of the space of empowering others is what I like to call it. She has a program that is called Moral Courage, and the foundation of Moral Courage is about the opportunity to cultivate not just access, but sometimes to ask those tough questions, whether you're somebody who is in higher education, you're a business person or even somebody who is more in the faith-based industry.](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[Whatever it is that you are trying to do, the Moral Courage compass, I believe that's a term that Irshad uses, is really a powerful tool to bring folks together and identify best practices. She really focuses on the humanity and how you can make communities better by making sure that people are included.](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[00:02:42 Emily Yeap](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[Hart expands on this year's conference theme.](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[00:02:45 Algerian Hart](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[I’ll read a statement here. It says “Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.” And that's Chief Seattle in 1854.

And we found that to be appropriate in terms of our thought life is about community. And so why we chose this particular theme is because we needed to have just a little bit of a spark in terms of OK, here's the encourager … last year we talked about just community, community and campus as well. This year, we probably have a few more academics who are going to be presenting. We have a few more individuals who come from collective independent workspaces here locally, as well as we are bringing in individuals from other universities who haven't been a part of the Diversity Conference before.](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[So, this is bringing a great deal of talent to our city, uplifting the talent in our city, but also exposing both entities to one another. And we believe that Springfield is such a tremendous player in the space, not only just higher education, but what goes on in the greater space of the Ozarks.](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[And so, ultimately what we wanted to do with this theme is have something that really shines a light on who we are, what we aspire to be, but also that the door’s open to invite conversation about what other folks are doing in their towns and their cities and their states that ultimately maybe we could borrow a few things that kind of uplift us a little bit. And then in turn, share some of the things that we feel we do really well.](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[00:04:23 Emily Yeap](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[In terms of sessions, the conference offers a menu of options. Topics range from mental health care for those who have experienced trauma to violence prevention education to early career mentorship programs.](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[00:04:35 Algerian Hart](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[Just like being at the restaurant, you can choose something that maybe you like, is kind of in your wheelhouse or maybe you would like to try something a little bit different, but ultimately the walk away is that you will have something that will meet your interest and then there will be some other things for you to maybe enhance your thought life a little bit, but all of it is specific to uplifting our community.](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[00:04:59 Emily Yeap](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[[Online registration](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)](https://www.missouristate.edu/InclusiveEngagement/Conference/registration.htm) [is mandatory and ticket prices vary. Visit missouristate.edu/InclusiveEngagement/Conference for more details. I'm Emily Yeap for the Missouri State Journal.](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[00:05:13 Announcer](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3)

[For more information, contact the Office of Strategic Communication at 417-836-6397. The Missouri State Journal is available online at ksmu.org](https://livemissouristate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/er73s_login_missouristate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/mo-state-journal-april-16-2024.mp3).