Dear Bobcat Community,

Wow, I am in disbelief that it has been a year since we began our journey to build community in a new and uncharted virtual environment for some and a limited on-campus experience for others with pandemic protocols in place for us all. We, at the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion have been working really hard to be responsive and adaptable to your needs and always striving to ensure we are putting you, our people, first. We remained committed to equity, justice, and inclusive excellence through it all. My hope is that by coming together through these pages we see an exact alignment with our mission and in serving you. I want to thank each and every one of you for your ongoing efforts, hard work within and beyond the UC Merced community. This edition of our Bobcat Brief highlights some of our recent and future work as well as that of our campus partners.

This Bobcat Brief will better inform you of how we, as an institution, are furthering our equity, justice, and inclusive excellence efforts. You are invited to view our website at diversity.ucmerced.edu for additional information. If you are interested in submitting any materials for an upcoming EDI Newsletter, please email diversity@ucmerced.edu and we would be happy to amplify your efforts.

With you,

Diana Matas
Associate Chancellor & Chief Diversity Officer
Pronouns: she/her/ella
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 MULTIPLICITY 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.
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:

- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
- **STUDENT SUPPORT**
- **RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**
- **POLICING & ANTI-BLACK VIOLENCE**
- **STAFF, FACULTY RECRUITMENT & RETENTION**

WHILE THE CHARGE LETTER FOR THE VALUING BLACK LIVES TASK FORCE CONCLUDED IN DECEMBER 2020, THE WORK OF THE TASK FORCE IS ONGOING. THE FIVE SUBCOMMITTEES SUBMITTED THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CHANCELLOR AND THE PROVOST. IN THE MEANTIME, THE TASK FORCE CO-LEADS ARE DRAFTING THEIR OWN RECOMMENDATIONS AROUND THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE OF THIS PROCESS. WE BELIEVE THAT IN ORDER FOR THIS WORK TO BE SUCCESSFUL, WE MUST MAINTAIN ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY. YOU CAN FIND INFORMATION ON OUR TASK FORCE WEBPAGE, INCLUDING EACH OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES AND THEIR FINAL PRESENTATIONS, A SLIDE DECK FROM A TOWN HALL HOSTED IN JANUARY 2021, AND FURTHER UPDATES AS THIS WORK MOVES FORWARD.
VALUING BLACK LIVES TASK FORCE

ADVANCING EQUITY, JUSTICE, & INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

https://chancellor.ucmerced.edu/equity | https://diversity.ucmerced.edu

OFFICE OF EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

SUBCOMMITTEES | THEMES & AREAS

STUDENT SUPPORT
- CAMPUS CULTURE
- CLASSROOM CLIMATE
- BLACK STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH
- BLACK SCHOLAR RESOURCE & RETENTION CENTER
- LEADERSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP AND CAREER

STAFF & FACULTY
- RECRUITMENT & RETENTION
- BRAND & SOURCING FOR TALENT
- SELECTING TALENT: ORGANIZATIONAL & SOCIALIZATION, ONGOING RETENTION, DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT

RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- EDUCATION, RESEARCH, & OUTREACH

POLICING & ANTI-BLACK VIOLENCE
- COMMUNICATION, ACCOUNTABILITY & TRAINING

STRUCTURE & LEADERSHIP

46 MEETINGS
61 RECOMMENDATIONS
53 INVOLVED

16 FACULTY
20 STAFF
6 ADMIN
1 ALUMNI
7 STUDENTS
3 COMMUNITY MEMBERS

CO-LEADS 28
MEMBERS 25

MORE INFORMATION

VALUING BLACK LIVES TASK FORCE WEBPAGE
STUDENT MOU
PAN-AFRICAN COUNCIL MEETING INITIATIVE RESPONSES
VALUING BLACK LIVES TASK FORCE TOWN HALL PRESENTATION - 1/29/21
RESPONSE TO "WE CHARGE ANTI-BLACKNESS" PETITION
VALUING BLACK LIVES- INITIATIVE TRACKING SURVEY
VALUING BLACK LIVES- PETITION RESPONSES EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
VALUING BLACK LIVES-PETITION RESPONSES EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
WE CHARGE ANTI-BLACKNESS: PETITION TO VALUE BLACK LIVES AT UC MERCED
BLACK STUDENT UNION- CALL TO ACTION STATEMENT

CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE DIVERSITY WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION!
RESOURCES TO LEARN MORE

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
- 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

FOR MORE RACIAL TRAUMA RESOURCES VISIT: HTTPS://DIVERSITY.UMC.EDU/RACIAL-TRAUMA-RESOURCES

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

- Understanding Human Bias by the National Museum of African American History & Culture
- Videos and Learning Modules from UCLA Project Implicit
- University of California Office of the President: Managing Implicit Bias Series

RECOMMENDED READINGS

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

- FOR OUR WHITE FRIENDS DESIRING TO BE ALLEYS
- PROJECT IMPLICIT

COMMITMENT TO BLACK EXCELLENCE 2020-2021

Black Lives Always Matter. They Matter at UC Merced. They Matter Across Our Nation. They Matter Around the World. UC Merced Fully Committed to Work on Ending the Conditions That Create Injustice, Conditions That Are Leaving Our Black Community Dehumanized and Their Innocent Lives Taken. The Enduring Legacy of Slavery, Segregation, Racism, and Oppression in America Must Be Confronted and Addressed Systemically. This Is Not a Moment. This Is a Movement. Thus, the University Has Highlighted Immediate (Summer 2020), Short-Term (2020-2021), and Long-Term (2021+) Plans to Address the Submitted Proposals. Click on the Link for the Full Memorandum/Proposal.

MEMORANDUM ASSOCIATED BLACK STUDENT LEADERS

Please Note That This Is Not an Exhaustive List of Action Items. The University Will Continue to Generate Ideas and Work With Students, Staff, and Faculty to Support Black Student Success at UCM.

“Love Takes Off the Masks We Fear We Cannot Live Without and Know We Cannot Live Within.” - James Baldwin
AFFINITY GROUPS

STAFF AND FACULTY OF COLOR

The Staff and Faculty of Color Association at UC Merced (SFC) provide 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.

Visit our website for more information: https://diversity.ucmerced.edu/

LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

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.

UC MERCED BLACK ALLIANCE

Refer to the next page for more information!
UC MERCED BLACK ALLIANCE

THE NEWLY FORMED AFFINITY GROUP, UC MERCED BLACK ALLIANCE (UCMBA), PARTICIPATED IN THE CONTINUED COLLABORATION OF THE VALUING BLACKLIVES TASKFORCE TO ADDRESS ANTI-BLACKNESS VIOLENCE AND ONGOING NEEDS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

THIS FEBRUARY 2021 UCMBA WILL BE HAVING SPEAKER SERIES AND WILL INCLUDE THREE GUESTS WHO WILL TALK ABOUT ISSUES RELATED TO HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES AS WELL AS CURRENT TRENDS TO RECLAIM AGENCY AND RE-PURPOSE LAND CENTERING BLACK COMMUNITIES. THE SERIES FEATURES THE GROWTH OF URBAN FARMING, AFRO-INDIGENOUS LAND RIGHTS ACTIVISM, AND DISPOSITION, AS WELL AS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SURROUNDING A COMMUNITY OF BLACK NOVA SCOTIANS IN AFRICVILLE.

"SHARING OUR PERSPECTIVES: HISTORY HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE"

RAZING AFRICVILLE: THE Legacy of Environmental Racism in Historic African Nova Scotian Community:

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10 FROM 1 P.M. - 2:15 P.M.

As we welcome Dr. Igrid Waldron from School of Nursing, Faculty of Health, Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia who will speak on Razing Africville: The Legacy of Environmental Racism in an Historic African Nova Scotian Community.

