Dear Bobcat community,

2020 has been like no other. I thank you for demonstrating the best of what we can be when we come together as a community. I am so proud of all that we have accomplished together and share these pages that encapsulate some of that so you can share that pride too.

This edition of the Bobcat Brief highlights some of our recent past and future work as well as that of our partners. We encourage you to visit our web page as well as that of the groups and events that we mention. To stay up to date with the most timely equity, diversity, and inclusion information, programs, and events at UC Merced, please follow us on Twitter @UCMDiversity! If you have upcoming programs or events you would like to share, please email them to diversity@ucmerced.edu to include them in the next brief.

I wish you much rest as we near the end of the year, because you deserve it!

With you,

Pronouns: she/her/hers
AT UC MERCED WE STEADFASTLY UPHOLD THE CONCEPTS EXPRESSED IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DIVERSITY STATEMENT INCLUDING, “THE VARIETY OF PERSONAL EXPERIENCES, VALUES, AND WORLDVIEWS THAT ARISE FROM DIFFERENCES OF CULTURE AND CIRCUMSTANCE. SUCH DIFFERENCES INCLUDE RACE, ETHNICITY, GENDER, AGE, RELIGION, LANGUAGE, ABILITIES/DISABILITIES, NEURODIVERSITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS, GEOGRAPHIC REGION, AND MORE.”

WE AFFIRM THAT A DIVERSE CAMPUS FURTHERS OUR MISSION TO CREATE, INTERPRET, AND DISSEMINATE KNOWLEDGE AND VALUES. THE MANIFOLD DIVERSITY OF OUR COMMUNITY ENCOURAGES EACH OF US TO REFLECT ON INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL ORTHODOXIES, AND THUS STIMULATES THE CREATIVITY AT THE HEART OF OUR ACADEMIC MISSION AS A RESEARCH UNIVERSITY. WE TAKE PRIDE IN SERVING A LARGE POPULATION OF FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS, INCLUDING THE BROAD REPRESENTATION OF BACKGROUND ON OUR CAMPUS AS A HISPANIC (HSI), MINORITY (MSI) AND ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER (AANAPISI) SERVING INSTITUTION. AS A COMMON GOAL, WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE ALL MEMBERS OF OUR ACADEMIC COMMUNITY REFLECT THE MULTIPLECTY OF IDENTITIES IN OUR REGION.

OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY WILL FOSTER OUR ABILITY TO THRIVE IN A COMPLEX WORLD.

APPROVED MARCH 15, 2019, BY THE CHANCELLOR’S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CAMPUS CLIMATE, CULTURE AND INCLUSION (CCCI) AT UC MERCED.
This past summer, we began the development of the Valuing Black Lives Task Force to address anti-Blackness violence and ongoing needs in our community. On November 20, 2020, we sent out a campus-wide update to inform our campus community on the progress of our work.

The Valuing Black Lives Task Force is sponsored by Chancellor Muñoz and Executive Vice Chancellor/Provost Camfield with administrative co-leads: Associate Chancellor and Chief Diversity Officer Dania Matos, J.D., Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students Jonathan Grady, Ph.D., and Academic Senate Liaison Robin DeLugan, Ph.D. The Task Force is made up of five subcommittees:

- Student support
- Community engagement
- Policing and anti-Black violence
- Staff and faculty recruitment and retention
- Research, scholarship and funding opportunities

All five subcommittees will present their final goals and recommendations to Chancellor Muñoz and Provost Camfield in mid-December. Each subcommittee will provide short-, mid-, and long-term goals, outline which goals they believe should be prioritized, as well as the budgetary needs to meet these goals.

**MORE INFORMATION**

- Valuing Black Lives task Force Webpage
- Response to "We Charge Anti-Blackness" Petition
- Pan- African Council Meeting Initiatives Responses
- Valuing Black Lives - Petition Responses Executive Summary
- Student MOU
- We charge Anti-Blackness: Petition to Value Black Lives at UC Merced

The Dean of Students Office, in collaboration with the Office of the Chancellor, is proud to announce the awardees of the "UC Merced research Fellowship" who will present their projects on advancing racial justice and black liberation at UC Merced during the Spring 2021 Virtual Black Excellence research Symposium on May 7th, 2021.
**ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES**

