

Interfaith Center hosts ‘Uplift & Unify’

By Victoria Cruz
News Writer

On Feb. 4, the Interfaith Center hosted an event as part of Black History Month: Uplift & Unify: Affirming Black Joy.

The event invited students to write messages and create art from affirmation and solidarity within the community. This allowed all students to learn, reflect and create together.

“I see these events all the time, and they bring new people in. It is cool to hear about these events and learn about why they matter,” sport management major Christian Ramirez, a freshman, said.

The event highlighted a shared practice of affirmation that has roots in Black history.

Participants used Afro-centric materials to create messages celebrating Black identity, resilience and joy.

The Interfaith Center has been managed within the same domain of the Multicultural and SAGE Centers.

Each center is now taking steps to diversify its individual offerings and better cater its opportunities to meet the needs of students at the university.

The Interfaith Center now looks to host its own events and work more independently from the other centers.

While cross-sectional programming and management will remain, we can expect to see more events in the future.

“We are still trying to figure out what the space should be for our

campus. We are trying to find our own identity as a space,” Jay Henderson, the director for the Center for Intercultural Engagement, said.

Previous programming in the space was run by the individual faith groups on campus.

Moving forward, the Interfaith Center plans to host its own events and develop programming that reflects a broader range of student interest.

“Interfaith has worked to find itself as an independent center in partnership with our faith groups. We want to hear from students and the rest of campus about what they would like from the center,” Henderson said.

Henderson emphasized that student feedback will play a key role in shaping future programming.

By listening to student voices, the Interfaith Center hopes to become a place not only for religious expression but for dialogue and community building.

The center aims to serve as a hub where students can feel comfortable exploring their identities, sharing perspectives and forming meaningful connections.

Events like these reflect their new mission by encouraging participation from all students regardless of background.

For many students, the center already functions as a third space for all students to come together.

“I come here to see my friends, and we come here to chill and talk about religion. All religions are welcome in this space. It’s a good space

for new people to come in,” business administration major Joel Brown, a junior, said.

As the Interfaith Center continues to evolve, its leadership hopes to foster an inclusive environment that supports student engagement while celebrating diversity.

Through future events and expanded programming, the center plans to strengthen its role as a welcoming space for reflection, collaboration and unity on campus.



PHOTOS | LILY RAND

The entrance to the Interfaith Center on the second floor of the Adanti Student Center on Feb. 4.



A variety of notes that students used to write positive notes at Uplift and Unify: Affirming Black Joy.



Key chains that have words of affirmation that students could take.



Decorations that highlighted Black History Month.

Graduating seniors debate post-graduation decisions

By Victoria Cruz
News Writer

As graduation approaches, many seniors at the university weigh an important decision: whether to continue their education into graduate school or enter the workforce immediately.

The choice often comes down to finance, career goals and personal motivation.

“If you need to do it for your career, then you should. But if you don’t need to, then you should just get straight to working because if you’re in debt, then that’s only going to make it worse,” communication major Ethan Hughes, a senior, said.

Many students may feel pressure to continue their education before really understanding their career paths and personal desires.

“I feel like they just do it cause like they don’t even know what they’re doing yet; it’s got to be necessary for your career because it’s just more debt and more school,” Hughes said.

Other students believe graduate school offers long-term benefits despite the additional time and financial commitment.

“It’s going to get me a better occupation. Having a master’s gets you into more opportunities and possibilities instead of having it be more limited with just the bachelor’s,” biology major Craig Huydic, a senior, said.

For students like Huydic, the decision has been influenced by advice and experience from those who have



PHOTO | LILY RAND

Biology major Craig Huydic, a senior, in front of Engleman Hall.



PHOTO | SCSU WEBSITE

The university’s School of Graduate and Professional Studies logo.

already entered the workforce.

“I’ve heard a lot of things from people who have said that they were

going to come back to college, and a lot of them always say that once you get out, it’s hard to get back in, and it’s better

to just get it over with and to do it right after,” Huydic said.

Ultimately, the decision for most students

comes back to prospective job opportunities.

Many students begin to fear that a master’s degree is becoming

increasingly necessary. A bachelor’s may end up being insufficient in receiving a high-paying job.

Communication major Nelson Roman, a senior, said she is considering enrolling into graduate programs in order to separate herself from other applicants in the workforce.

“It isn’t necessary, but the wages aren’t as high as you may need with only a bachelor’s,” Roman said. “People who don’t have a master’s and apply for jobs in Connecticut, it becomes a lot more competitive. It is a fast track to higher-paying jobs.”

The decision for students is deeply personal, but with many opting to join master’s programs, it has more students questioning whether it is the right decision for them.

Graduate school is not for everyone and depends largely on the individual.

“College is a prospect. It’s all about how you view it. If you want to progress in your educational career, go for it. But if you’re hesitant, don’t do it. Otherwise, I don’t think it’s going to be worth it,” Huydic said.

Students continue to navigate these decisions while balancing financial realities with long-term educational and career goals.

Some prioritize entering the workforce to avoid accumulating debt; others see it as a path to higher salaries and opportunities.

Seniors agree that the choice is up to the individual and should be guided through aspirations and commitment.