

Dear Colleagues,

My first 90 days at USF have been filled with a sense of community and purpose; it has been a pleasure to meet many of our faculty, librarians, and staff as we come together to re-imagine our shared future. My goals for my first year are:

- To partner with faculty leadership to prioritize and address issues of concern to faculty and librarians,
• To identify effective strategies to support faculty and librarians that foster morale, equity, and excellence,
• To work with faculty, librarians, staff, and student leaders to envision meaningful shared governance structures that promote true collaboration and co-creation of our shared work,
• To curate a series of professional development opportunities and critical conversations that build community and offer strategies for success, and
• To support the AVP of Antiracism, Diversity, and Equity as she builds her team and launches key ADEI initiatives.

As part of our collective efforts to develop a culture of inclusive excellence at USF, I hope that you will join me in some of the conversations and opportunities listed below.

Faculty and Librarian Excellence and Equity Series

The inaugural workshop in our Faculty and Librarian Excellence and Equity Series, "Strategies for Success and Self-Care" held on Sept. 29, introduced participants to best practices related to managing the professional life of faculty and librarians. If you missed the opportunity to join that conversation, you may view the recording.

The Faculty and Librarian Excellence and Equity Series continues this Thursday, Oct. 20 with our program "Creating Your Collective: A Conversation about Building Communities." The event is open to all faculty and librarians, and will be especially useful for early career BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) faculty, librarians, and Gerardo Marin Fellows. Our USF panelists, Richard Gregory Johnson III, Pr. Genevieve Negron-Gonzales, Reza Dibadj, Laura Chyu, and Sherise Kimura will discuss the ways in which building their communities at USF has contributed to their success. Please register online »

Latinx Heritage Month and Dia de los Muertos

In keeping with the rich traditions of cultural and intellectual embrace at USF, I am pleased to announce two key celebrations in our community: A Conversation about Decolonization, Healing and Community Transformation and Dia de Los Muertos, a rich and participatory reverencing of ancestors in Latinx cultures globally.

I invite you to join the conversation with scholar/advocates Professor Clarissa Rojas, Department of Chincan/o Studies, University of California, Davis, and Professor Genevieve Negron-Gonzales, Department of Leadership Studies in the School of Education. Both speakers are making essential contributions to the global conversation about what it means to be Latinx, to be scholars aligned in Latinx culture, and to engage in the vital work of building coalitions and synergies. The conversation, scheduled for Oct. 25, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. at the Thacher Gallery, promises to be inspirational as well as an invitation to contribute to the advocacy and activism that define Latinx engagement and collaboration. It is also a wonderful accompaniment to our Dia de los Muertos events. Register now »

Dia de los Muertos, the "day of the dead," is an open invitation to the USF community to honor ancestors, their legacies, and the ways in which they are continually present in our lives. This year's celebration will center on building ofrendas, decorating sugar skulls, and treasuring the gifts of the ancestors. Programming for Dia de los Muertos is led by the Cultural Centers and spans three weeks of celebration, including the opportunity for you to remember those who have transitioned by submitting photographs for our community ofrenda. The Dia de los Muertos celebration on Tuesday, Nov. 1 in Gleeson Plaza will feature speakers and Aztec dancers. The complete calendar of events is open to our entire campus community. We look forward to seeing you there.

New CRASE Co-Director

Please join me in welcoming Annette Regan (School of Nursing and Health Professions), who joins Tanu Sankalia as co-director of CRASE. Prof. Regan, assistant professor and co-director of the Community Public Health Practice Concentration in the MPH program, is the first CRASE co-director based at our Orange County Campus. As a perinatal and infectious disease epidemiologist, she focuses on vaccines, disease prevention, and maternal and child health promotion, and has an impressive research profile that includes over 105 peer-reviewed publications and over \$2.7 million in federal research funding. Please visit the CRASE website to find out more about their ongoing programs.

Warmly,



Sheila Smith McKoy
Vice Provost of Equity, Inclusion, and Faculty Excellence

Creating Your Collective: A Conversation about Building Communities

Hosted by Vice Provost Sheila Smith McKoy of Equity, Inclusion & Faculty Excellence

Thursday, Oct. 20 | 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. | Hyflex



For all faculty, but especially designed for new BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) faculty and Gerardo Marin fellows. This roundtable involving tenured BIPOC faculty and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion experts is focused on racism and inequity in the tenure review process and the impact it has on BIPOC faculty, including issues such as promotion and retention.

Faculty panelists include:

- Richard Gregory Johnson III - Director of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Professor and Department Chair, Public and Nonprofit Administration
Genevieve Negron-Gonzales - Associate Professor, School of Education
Laura Chyu - Assistant Professor and Program Director, Master of Public Health, School of Nursing and Health Professions
Sherise Kimura - Head of Electronic Resources and Systems at Gleeson Library/Geschke Center
Reza Dibadj - Professor, Marshall P. Madison Chair

Faculty and Librarian Excellence and Equity Series
Curated by Sheila Smith McKoy, vice provost of Equity, Inclusion, and Faculty Excellence, this series supports faculty and librarians with sessions tailored to their professional development as we slowly heal from the pandemic and strive to animate and make actionable our commitment to anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Learn more »

Latinx Heritage Month Celebration

"A Conversation about Decolonization, Healing, and Community Transformation"

Hosted by Vice Provost Sheila Smith McKoy of Equity, Inclusion, & Faculty Excellence

Tuesday, Oct. 25 | 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Thacher Gallery, Gleeson Library / Geschke Center



This conversation with scholar/advocates Professor Clarissa Rojas, Department of Chincan/o Studies, University of California, Davis, and Professor Genevieve Negron-Gonzales, Department of Leadership Studies in the School of Education, will explore what it means to be Latinx, to be scholars aligned in Latinx culture, and the importance of building coalition and synergies.

Speakers include:

- Genevieve Negron-Gonzales - Associate Professor, School of Education
Clarissa Rojas - Department of Chincan/o Studies, University of California, Davis,

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