Design for the Living: Food, Farming & Cultural Ecology:

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17 FROM 12 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.

We’ll hear from Keesa V. Johnson of the University of Michigan Integrative Design Program about Design for the Living: Food, Farming, and Cultural Ecology.

Black Indigeneity and Dispossession: The Meaning of Land, Sovereignty, and Freedom:

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24 FROM 5 P.M. - 6:15 P.M.

We’ll hear from Dr. Kyle Mays of UCLA who will speak on Black Indigeneity and Dispossession: The Meaning of Land, Sovereignty, and Freedom.
CHANCELLOR’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CACSW)
VISIT THEIR WEBSITE: CACSW WEBSITE LINK

- 2019-2020 AY CACSW Annual Report

PLEASE CONTACT AND AMELIA JOHNSON (AJOHNSON78@UCMERCED.EDU) FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING CACSW.

CHANCELLOR’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON QUEER ISSUES (CACQI)
VISIT THEIR WEBSITE: CACQI WEBSITE LINK

- 2019-2020 AY CACQI Report
- 2019-2020 AY CACQI Data Collection Wishlist

CHANCELLOR’S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CAMPUS CLIMATE, CULTURE & INCLUSION (CCCI)
VISIT THEIR WEBSITE: CCCI WEBSITE LINK

- 2019-2020 AY CCCI Report
- 2019-2020 AY Diversity & Equity CCCI Report Academic Senate

PLEASE CONTACT HECTOR CUEVAS (HCUEVAS@UCMERCED.EDU) AND CHRISTOPHER RAMIREZ (CRAMIREZ24@UCMERCED.EDU) FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING CCCI.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
HTTPS://DIVERSITY.UCMERCED.EDU/ADVISORY-GROUPS-0
Random Acts of Kindness Update

The Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on the Status of Women (CACSW) has received over 60 nominations for Random Acts of Kindness Awards this academic year. CACSW wanted to spread the joy and kindness our committee has received by sharing some of the reasons why these womxn deserved a random act of kindness.

Below are just a few quotes about our honorees:

“Always creating space for fun, kindness, and softness in an environment that often feels stressful, competitive, and extremely rigorous...”

“Works tirelessly, even on nights and weekends, and without complaining...”

“Leading the effort, mentoring students, teaching and managing her family...”

“Compassionate and constantly checking up on everyone and is ready to listen...”

We are still accepting submissions and are looking to receive more student and faculty nominations for spring 2021. Anyone can nominate a woman for a random act of kindness here: https://cacsw.ucmerced.edu/form/random-acts-kindness

Continue to Next Page
ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF EQUITY AND DIVERSITY & INCLUSION, WE WANT TO EXPRESS OUR GREAT APPRECIATION FOR YOUR EFFORTS AND THE SERVICE THAT YOU HAVE PROVIDED TO THE CHANCELLOR’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CACSW). YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH YOUR DEDICATION AND CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE. WE SINCERELY APPRECIATE THE TIME YOU SPENT AS A CO-CHAIR TAKING LEAD ON ADVISING THE CHANCELLOR ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND PROMOTES GENDER EQUITY AT UC MERCED.
Berkeley Latina Collective
Assistant Professor Workshop

Call for Papers
SEND PAPERS TO IGS.BERKELEY.EDU

The Berkeley Latina Collective (BLC) is accepting paper proposals for its inaugural faculty workshop in Latinx Studies. This year, we are inviting Latina/x junior scholars from Political Science, Education, Sociology, and History to apply. We seek proposals from individuals who examine Latinx perspectives, experiences, histories, knowledge, and representation (past and present). The workshop will convene virtually on Friday, June 4, 2021.