- Anti-Racism Resources compiled by Sarah Sophie Flicker, Alyssa Klein in May 2020
- Being Anti-Racist by the National Museum of African American History & Culture
- Being Anti-Racist-Racial Healing Handout
- How to Be An Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi
- Recognizing Race in Language: Why We Capitalize "Black" and "White" by Ann Thúy Nguyen and Maya Pendleton
- Resources to Educate Yourself on Anti-Blackness
- 15 Way to Strengthen Anti-Racist Practice by the Catalyst Project
- Scaffolding Anti-Racism Resources curated by Anna Stamborski, Nikki Zimmermann, & Bailie Gregory
- Stop Killing Black People: An Anti-Racist Reading List from the English faculty at UC Merced

**HOW TO BE AN ALLY RESOURCES**

- A Guide to How You Can Support Marginalized Communities curated by CNN
- White Allyship 101 by Dismantle Collective
- For Our White Friends Desiring to Be Allies by Courtney Ariel
- 5 Steps Latinx Individuals Can Take to Combat Anti-Blackness curated by Remezcla

**IMPLICIT BIAS RESOURCES**

- Understanding Human Bias by the National Museum of African American History & Culture
- Videos and Learning modules from UC Los Angeles
- Project Implicit

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**If you have updates on your valuing black lives initiatives, complete them here**

Project Implicit is a non-profit organization and international collaboration between researchers who are interested in implicit social cognition - thoughts, and feelings outside of conscious awareness and control. The goal of the organization is to educate the public about hidden biases and to provide a “virtual laboratory” for collecting data on the Internet.

**People Killed By Police By Race: 2015 To Present**

**Russ McBride**, Assistant Professor Department of the Management of Complex Systems has created an Interactive map of police killings per capita. This interactive map shows the blacks, hispanics, and whites killed at the hands of police officers in the United States.
The newly formed affinity group, UC Merced Black Alliance (UCMBA), participated for continued collaboration of the Valuing BlackLives Task force to address anti-Blackness violence and ongoing needs in our community.

For more information, please contact UCMBA’s Chair, Dr. Maria Martin at MMARTIN360@UCMERCED.EDU

The Staff and Faculty of Color Association at UC Merced (SFCA) provides opportunities for members to develop a sense of community and strengthen their professional and social networks. Memberships are prioritized to staff (excluding student staff members) and faculty members who identify as People of Color (people from historically marginalized backgrounds). The goal of the group is to empower staff and faculty to engage in conversation about campus climate issues and to foster professional development.
The charge of the Language Accessibility Committee members is to:

- Create an inclusive environment where staff members can develop their cultural competencies when engaging parents, students, and community members when representing the university.

- Identify experts each year such as faculty, staff, and community members that will review, and assess (terminology) oral fluency suitable for university programs. The dominant 2nd languages spoken on campus are Spanish and Hmong. Other languages will be incorporated as needed and with capacity.

- Advise campus leaders and the campus community when initiatives are developed to engage non-English speaking parents and community members.

The commitment is to attend a monthly meeting, to make recommendations about culturally and linguistic communication and to be available for university events to engage with parents, students, and community members.

Please contact lac@ucmerced.edu for more information regarding the Language Accessibility Committee.
The Chancellor's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women (CACSW) advises the chancellor on issues related to the status of women and promotes gender equity at UC Merced. The goals of CACSW are to identify and analyze issues related to the status of women at UC Merced, including faculty, staff and students; inform and educate campus community members about conditions that impact women within the university; and advise and make recommendations to the chancellor regarding policies and procedures that will improve conditions for women. For more information please visit our website: https://cacsw.ucmerced.edu

2020-2021 WOMEN'S INITIATIVE FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UC WI is a unique, experiential professional development program committed to enabling the full participation, success, and advancement of women identified professionals at the University. The program was open to all who support this mission and who are interested in the development of women identified professionals. We thank everyone and all applicants for your interest in our program. We also congratulate all the women elected for our UC Women's initiative for professional Development. For more information please visit our website.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

In our world, kindness is needed more than ever. Help CACSW spread kindness this year by nominating a womxn you know that could use a little uplifting. In a sentence or two, tell us why you are nominating this person. Nominees can be students, staff or faculty of UC Merced. We will choose a womxn each week to receive a $10 e-gift card for the rest of the 2020-21 academic year.

Visit our website for more information and to nominate

CACSW highlighted Dr. Thelma Hurd
December 3rd, UC Merced’s Director of Medical Education and her journey through medicine as a continuation of Women We Admire Series

12/3

CACSW Presents: Womxn in the Spotlight

Biannual series in which womxn discuss insights about their careers, workplace challenges, and work-life balance.

