About the Author: The author is Chris Lalla who is a resident of a southwest suburb in Chicago, IL. He went to a high school that had a very high majority of White-Caucasian students. He is a freshman studying actuarial science at the UIUC. This research tested his patience, motivation, and hard working characteristics. However, in the end the key characteristics just mentioned were crucial in interviewing and researching a great amount of people and sources, respectively. He hopes that you have the opportunity to examine this research, especially near the end of the paper where the conversation of diversity and globalization can be continued.

Keywords: Minority students, underrepresented students, globalization, diversity, race, multi-cultural

Abstract: In this research, I seek to examine the ways in which the UIUC recruits and retains underrepresented students. Specifically, this research analyzes how the UIUC admissions office provides information and knowledge to all students, specifically underrepresented students that may not have easy access to information about the activities and opportunities that the UIUC offers. Beyond the recruitment aspect of underrepresented students, it is important to retain these students according to numerous UIUC officials in a series of interviews. This research will examine how the UIUC maintains the numerous of opportunities it offers. It will also help to answer questions on why it is important to 'reach out' to all students, especially underrepresented students throughout the state, nation, and world. The UIUC values diversity greatly, but why is it so important to recruit and most of all retain students? How do underrepresented students benefit the entire UIUC campus? The final aspect of this research will build a foundation for why the former two aspects are important to maintaining a diverse campus, and most of all why is it important to have a diverse campus. The idea of globalization is valued greatly at the UIUC, and this research will culminate by examining why diversity is important at the UIUC and beyond it.

Initial Exercises:

Question: How does the UIUC recruit and retain underrepresented students in ways that will benefit their success, social skills, and cultural traditions on campus, along with the ways that all students benefit from interacting


with these students on campus? What types of ways does the UIUC recruit its students to provide information to them when they are prospective students? When these students arrive on campus, what types of organizations and opportunities are offered to help make them feel comfortable with a chance to succeed and how are cultural traditions continued on campus? Why is having a diverse student body throughout one’s academic career at the UIUC important for the future and/or professional world?

**Plan:**
I first off explored the UIUC IDEALS website for topics about diversity, as it is a pertinent issue at the UIUC. I then decided that it would be best to start an abstract that would help frame my guiding questions. This abstract I planned to update and change, as I became more familiar about the topic. I wanted to interview at least 3 people that would contribute to the overall credibility of my research. Soon after after, I realized that I could interview 3 UIUC public officials.

**Data:**
See attachment for the final research paper. This was attached due to some pictures that may be interesting in the future! Note though one must click on the page near the pictures at the end for the picture to appear. This may be because the document takes awhile to load due to its’ size.

**Discuss:**

**EUI Links:**
http://www.ideals.uiuc.edu/handle/2142/3590
http://www.ideals.uiuc.edu/handle/2142/1890
http://www.ideals.uiuc.edu/handle/2142/1893

These 3 links helped me gather the guiding questions I wanted to find out about and start the process of interviewing and research. This lead me on to finding out exactly how I wanted to make certain links between aspects at the UIUC and end the paper in a way that another student can follow up and research that topic.

**Reflect:**

**Recommendations:** I urge the UIUC to continue striving for a more diverse campus. However, I do encourage them to maintain a qualified student body, while continuing the types of programs offered on campus for all students. It is important that the UIUC realizes it is important to reach out to all students; however, the professional world is still dominated by white, Caucasian males. Though in the future the diversity within it will increase, the UIUC is focusing its diversity initiative too greatly on the idea of globalization. This is great for the future, but continuing the cultural programming, events, and other groups that students can join to find their niche should be the priority right now. Most of all, the UIUC should consider encouraging and helping more students realize the importance of interacting with each other and students of other cultures!
There are too many students that still interact with either their high school friends, most who are from the same background. Overall the UIUC is heading in the right direction and preparing for the future, but this campus needs to be more diverse beyond the statistics so that all students interact with each other and expand beyond their comfort zone to become open minded!