The BLC originally came together in 2019 to create a space for mutual support, encouragement, and intellectual exchange among Latina scholars. Today, Latinas comprise only 2.5% of university tenure-track faculty nationwide and less than 1% of “full” university professors. This is so despite the fact that Latinxs comprise 18% of the U.S. population. Overall Latinx, and specifically Latina, faculty remain vastly underrepresented. This fact impacts our experience as faculty and impoverishes the educational climate and outcomes of all students.*

The BLC workshop thus seeks to create a supportive intervention within the academy. Specifically, we invite assistant professors and postdoctoral researchers in Latinx Studies, or who do work in Latinx Studies, within Sociology, Education, Political Science, and History, to apply. Selected applicants will attend the day-long virtual (zoom) workshop on June 4th and receive

- $500 monetary/research stipend
- Feedback on their original paper
- Networking and mentoring opportunities with senior Latina faculty and workshop participants

Website: https://igs.berkeley.edu

SEND PAPERS TO IGS.BERKELEY.EDU WITH THE SUBJECT “BLC APPLICATION” BY APRIL 15
Lisa García-Bedolla (Political Science), Kris Gutiérrez (Education), Natalia Molina (History/American Studies), and G. Cristina Mora (Sociology) will serve as senior conveners/mentors for the workshop.

We realize that there exist few spaces for us to convene, collaborate, and share within our institution—let alone across universities. We aim to have the workshop be the first of many more steps towards creating a more positive inclusive environment.

To apply: Please submit a current CV and a paper abstract (no more than 300 words) by **April 15th**. In your email make sure to indicate whether you would like to participate in the Education/ Political Science/ Sociology/ or History section of the workshop. Full paper manuscripts (no more than 25-30 pages double spaced) will be due for circulation on **May 15th**.

Submit completed applications to: igs@berkeley.edu with the subject “BLC Application” by April 15.

Please send any inquiries to igs@berkeley.edu with the subject “BLC Workshop Query.”

**Berkeley Latina Collective Leadership Team**
G. Cristina Mora (Sociology)
Bernadette Pérez (History)
Cati V. de los Ríos (Education)

Wednesday, March 3 – 3:00 PM ET

Equity First: A Conversation with Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

Racial Justice and Equity Series

MARCH 3RD, 2021 3:00 PM EASTERN TIME (THE US AND CANADA)

DESCRIPTION: Register to join for a special conversation in our Racial Justice and Equity Series with Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, National Book Award winner and author of How to Be an Antiracist, Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America, and editor of Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619–2019. Dr. Kendi leads the Boston University Center for Antiracist Research. This conversation, facilitated by Lumina Foundation Senior Vice President and Chief Policy Officer Dr. Danette Howard, will explore how racism and inequity are entrenched and advanced through public policy, and how public policy can become a tool for equity and justice.

REGISTER HERE: HTTP://BIT.LY/3Q0KP2N
IN CONVERSATION WITH DR. YASHICA CRAWFORD, WE EXPLORED WAYS OF GETTING COMFORTABLE WITH BEING UNCOMFORTABLE AND CHOOSING TO BE BOLD WHEN IT’S TIME TO SPEAK. GUEST PRESENTER: DR. YASHICA CRAWFORD, IS AN INSTRUCTOR IN THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT AT THE COLLEGE OF MARIN & CHIOMA NDOBUISI, SHE HAS A BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS FROM CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHIOMA IS PASSIONATE ABOUT THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF TECHNOLOGY AND VOLUNTEERS FOR OPPORTUNITIES THAT EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS. SHE ENJOYS READING INSPIRATIONAL BOOKS AND LISTENING TO AFROBEAT MUSIC.

THE PICTURE A SCIENTIST SCREENING AND DISCUSSION PANEL PROVIDED MEMBERS OF OUR CAMPUS COMMUNITY WITH A CRITICAL SPACE TO REFLECT ON ISSUES OF EQUITY BOTH IN STEM AND IN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF ACADEMIA. THE CONVERSATION WENT BEYOND EQUITABLE ACCESS ON THE BASIS OF GENDER AND TO AN INTERSECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE THAT INCLUDED ALL MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES. WHILE THE SESSION WAS NOT RECORDED IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOLKS TO BE THEIR TRUEST SELF REGARDING THEIR EXPERIENCES, THE DISCUSSIONS THAT TOOK PLACE WILL LIKELY HAVE A LASTING EFFECT AS IMPORTANT IDEAS WERE SHARED AND VALUABLE CONNECTIONS WERE MADE.
Call for Proposals for UC Merced’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (formally DEI) Grants and a NEW funding opportunity to promote Black Excellence.