Thelma C. Hurd, MD, MPH
Director of Medical Education
Professor of Public Health
Surgical Oncologist

Thelma C. Hurd, MD, MPH, joined UC Merced in November 2019 and is currently working with UCSF and UCSF Fresno to expand medical education and training in the San Joaquin Valley.

Dr. Hurd is a member of the San Joaquin Valley Coalition for Medical Education, the Fresno/Madera Health Collaborative and the Cutler-Oros Health Science Academy executive advisory board. Dr. Hurd’s translational and clinical research experience focused on breast cancer and markers of tumor progression. In recent years, she transitioned to health disparities research in underserved populations, working in Western NV, Nigeria, the Texas-Mexico Border Region and now in the San Joaquin Valley.

DECEMBER 3 • NOON - 1:00 PM
ZOOM MEETING ID: 833 5413 3353 PW: CACSW
To register & submit questions, visit https://bit.ly/cacsw20
For more info, email ucmcacsw@ucmerced.edu

MERCEDE CHANCELLOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
The CCCI Demographics subcommittee has a collective mission to facilitate a culture within UC Merced where diversity, equity and inclusion are respected and intentionally valued by implementing thoughtful, practical, iterative and innovative strategies that can serve as a model for our campus community. The subcommittee has met throughout the fall semester to assess the available demographic data that prioritizes CCCI’s objectives regarding recruitment, retention, mentoring and success of faculty, staff and students. We are reviewing equity and transparency in pay, hiring, retention and promotion and creating an welcoming environment across diverse backgrounds. We are looking forward to working with our campus partners to explore the multitude of resources available to develop an analysis, which will be disseminated to the Chancellor’s CCCI Committee. The Demographics subcommittee is honored to be an integrative part of the Chancellor’s Council on Campus Climate Culture and Inclusion (CCCI) committee.

The CCCI Disability subcommittee recently formed at the request of the Chancellor to review and assess services, resources, and campus climate for faculty and staff with disabilities. We value a culture and environment of inclusivity that commands respect for all members of our UC Merced community. We are currently working on raising the awareness of disabilities in the workplace, planning a survey, and reviewing resources and data to see where we are and what can we as a campus do better.

The Chancellor’s Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture and Inclusion (CCCI) at UC Merced advises the chancellor on issues related to campus climate conditions, practices and policies at UC Merced. The council was created in order to suggest measures that will support the goals of inclusion and community, especially including measures reflecting promising practices from elsewhere in UC and the nation; coordinate its analyses, recommendations and other work with related work of any entities created by faculty, staff, students, or neighboring communities; and fulfill other campus-specific responsibilities identified by the Chancellor. The Chancellors Council on Campus Climate, Culture and Inclusion (CCCI) is focusing its efforts for 2020/2021 in the following areas through the effort of the following CCCI Subcommittees:

- The CCCI Disability subcommittee recently formed at the request of the Chancellor to review and assess services, resources, and campus climate for faculty and staff with disabilities. We value a culture and environment of inclusivity that commands respect for all members of our UC Merced community. We are currently working on raising the awareness of disabilities in the workplace, planning a survey, and reviewing resources and data to see where we are and what can we as a campus do better.

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR CAREER & PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT PROFESSOR, HCUEVAS@UCMERCED.EDU

HECTOR CUEVAS

GRADUATE SPECIALIST MGARCIA379@UCMERCED.EDU

MONICA GARCIA
DOCTORAL CANDIDATE
DMELLO2@UCMERCED.EDU

The Campus Climate subcommittee is a brain trust dedicated to understanding the nuances of UC Merced’s campus climate, historically and prospectively. In just the Fall 2020 term alone, we have developed a series of ideas and projects that we hope will uncover sources of non-inclusivity within our UCM community, and to which our larger Chancellor’s CCCI Committee will be able to advise campus administration on potential solutions. Our near-future plans involve utilizing UCM’s current pool of incredible talent to deliver concretized investigations of major issues found within existing campus data, highlighting our team’s efficacious focus on maximizing available resources. We look forward to continuing to serve our wonderfully diverse UCM community in order to create a welcoming atmosphere for folks from all walks of life! Stay tuned!

