

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

Board on Higher Education and Workforce

Supporting Diversity and Excellence in Research Pathways at UC Merced

October 28, 2021 | 10:00a-12:30p PST (1:00p-3:30p EST)

Webcast Live Here: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/10-28-2021/supporting-diversity-and-excellence-in-research-pathways-at-uc-merced>

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) and the University of California at Merced invite you to join a virtual town hall.

Diversity and inclusion in research is of central importance to higher education. Supporting the success and advancement of students from underrepresented backgrounds will diversify the professoriate, and grow and enhance the scientific workforce. The University of California at Merced is the newest campus of the UC system, and since opening in 2005, they have grown rapidly to build capacity in undergraduate and graduate research training across a range of STEM disciplines. UC Merced has developed a culture of breaking down barriers to research and professionalization for students who come from nontraditional backgrounds, preparing them with the education and mentorship needed to advance and succeed in research career pathways. Within the UC system, UC Merced has the second highest percentage of undergrads who go on to complete PhDs, and the most diverse graduate student population. This virtual town hall, co-hosted by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, will tell the story of how UC Merced and partnering institutions work to support inclusive excellence in research pathways, including successes and lessons learned as a 21st century university born in the heart of California's Central Valley.

This event is one in a series of town halls NASEM is conducting in collaboration with Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to (1) promote the findings of the 2019 National Academies report, [*Minority Serving Institutions: America's Underutilized Resource for Strengthening the STEM Workforce*](#), (2) hear how MSIs are working to advance STEM workforce preparation, education, and research capacity, and (3) foster new discussions and solutions around these issues.

The audience will have an opportunity to engage with speakers during Q&A.

10:00-10:15 AM PST WELCOME

Introduction from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
Dr. Gregg Camfield, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, UC Merced

10:15-11:15 AM PST REMOVING BARRIERS TO RESEARCH

Dr. Hrant Hrachian, Associate Professor and Chair of Chemistry & Chemical Biology,
UC Merced

Dr. Jennifer Manilay, Professor and Chair of Molecular and Cell Biology, UC Merced
Dr. Sayantani Ghosh, Professor of Physics, UC Merced

Moderated by Dr. Sarah Frey, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education;
Teaching Professor, Applied Mathematics, UC Merced

10-minute intro, 10-minute presentations, 20 minutes of Q&A including students

11:15-12:15 PM PST REMOVING BARRIERS TO PROFESSIONALIZATION

Dr. Jorge Arroyo, Director, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center, UC Merced
Ms. Ashleigh Papp, Communications Specialist, U.S. DOE Joint Genome Institute
Dr. Mario Banuelos, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Fresno State University

Moderated by Dr. Chris Kello, Interim Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education,
UC Merced

10-minute intro, 10-minute presentations, 20 minutes of Q&A including students

12:15-12:30 PM PST CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Marjorie Zatz, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research & Economic Development, UC
Merced

12:30 PM PST ADJOURN

This activity is co-hosted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and UC Merced, with the support of the Department of Defense HBCU/MI Program and the ECMC Foundation.

NOTES

- For more information on this event: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/10-28-2021/supporting-diversity-and-excellence-in-research-pathways-at-uc-merced>
- This meeting will be livestreamed and archived for future viewing at the link provided at the top of this document, along with presentation materials.
- Public participants may submit questions for speakers online while viewing the webcast.
- Full speaker bios can be found here before the event: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/10-28-2021/supporting-diversity-and-excellence-in-research-pathways-at-uc-merced>