The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Grants proposal program seeks to create and sustain a campus environment in which all UC Merced faculty and staff members and students feel respected, included and valued in their humanity.

The program is open to all faculty and staff members and students. Collaborative and intersectional projects are encouraged. Selected grants can be funded to an annual maximum of $5,000.

**INAUGURAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

**PROMOTING BLACK EXCELLENCE**

Inaugural funding focused on proposals for projects that focus on anti-Blackness, anti-Black violence, anti-racism to promote Black excellence and radical healing on historical trauma and/or coping with racism/oppression.

Selected grants will receive up to $2,000 and the total funds allocated are $10,000. UC Merced is fully committed to addressing the systemic conditions that create injustice, a global scourge that has been perpetuated over centuries. Now is the time to create change!

For more information, email oprimitivo@ucmerced.edu
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 WILL BE ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26TH. NOMINATIONS WILL OPEN MONTHLY ON THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH AND CLOSE BY THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH. EVERY APRIL, FIVE AWAREES WILL BE SELECTED FROM THE MONTHLY NOMINATIONS TO RECEIVE A $1,000 TOWARDS A PROJECT OR INITIATIVE THAT ADVANCES EQUITY AND JUSTICE.

AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN IN THESE SIX CATEGORIES:

- Faculty, Staff, Undergraduate Student, Graduate/Professional Student, Alumni and/or 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

IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE AND WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE THEM PLEASE FILL OUT THE NOMINATION FORM AT HTTPS://BIT.LY/3RPKTDF

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION AT DIVERSITY@UCMERCED.EDU
FREE SPEECH WEEK

OFFICE OF EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION PRESENTS

FREE SPEECH WEEK FROM FEBRUARY 22ND-24TH

HATE SPEECH & FREE SPEECH
MONDAY FEBRUARY 22ND, 4:00- 5:00PM PST
SPEAKER: DR. JENNIFER LAMBE

DESCRIPTION: FROM WHITE NATIONALIST DEMONSTRATIONS TO VIRAL MEMES, FROM POLITICAL MISINFORMATION TO ONLINE TROLLS, HATE SPEECH IS EVERYWHERE. IN THE UNITED STATES, THE FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH PROTECTS MOST HATE SPEECH. JOIN THIS WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE TENSION BETWEEN FREE SPEECH AND HATE SPEECH ON COLLEGE CAMPUSSES AND ONLINE. CAN WE RESPOND IN WAYS THAT ADDRESS THE HARMs OF HATE SPEECH WHILE PROTECTING FREE SPEECH RIGHTS?

LEARN MORE

CAN SPEECH TRULY BE FREE? WHO CAN SAY WHAT WHEN?
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23TH, 12:00- 1:30PM PST* KEYNOTE *
*KEYNOTE*: PRESIDENT LORI S. WHITE

DESCRIPTION: THIS EVENT WILL SERVE AS THE KEYNOTE SPEECH OF UC MERCED’S INAUGURAL FREE SPEECH WEEK. OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER WILL PROVIDE HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION AND DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT. PRESIDENT WHITE WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN A Q&A SESSION DURING THE SECOND PART OF THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS THAT WILL BE MODERATED BY ASSOCIATE CHANCELLOR AND CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER DANIA MATOS.