CACQI

The Chancellor’s Advisory Committee for Queer Issues (CACQI) identifies issues and makes recommendations for the inclusion and advancement of the LGBT+ and expanding community at UC Merced. With our continued growth, we will adopt action plans to ensure forward movement in creating a welcoming, affirming, equitable and vibrant learning, working and living environment for all UC Merced community members. Please visit our website for information resources and how to become involved:

Visit Webpage
The Anti Racist Pedagogy is a virtual discussion series designed to help participants form a community of practice focused on improving anti-racist pedagogy.

This discussion series draws a distinction between anti-racist teaching and anti-racist pedagogy. Anti-racist teaching refers to course content that explicitly supports instruction on the history and continuation of racism as it intersects with White dominance and privilege. Whereas, anti-racist pedagogy refers to the teaching methods employed by instructors that disrupt the traditional pedagogical practices that reinforce structural racism. Ideally, anti-racist teaching and anti-racist pedagogy work in tandem; however, any course, regardless of subject/content, can and should employ anti-racist pedagogy.

Anti-racist pedagogy builds on inclusive pedagogy practices to equip learners with the tools necessary to identify and dismantle systems of injustice wherever they are encountered. It is a stance taken by teachers who put students at the center, seek to liberate learners (Freire), and aim to foster critical consciousness. Anti-racist pedagogy practitioners refrain from perpetuating structural/symbolic violence, flatten classroom hierarchy, engage students in active problem-based learning, and intentionally design experiences that honor student voice and agency.

**Outcomes**

- Experienced the creation and implementation of discourse guidelines for group discussion
- Reflected on their own experiences as learners in inclusive/exclusionary spaces and the role power plays in teacher-learner dynamics;
- Explored some of their own internal preferences and biases, and the intentional or unintentional impacts these may have on others;
- Identified some of the processes of institutional racism and forced assimilation, with particular attention to how this is expressed in disciplines and in the university as a whole;
- Developed learning outcomes associated with identifying and dismantling structural injustices;
- Created “scripts” for articulating anti-racist values to students and colleagues;
- Considered student-centered language choices for syllabi, types of assignments that develop critical consciousness, and asset-focused grading/assessment approaches that together foster a sense of invitation and empowerment.
The Staff Catastrophic Aid Fund was initiated with the collaboration of Staff Assembly and The Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) unit with the intended to help staff members cope with unforeseen hardships by providing qualifying individuals with financial assistance in the form of gift cards (Target or Amazon). The maximum amount of assistance is limited to a value of up to TWO (2) $75 per employee, per fiscal year (July 1 to 30). This fund is intended to help those in catastrophic or extraordinary situations and not as an augmentation to regular salary. Direct cash assistance is not provided through this program. The Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion will work on outreach and securing funds in December 2020 and January 2021. It is projected that the fund will be available to staff members by Feb 15, 2021.
The Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion announces our inaugural Equity & Justice Awards this Fall 2020 in an effort to recognize individuals and groups who have dedicated their time and effort to further equity & justice at UC Merced.

The Equity & Justice award committee has begun accepting nominations for the 2020-2021 academic year beginning Wednesday, August 26th. Nominations are open monthly at the 1st of each month and close by the 15th of each month. Every April, five awardees will be selected from the monthly nominations to receive a $1,000 towards a project or initiative that advances equity and justice. We thank everyone who has taken the time to nominate candidates so far!

Awards will be given in these six categories:
- Faculty
- Staff
- Undergraduate Student
- Graduate/Professional Student
- Alumni
- Intergroup Collaboration (an effort by units/groups/programs to bring together multiple perspectives to address a critical issue of equity or justice at UC Merced)

Nominations should reflect the ways a nominee has:
- Advocated for equity and justice
- Demonstrated a sustained commitment to the advancement of equity and justice at UC Merced
- Modeled respect or inclusive treatment when interacting with others; and/or
- Implemented an initiative, event or program which cultivates equity and justice

For more information, please contact the Office of Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion at diversity@ucmerced.edu.

If you know anyone who has made a difference and would like to nominate them please fill out the nomination form at https://diversity.ucmerced.edu/form/equity-justice-awards-nominations-fall-2020
UP AND COMING: FREE SPEECH WEEK

CAN FREE SPEECH TRULY BE FREE?
CLICK ON ANY BANNER TO REGISTER!

