Provost Announces 2020 – 2021 Diversity and Inclusion Faculty Fellows

Each year, faculty of all ranks are invited to apply for this fellowship which allows them to increase diversity and inclusion in academics by supporting them as they:

- Develop curricular practices to support inclusive and diversity classroom environments.
- Design or redesigning courses for major or core curriculum.
- Support scholarly engagement.
- Develop scholar-practitioner collaborations.
- Create opportunities for on-going mentorship.
- Identify areas of potential collaboration to enhance diversity and inclusion.

The Office of the Provost is pleased to announce the 2020 - 2021 cohort of Diversity and Inclusion Faculty Fellows:

Dr. David Cosper, Assistant Professor, Department of Music, College of Fine Arts & Communication. Project: Know Your M.I.N.D.: Music, Identity, and Difference. This newly developed course will fold together thoughtful conversation, careful and critical listening, and close reading of scholarly and journalistic writing about music, difference, and identity. Students will consider music’s potential as a tool for positive change in the 21st century.

Elizabeth De Coster, MLS, Research and Instruction Librarian, Cook Library. Project: Guide for Building Inclusive Library Collections. A newly developed faculty resource guide will make it easier for faculty and librarians to partner in working towards inclusive library collection management.

Dr. Melissa Groves, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, College of Business & Economics. Project: Separate and Not Equal: The Differential Impact of a Pandemic on Student Outcomes. This project hopes to produce original research to contribute to the field and help us better understand how instances such as the COVID-19 outbreak differently impacts undergraduate Economics students.

Dr. Sel J. Hwahng, Assistant Professor, Women’s and Gender Studies, College of Liberal Arts. Project: Intersecting Religious Diversity and Health among Global Trans/Gender-variant Communities: Redesigning an LGBT 47X Capstone Course. This course redesign will focus on five (5) case studies globally. This course will examine how religion provides a context for gender variance, and how religion and other social and cultural factors intersect to produce specific health outcomes and interventions found in each respective population.
Dr. Francisco Martinez Ibarra, Associate Professor, Department of Foreign Languages, College of Liberal Arts.

Project: Sociolinguistic Diversity in the City. A newly developed course will provide students with tools and opportunities to reflect on linguistic profiling, social networking, language commodification, language transmission, conflict theory in the context of language contact, and raciolinguistics, among other issues.

Dr. Min Ji, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, Fisher College of Science & Mathematics.

Project: Actuarial Diversity Mentorship for Underrepresented Students. A one-to-one diversity mentorship program will implement activities to improve underrepresented students’ retention rates by exposing students to actuarial study, research, and the profession. The program will also focus on assisting students with preparation for SOA examinations.

Dr. Halcyon Lawrence, Assistant Professor, Department of English, College of Liberal Arts.

Project: Documenting Syntactic and Lexical Adjustments of African American English (AAE) Speakers Using Speech Technologies. This project extends the findings of existing research to document a range of syntactic and lexical adjustments that speakers of African American English make in order to be recognized by speech-directed personal assistants such as Amazon’s Alexa.

Ada Pinkston, Lecturer, Department of Art + Design, Art History, Art Education, College of Fine Arts & Communication.

Project: Engaging Public Sites: Creative Interpretations of Historical Moments for Contemporary Sites and Times at the Hampton Mansion. This new course will use anthropological source material, service-learning, and the complicated history of the Hampton National Historical Site as a case study of the history of colonialism, the construction of race, and the forced labor that was part of building wealth.

Dr. Aminata Sillah, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts.

Project: Increasing Diversity and Access to Study Abroad. In order to increase and diversify access to study abroad, this project will collaborate with Study Abroad to create and deliver a 12-day experiential based faculty-led program for underrepresented and low-income incoming freshman and transfer students at the Universidad do Sul de Santa Catarina (UNISUL) in Florianopolis, Brazil which is welcoming to students of color. Students will examine urban development through an interdisciplinary framework aligned with U.S. Foreign Policy goals.