LEARN MORE

Navigating Issues of Free Speech and Academic Freedom Within Academia
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24TH 1:00- 2:00 PM PST
SPEAKERS: JONATHAN GRADY, & CHRIS KELLO

DESCRIPTION: THE OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT ARE TO A) HELP FAMILIARIZE ACADEMIC AUDIENCES WITH THE NUANCES ASSOCIATED WITH NAVIGATING FREE SPEECH AS INSTRUCTORS, RESEARCHERS, AND STUDENTS; B) INTRODUCE ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND HOW IT MAY INTERSECT WITH FREE SPEECH WITHIN HIGHER EDUCATION, AND C) ACQUAINT ACADEMIC AUDIENCES WITH AVAILABLE CAMPUS RESOURCES AT UC MERCED CONCERNING FREE SPEECH AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM. AFTER ATTENDING THE EVENT, THE ACADEMIC AUDIENCE WILL HAVE A WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF ISSUES SURROUNDING FREE SPEECH, ACADEMIC FREEDOM, AND THE VALUABLE CAMPUS RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO AID IN NAVIGATING THESE ISSUES.

LEARN MORE
**Free Speech Is a Human Right**

**Wednesday, February 24th**

4:30-6:00 PM PST

Speaker: Nicholas “Niko” Perez

**Description:** Free speech is the underpinning of a free society; without it, the defense of human rights and resistance against oppression is impossible. Yet in democracies and autocracies alike, attacks on expression have grown at a startling rate in recent years, limiting the ability of individuals to speak their minds, engage in uncensored dialogue, and hold their leaders to account. This session will focus on how populism and polarization have affected free speech in countries around the world, and explore how international advocacy can support and defend the brave individuals who speak out, challenge tyranny, defend the truth, and make the case for freedom.

LEARN MORE

**How Higher Education Has Failed to Teach Critical Thinking in Public Discourse**

**Thursday, February 25th**

10:00-11:00 AM PST

Speaker: Gregg Camfield

**Description:** America has a democracy deficit, which shows most frequently in a debased public discourse. It’s easy to blame this deterioration of public discourse on ignorance, yet the number of highly educated people using the tools of critical thinking to mount attacks on the “other side” while ignoring weaknesses in their own positions suggests the cause is much deeper. I believe our political discourse has become debased not in spite of higher education, but partly because of it. In explaining how we have inadvertently contributed to motivated reasoning, I will offer an alternative educational approach designed to help our students become capable of critical reflection as well as critical attack.

LEARN MORE & RSVP

**Free Speech in Everyday Life**

**Thursday, February 25th**

1:00-2:15 PM PST

Speaker: Jonathan Friedman

**Description:** At a time when free speech is often pitted against other progressive axioms—namely diversity, inclusion, and equality—Pen America has advocated that the drive to create a more inclusive society need not, and must not, compromise robust protections for free speech. In this session, Jonathan Friedman, director of Pen America’s Campus Free Speech program, will discuss the history of free speech as a progressive, democratic value, and its interlinkages with movements for social justice, as well as offer practical tips for balancing free speech and inclusion in everyday life, from classroom conversations to online interactions, to university administration. The session will have robust time for questions from the audience about free speech in America today.

LEARN MORE & RSVP
**FREE SPEECH WEEK**

**USING OUR VOICES TOGETHER: COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN STUDENTS & ADMINISTRATORS TO ADDRESS CAMPUS SPEECH CHALLENGES**

**DESCRIPTION:** Conventional wisdom has it that student leaders and campus administrators are often at odds. But that does not always hold true. Rather, there are ample opportunities for partnership that can result in positive impacts on campus climate. Join a panel of students and student affairs professionals for a dynamic conversation about an area ripe for collaboration: responding to difficult campus speech issues, both on-line and in-person.

