

DEI DISPATCH

Happy Spring!

Committee Updates

Community Drop-In Hours: Please join us for our biweekly sessions. Feel free to drop by just to check-in, chat about DEI topics and to build some community.

Survey Update: Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey. We are currently processing the information and will follow up with everyone toward the end of the quarter

Every other Friday from 11-12 (Next May 14th)

Scientist Highlight- Alejandro (Alex) Cortez



We are highlight Alejandro Cortez, UCR alum and faculty! Alex is the Academic Coordinator for the Dynamic Genome Program has been working with the program for eight years. He also serves our community as the UCR Chicano Latino Alumni Vice-Chair and the SACNAS UCR Chapter Adviser, in addition to being a member of the BPSC DEI committee. Please read more about him [here](#), and look forward to an upcoming CNAS blog post highlighting his work. Also, check out his twitter for great content about his work teaching undergrads and communicating science @lexcortez !

DEI Publication Highlight

“Fake it until you make it” - these are words that we’ve heard and may have even shared when we found ourselves or someone in a situation that we never imagined ourselves in and perhaps didn’t feel that we would come out successful. In STEMM, this self-efficacy is one key component that contributes to the success of a student. In fact, science self-efficacy is so formative that by middle school many students hit a critical crossroads where they will either go down an educational trajectory that embraces STEMM or not ([Tai et al 2006](#)). In the article “[Considering the Role of Affect in Learning: Monitoring Students’ Self-Efficacy, Sense of Belonging, and Science Identity](#)”, Trujillo and Tanner highlight the need as educators to take stock of students’ “lived experiences” to help create a classroom environment that increases a student’s self-efficacy as well as creates a sense of belonging and ultimately cultivates a student’s science identity. They review how these three constructs are incredibly important to a student’s career trajectory and their persistence and retention in sciences. Importantly, they highlight that many students leave the sciences, because they “reject the culture of science” and “choose not to adopt a professional identity within the scientific culture.” The educational experiences we provide have important implications for students’ career trajectories and this article provides a nice starting point to increase awareness of the role of affect in biology education.

DEI TIP

The Michigan State University office for inclusion and intercultural initiatives has created and shared a resource for managing "hot moments" in the classroom.

Their six strategies for managing conflict or problematic instances in the classroom include P.A.L.S., curiosity, writing exercise, small groups, content/data share, and naming and framing, visit the [two page handout](#) to read more!



DEI LISTENING

Life Kit is a podcast sponsored by National Public Radio to help us all navigate being human. They have different series around money, health, parenting, just life skills. In this episode, they discuss strategies for talking to your children about Anti-Asian racism.



The Biology of Super Heroes is a podcast hosted by the Dr. Shane Campbell (UCLA) and Arien Darby. This podcast was inspired by a course Dr. Campbell taught while a graduate student at Harvard and now continues to teach at UCLA. In this episode he speaks with UCR graduate student Angela Mancini Porter as they explore the biology of Strangers Things' upside down.



SGN (Some Good News)

Big Congratulations to Jolene Saldivar who was awarded a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and to Taylor Mayhre and Isaac Diaz who both received an Honorable Mention.

Big shot out to Dan Koenig for his NSF Early Career Award to [unlock the superpowers of barley](#) and to Janet Franklin for her award from California Strategic Growth Council's Climate Change Research Program [to help native tribes adapt to climate change](#).

Congratulations to Meg Kargul and Wes Neher who are part of the [2021 cohort of Outstanding Teaching Assistant](#) Awardees!

If you have any exciting news you would be open to sharing to the department or if you would like to share some DEI related activities please [email us](#).

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

A green banner with a white silhouette of a head in profile. Inside the head is a green heart with a white ribbon. To the right of the head, the text "MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH" is written in large, bold, white and green letters. Below this, in smaller white text, it says "Get tips for everyday well-being and shareable resources. Let's do mental health together!" and "Students, faculty, and staff welcome." in green.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Get tips for everyday well-being and shareable resources.
Let's do mental health together!

Students, faculty, and staff welcome.



B.O.L.D. Leadership Series (Black Organization Leadership Development)

Leaning on the Social Change of Leadership Model, this bi-weekly series is to help current UCR leaders enhance their leadership skills. Through keynote speakers and interactive workshops, students will be able to reflect on their own leadership skills through these workshops, as well as through a personal leadership journal. Additionally, students will meet other leaders on campus and practice honing their own skills and leadership abilities.

Wednesday, May 12th 5:00pm to 6:00pm



Family Talk

This supportive discussion group is for LGBTQ+ people and their allies to share experiences around family and coming out, acceptance, and building better relationships. *This meeting is not open to students attending events for class credit.

Dial-In Information

Zoom info is shared via the center's E-Newsletter
- <https://out.ucr.edu/newsletter> **Tuesday May 25th 5-6pm**

Save the Date for the BGSA's Celebration of Diversity in Botany Symposium on June 2, 2021

WEBINAR



May is Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage month. UC ANR has [weekly events](#) to celebrate AAPI Heritage month: *May 11* – Asian Pacific Farmers in California: Past and Present *May 18* – Violence in Asian Pacific Communities: Exclusion, Internment, and Hate Crimes *May 25* – Supporting Our Friends and Colleagues: Bystander Intervention Training. Learning for Justice also has [great resources](#) to help you integrate AAPI heritage into your teaching.

Understanding diversity in STEM: New report available, webinar on May 12

2021

Women, Minorities, and
Persons with Disabilities
in Science and Engineering



SEMINAR SERIES

2021 HHMI Gilliam Seminars

This seminar series highlights Black leaders in plant biology through two events: 1. traditional research talks and 2. open-format talks on outreach and education efforts and/or academic perspectives.

Register for all here: <https://tinyurl.com/HHMIgilliam>

Dr. Kevin Cox (he/him)
Danforth Center,
HHMI Hanna Gray Fellow
<https://www.meyerslab.org/>

research
12 May (W) 9-10 AM PST
outreach & perspectives
13 May (Th) 9-10 AM PST

Dr. Edith Pierre-Jerome
Duke University,
LSRF Fellow
<https://sites.duke.edu/benfey>

research
18 May (T) 10-11 AM PST
outreach & perspectives
20 May (Th) 10-11 AM PST

Prof. Thelma Madzima
(she/her)
UW Bothell
<https://thelmamadzima.com/>

research
26 May (W) 9-10 AM PST
outreach & perspectives
27 May (Th) 9-10 AM PST

If you any information or resources that you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please email [Loralee](#)