Hate Speech and Free Speech
Monday February 22, 2021 4:00- 5:00pm PST

Can Speech Truly be "Free"?
Tuesday February 23, 2021 12:00- 1:30pm PST* Keynote *

Navigating Issues of Free Speech and Academic Freedom within Academia
Wednesday February 24, 2021 1:00- 2:00pm PST

Free Speech is a Human Right
Wednesday February 24, 2021 4:30- 6:00pm PST

Free Speech in Everyday Life
Thursday February 25, 2021 1:30- 2:15 pm PST

Using Our Voices To Build Community Together: Between Student Leaders and Administrators in Addressing Free Speech Controversies
Thursday February 25, 2021 5:30- 7:00 pm PST

Words Have Power and So Do I
xTikTok Videos Accepted from January 1-February 25, 2021 (Winners Announced February 26, 2021)

The Spoken Experience: Rebellion
TikTok Videos Accepted from February 1-February 26, 2021
The Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion’s Virtual Dialogue Series invites you to enjoy these selected previously recorded sessions at your own pace. Click on the flyer of the series you would like to enjoy!
On November 5, 2020, participants from across campus came together to make our first virtual open house a success! We heard from Chancellor’s Advisory Committees, Affinity Groups, the Valuing Black Lives Task Force subcommittees and many more! Thank you to all who joined us and we look forward to seeing you at our Spring 2021 open house so stay tuned!
Onar Primitivo
oprimitivo@ucmerced.edu

Onar Primitivo has been working for over 20 years in the field of higher education doing work related to advocacy, social justice, equity and inclusion initiatives. After receiving his B.A. in Visual Communication/Graphic Design at Western Washington University, he then attend Colorado State University and got his Masters in Higher Education in Student Affairs. Going on his eight year, Onar served as the Director of Social Justice Initiatives & Identity Programs at University of California, Merced in the Division of Student Affairs. Onar will be joining the Office of Equity, Justice and Inclusive Excellence team and still committed to creating an inclusive campus for an enriched and thriving campus community.

Ayra Valerie Agluba
aagluba@ucmerced.edu

My name is Ayra Valerie Agluba, I am from a small town in Central Valley called Orosi. I am currently a third-year undergrad student at University California Merced pursuing a Psychology major with a minor in Anthropology. I recently took on a role as the Student Success Intern for the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion as of Fall 2020 and will continue through Spring of 2021. As a first-generation college student, I have been part of the Fiat-Lux Scholar Program at UC Merced for three consecutive years, not only as scholar but also a staff. Empowering first-generation students to make a successful academic and social transition, serving as a peer/mentor within the living learning community as well as developing program workshops that promotes resiliency, life skills, and interpersonal development, all within recognizing and embracing identities, values, and beliefs of all students. Fun fact about myself I’m trilingual and enjoy spontaneous adventures friends and family!
Dear Campus Colleagues,

As this year and semester come to a close, we in the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion find ourselves reflecting on all that we have accomplished, especially in a year where chaos and uncertainty have been the norm, which is not the way it is supposed to be. At the forefront of our reflection is all of you and our immense gratitude for all who collaborated, participated and helped us advance equity, justice and inclusive excellence throughout our campus and the world.

Thank you for all that you do and we encourage you to rest and know that your very best may have looked different this year, but it was your very best and we are grateful.

With you,
Dania Matos,

J.D. Associate Chancellor and Chief Diversity Officer
She/her/hers
CAMPUS RESOURCES & PARTNERS

ACADEMIC PERSONNEL OFFICE DIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE-COMMITTEE FOR DIVERSITY AND EQUITY (D&E)

ACADEMIC SENATE, FACULTY WELFARE AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM (FWAF)

CARE OFFICE

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

EDUCATIONAL AWARENESS

GENDER INCLUSIVE FACILITIES

GRADUATE DIVISION DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

LACTATION ACCOMMODATION

LGBTQ+ INITIATIVES

OFFICE OF CAMPUS CULTURE AND COMPLIANCE

RESOURCE AND REFERRAL OPTIONS

SERVICES FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS AND SPECIAL POPULATIONS

SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES

STAFF AND FACULTY OF COLOR ASSOCIATION

VETERAN SERVICES

WOMEN'S PROGRAMS
Your feedback is important to us. To provide feedback click the link below:
https://diversity.ucmerced.edu/form/feedback

To opt-in to our newsletter click the link below:
https://diversity.ucmerced.edu/form/join-our-email-list

Follow the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion on Twitter!
https://twitter.com/UCMDiversity

To receive more information related to diversity and inclusion go to our page!
https://diversity.ucmerced.edu/