**MODERATOR:** Michelle Deutchman, Executive Director of the UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement

**LEARN MORE & RSVP**

**THE SPOKEN EXPERIENCE: REBELLION**

TIKTOK VIDEOS ACCEPTED FROM FEBRUARY 26, 2021-MARCH 8, 2021 AT 5 PM (WINNERS ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 18, 2021)

**WORDS HAVE POWER AND SO DO I**

TIKTOK VIDEOS ACCEPTED FROM FEBRUARY 26, 2021-MARCH 8, 2021 AT 5 PM (WINNERS ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 18, 2021)

**FREE SPEECH WEBSITE LAUNCH**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2021**

**WEBSITE LINK:** TBD

**DEVELOPED WITH SUPPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA NATIONAL CENTER FOR FREE SPEECH AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL:**

**DIVERSITY@UCMERCED.EDU**
THE OFFICE OF EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION WILL HOST OUR SECOND VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE TO HIGHLIGHT CAMPUS PARTNERS AND THE IMPACT OF OUR COLLECTIVE WORK

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 6TH, 2021

DETAILS AND MORE INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE SOON! QUESTIONS THAT CAN’T WAIT?

EMAIL: DIVERSITY@UCMERCED.EDU OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO KEEP UP TO DATE! HTTPS://DIVERSITY.UCMERCED.EDU/
SPRING 2021 DROP-INS WITH THE CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER

ASSOCIATE CHANCELLOR DANIA MATOS HOSTS DROP-IN HOURS TO MEET YOU WHERE YOU ARE AND LISTEN TO YOU. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD ON WHAT MATTERS TO YOU!

DROP-IN HOURS WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, CONTACT DESERIE CRAVALHO-CREWS AT DCRAVALHO-CREWS@UCMERCED.EDU

ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION WILL BE SENT TO REGISTERED INDIVIDUALS PRIOR TO EACH EVENT. YOU MAY RSVP FOR MULTIPLE EVENTS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ZOOM MAY NOT BE THE SAME AS AN IN-PERSON INTERACTION, IF THERE’S ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERN PLEASE CONTACT DESERIE CRAVALHO-CREWS AT DCRAVALHO-CREWS@UCMERCED.EDU

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO OUR RSVP VISIT OUR WEBSITE: HTTPS://DIVERSITY.UCMERCED.EDU/RSVP-FALL20
EDI TEAM UPDATES

WE WELCOME THE NEWEST ADDITION TO OUR TEAM

CYNTHIA CORTEZ

THE OFFICE OF EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION ("OEDI") WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR INAUGURAL DEPUTY CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER ("DCDO") CYNTHIA CORTEZ TO THE UC MERCED FAMILY.


CYNTHIA PROUDLY IDENTIFIES AS A PRODUCT OF COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS PROGRAMS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTES, AND UNDERSTANDS THAT SHE IS A DIRECT BENEFICIARY OF THE LEADERS WHO HAVE ADVOCATED FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS, GRADUATION, AND CAREER SUCCESS FOR FIRST-GENERATION AND MODEST MEANS STUDENTS. SHE SEES IS AS HER DUTY TO CONTINUE AND STRENGTHEN THIS LEGACY. ON HER DOWNTIME, SHE ENJOYS DANCING AND IS ALWAYS WILLING TO LEARN DIFFERENT STYLES.

WELCOME, CYNTHIA! WE ARE SO HAPPY TO HAVE YOU JOIN THE BOBCATS FAMILY!
UKAMAKA EZIMORA

UKAMAKA EZIMORA, A FIRST-YEAR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING MAJOR AT UC MERCED, WAS A FINALIST FOR THE 2021 NCWIT COLLEGIATE AWARD. THIS YEAR SHE LEARNED SPARK AR AND PYTHON AND USED THAT KNOWLEDGE TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE THAT ‘YOUR VOTE COUNTS.’ HER GOALS WERE TO ALLEVIATE THE STRESSES THAT NEW VOTERS FACED SURROUNDING PANDEMIC VOTING AND EQUIP PEOPLE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE TO MAKE A CHANGE IN HOW THEIR VOTE IS COUNTED.

