

UCI School of Education

Equity, Diversity, & Inclusiveness Communities, Initiatives, and Events

For more than a decade, UCI has taken a university-wide approach to equity, diversity and inclusion. Led by the [Office of Inclusive Excellence](#), this charge is about dismantling the systemic barriers of racism and discrimination that have too long been the norm in higher learning and our broader communities. The Office serves the campus priorities and is committed to a transformative, whole university effort grounded in our values: **expect equity, support diversity, practice inclusion and honor free speech**. UCI's powerful vision of inclusiveness and change is supported through a dedication to ensuring accountability, providing training and education, conducting responsive research and building sustainable partnerships. [Learn More](#).

In the School of Education, three complementary initiatives support the goals of equity, diversity, and inclusion:

Climate Council

The climate council was formed as part of the School of Education's commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and advancement. We celebrate the diverse tapestry of people and experiences. We seek to empower and value each member of our community. We acknowledge that certain communities and voices are traditionally marginalized and work to dismantle power differentials that silence, limit, alienate, and harm. We strive to promote excellence through open inquiry, inclusion, honesty, knowledge, diversity, dialogue, and respect. Contact: [Elizabeth Pena](#).

DECADE (Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience)

UCI Campus-Wide Decade

In collaboration with the UCI Office of Inclusive Excellence, this program provides a diverse group of UCI graduate students with a supportive community consisting of faculty, staff, and students, resources tailored to fit specific needs, and a wide variety of professional development and leadership opportunities. DECADE seeks to improve inclusive excellence by increasing the participation and retention of women and marginalized students in graduate programs.

School of Education DECADE

School of Education DECADE provides solutions for various challenges faced by students and the community through student support, student advocacy, and opportunities for social justice and service. This includes committees focused on relevant areas of need and presence in other School of Education organizations, such as the Climate Council and the Admissions Committee.

Contacts: [Jennifer Cabrera](#) or [Perla Ramos Carranza](#)

DECADE Faculty Mentor: [Rossella Santagata](#)

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The People Coalition (TPC)

TPC is a grassroots group led by School of Education students, including researchers and faculty, who work together towards initiatives that thrive to enact change grounded in social justice both within the university and in the surrounding communities. They uphold a lateral structure, create mentoring and research opportunities to support marginalized and minoritized group members and their allies, and pay folks for their labor. Among others, their efforts include a support hub for UCI Education Sciences undergraduate students, an anti-racism program of workshops and clinics, a critical summer learning institute for K-12 students in Orange County, and a Critical Theory Research Conference.

Contacts: thepeoplescoalition.uci@gmail.com

SAMPLE PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Below is just a small sample of the many events and initiatives that as PhD students you will be able to participate in:

School of Education DECADE organized events

Secret Buddy Gift Exchange

Graduate students were assigned a buddy to send a gift over the winter break and we held a virtual social event at the beginning of the Winter 2021 quarter to celebrate the gift exchange. This event was organized by our Community Building committee members, Jennifer Renick and Valery Vigil.

Personal Website Workshop

This workshop included faculty, post-doc and doctorate student guest panelists who discussed best practices for building a personal website that highlights your research, accomplishments, and story. The workshop covered website design from content to aesthetics and provided resources to create a website. The workshop was organized by our Higher Education Outreach Committee, led by Vanessa Bermudez and John Lopez.

Dean's Inclusion & Equity Speaker Series

- Dec 10, 2020 - [Tyrone Howard](#)

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Teacher Academy Speaker Series

- Nov 18 2020 - [Jeff Duncan-Andrade](#)

Masters of Arts in Teaching

- [Voices and Perspectives Series](#)
- [Teacher Diversity Advocacy](#)

Decolonizing Your Syllabus

(February 17, March 10, April 7 2021)

This workshop series will engage the UCI School of Education community in exploring decolonization, acknowledging and unlearning white supremacy, and moving toward anti-racism in a 3 part series. The 3-part series will promote deep engagement and allow participants to have exposure to information, time for reflection, discussion, and application. Participants will reconvene to participate in shared contemplation and co-construction of knowledge.

Community Dialogue on Racism & Our Roles in Social Justice brought you by The People's Coalition

(Thursday, February 25th, 2021; 2:00 PM PST)

Join us in conversations supported by professional facilitators. We will acknowledge that we are in unprecedented times that affect our minds, bodies, and hearts. We will:

- Build our self-care toolkit
- Develop strategies to navigate microaggressions
- Think about how to make changes individually and in our community
- Support one another toward community care