

Podcast Title: The Power of Good Humanity

Host: Chris Harrison

Guest: Julia Livingston, DEI Manager, Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism

Show Description: In this episode of *The Main Points Podcast*, host Chris sits down with Julia Livingston, a Decatur native and DEI Manager for the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism. They discuss Julia's background, her experiences in higher education, and her journey back to Decatur after nine years away. Julia shares insights into the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and the work being done both locally and statewide to foster a more inclusive community.

Tune in for an engaging conversation about community, service, and the impact of DEI initiatives in Decatur and beyond.

#DiversityInCommunity #EquityAndInclusion #DecaturLeaders

Topics Covered:

- Julia's background growing up in Decatur and her return to the community
- The role of service and community involvement in shaping Decatur's culture
- Her career in higher education and transition into DEI work
- The impact of DEI initiatives locally and across Illinois
- Why Decatur has a unique sense of community compared to other cities

Key Takeaways from The Main Points Podcast with Julia Livingston

1. The Importance of Community Service

- Service is a core value that strengthens communities.
- Decatur has a unique culture where people come together to fill the needs of others.
- Acts of service create a ripple effect, inspiring others to contribute positively.

2. Seeing People as Individuals with Value

- Everyone has a unique perspective shaped by their experiences.
- Recognizing and valuing diverse backgrounds leads to stronger communities.

- Listening to others fosters understanding and respect.

3. The Role of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

- DEI efforts are essential in ensuring fairness and opportunities for all.
- Creating inclusive spaces benefits both individuals and organizations.
- Acknowledging different lived experiences allows for meaningful connections.

4. The Transformative Power of Education

- Education broadens perspectives and challenges preconceived notions.
- Exposure to diverse people and ideas fosters empathy and understanding.
- Higher education is a platform for self-discovery and personal growth.

5. Returning to One's Roots with Purpose

- Coming back to Decatur was a deliberate choice to give back to the community.
- There is value in reinvesting in one's hometown.
- Strong communities are built by those who choose to stay and contribute.

6. Building Bridges Through Conversations

- Open discussions about diversity and inclusion help break barriers.
- Creating safe spaces for dialogue fosters mutual respect.
- Understanding others' stories leads to a more compassionate society.
- Give yourself and others grace in conversations. Saying the hard things is not mean, being mean is mean.

Resources & Links:

- Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism: www.2civility.org
- Richland Community College: www.richland.edu
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign: www.illinois.edu
- Southern Illinois University Carbondale: www.siu.edu
- Florida State University: www.fsu.edu

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