“ONE OF THE ASPECTS OF MY PROJECT SPROUTED FROM MY IDEA TO SCALE UP ONE OF MY ASSIGNMENTS FROM ME021 AT UC MERCED. I AM EXCITED TO CONTINUE DEVELOPING MY PROJECT THIS YEAR AND ENSURE THAT I CAN MAKE AS BIG OF AN IMPACT AS POSSIBLE”
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
We know that meditation and mindfulness can’t solve everything. What mindfulness can do is help us look inside of ourselves to become aware of how racism lives within us and how it is perpetuated through us. In fact, several studies have suggested that mindfulness can reduce implicit racial bias (link to research). The Calm team has been listening and asking ourselves how we can interrupt systemic racism and show up in solidarity with the Black community. This is - and will continue to be - a work in progress but I wanted to share some resources that could be helpful to share with your community.

1. We have tips for using mindfulness to stand in solidarity with the Black community. Please feel free to share this article or pull language from it to share with your team. How to Use Mindfulness to Stand in Solidarity with the Black Community

2. We have our free resource page on our blog. Please share it with your community. No subscription is required to access the programs on this page: calm.com/together

3. We've curated a list of Black voices in the wellness and mindfulness space. This is our first push to amplify Black voices, and won't be the last you can access the list here: Amplify Black Voices.
DO YOUR PART FOR COVID-19

WEAR A FACE COVERING

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, ALL INDIVIDUALS ON UC MERCED PROPERTY ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS TO REDUCE POSSIBLE EXPOSURE AND HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.

CLEAN AND DISINFECT WORK SPACES

INDIVIDUALS MUST FOLLOW ALL GUIDANCE PROVIDED BY THE UNIVERSITY REGARDING CLEANING AND DISINFECTION OF THEIR PERSONAL WORKSPACE AND/OR DORM ROOM.

VISITORS AND GATHERINGS

LIMITS ON CAMPUS VISITORS & LIMITS ON LARGE GATHERINGS. PLEASE READ THE FULL INTERIM POLICY ON UNIVERSAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PHYSICAL MITIGATION AND REDUCTION OF THE TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19.

HEALTH SCREENING

ON A DAILY BASIS, AND BEFORE REPORTING TO CAMPUS, INDIVIDUALS MUST CONDUCT A SYMPTOM SURVEY. CAMPUS OFFERS COVID TESTING VISIT HTTPS://HEALTH.UCMERCED.EDU/

PHYSICAL SPACE ASSESSMENT

AS WE READY OUR SPACES FOR CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS TO RETURN TO ONSITE OPERATIONS, EACH RETURNING DEPARTMENT WILL NEED TO EXAMINE THEIR WORK ENVIRONMENT AND CREATE A WORKSITE PLAN THAT MEETS CURRENT PUBLIC HEALTH AND MERCED COUNTY GUIDELINES BEFORE EMPLOYEES WHOVE BEEN WORKING REMOTELY MAY GRADUALLY RETURN TO CAMPUS.

HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

PHYSICAL DISTANCING: ALL INDIVIDUALS MUST MAINTAIN A DISTANCE OF AT LEAST SIX FEET FROM OTHERS, EXCEPT FOR THOSE WITH WHOM THEY SHARE A PRIMARY RESIDENCE. IF YOU ARE SICK, STAY HOME.

For more information go to https://doyourpart.ucmerced.edu/
Visit Health Services (https://health.ucmerced.edu/) For more Information
TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH INFORMATION REGARDING COVID-19 PLEASE VISIT THIS PAGE:

HTTPS://EMERGENCY.UCMERCEDEDU/CORONAVIRUS

STAFF INFORMATION:
HTTPS://EMERGENCY.UCMERCEDEDU/COVID19-STAFF-INFORMATION

RESOURCES: HTTPS://EMERGENCY.UCMERCEDEDU/COVID19-RESOURCES-FACULTY

FACULTY INFORMATION:
HTTPS://EMERGENCY.UCMERCEDEDU/COVID19-FACULTY-INFORMATION

RESOURCES: HTTPS://EMERGENCY.UCMERCEDEDU/COVID19-RESOURCES-STAFF

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
HTTPS://DIVERSITY.UCMERCEDEDU/COVID-RESOURCES
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