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 highlighting 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 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 Manci 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.
Save the Date for the BGSA’s Celebration of Diversity in Botany Symposium on June 2, 2021
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
If you any information or resources that you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please email Loralee.