

DIVERSITY OFFICERS COLLABORATIVE

A UNIVERSITY-WIDE DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE



The Diversity Officer's Collaborative (D.O.C.) was established to maintain an ongoing method of collaboration for system-wide diversity officers. The D.O.C.'s mission is to:

foster collective ownership of diversity, access and inclusion efforts across the four-campus System to achieve equitable outcomes for faculty, staff and students.



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN
ELVIRA ABRICA, PH.D.



*Assistant Professor & Higher Education Researcher
Work Teachers College Hall (TEAC) 129
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Appointed: 2021*

Elvira Abrica, Ph.D., is a higher education researcher and assistant professor at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her research focuses on issues of equity and access to higher education for historically underrepresented groups across various post-secondary institutional settings, with an emphasis on community college and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) contexts. Her work is funded by the CENTER for the Study of Community College, National Science Foundation, and the University of Nebraska Research Council. It appears in the Community College Journal of Research and Practice, Journal of Applied Research in the Community College, Race, Ethnicity, and Education, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, The Review of Higher Education, Association of Mexican American Educators (AMAE) Journal, and The Urban Review.

Professionally, Dr. Abrica has worked in institutional research and assessment across both four-year and two-year institutional contexts, specializing in qualitative data collection, analysis, and reporting for institutional improvement. Dr. Abrica received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
CANDICE BATTON, PH.D.



*Assistant Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs
202 Eppley Administration Building
Omaha, NE 68182
(402) 554-4452 | cbatton@unomaha.edu
Appointed: 2020*

Candice Batton is Assistant Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs at UNO. In that capacity, she works to advance the mission and development of the faculty with the goal of excellence in teaching and scholarship. Diversity, equity and inclusion are central themes in her areas of responsibility which include faculty recruitment and searches, retention and advancement, and recognition and honors as well as faculty professional development and the Center for Faculty Excellence.

Batton joined the faculty at UNO in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice in 1999 after completing her doctorate at Vanderbilt University. She is an Associate Professor and served as School Director for eight years before joining Academic Affairs in 2015.



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN
MARCO BARKER, PH.D.

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Vice Chancellor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
208 Administration Building
Lincoln, NE 68588-0420
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Appointed: 2019

Dr. Marco Barker is the inaugural vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Barker leads the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, which shapes the campus policies, protocols and practices needed to advance diversity, equity and inclusion. He works toward fostering an inclusive, equitable and welcoming campus by collaborating with campus partners, allies and the community.

Barker previously served in diversity leadership roles at Westminster College, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Louisiana State University. He is a certified qualified administrator for the Intercultural Development Inventory and holds a doctoral degree in educational leadership and research from Louisiana State University.



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
JONATHAN C. BENJAMIN-ALVARADO

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Assistant Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs
206 WC, Hayden House
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Appointed: 2016

Dr. Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado was named assistant vice chancellor of student affairs at UNO in October 2014. A native of California, Alvarado received his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia in 1997, and M.A. from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in 1992.

Benjamin-Alvarado is the chief student affairs officer with oversight of diversity, inclusion and equity. He has been instrumental in the creation of scholarship and pathway programs serving first-generation students and under-represented groups. Benjamin-Alvarado is also a professor of political science and serves on the boards of the Nebraska Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Humanities Nebraska, Project Harmony—Connections, the Salvation Army and Film Streams.



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN
RICHARD J. BISCHOFF

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IANR Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty and Academic Leader Success
Mabel Lee Hall 135
Lincoln, NE 68588-0236
(402)427-5801 | rbischoff2@unl.edu
Appointed: 2018

Dr. Richard Bischoff is the IANR Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty and Academic Leader Success at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. He received a Ph.D. degree from Purdue University in 1993. He was an Assistant Professor in the College of Education (Marriage, Family and Child Counseling program) at the University of San Diego before coming to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in 1998.

Prior to accepting his current role, he was the Director of the Marriage and Family Therapy program and Department Chair in Child, Youth and Family Studies, College of Education and Human Sciences. His research and scholarship expertise is in rural mental health disparities and global mental health.



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT KEARNEY
MARTONIA GASKILL, Ph.D.

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*Associate Professor of Education, Director & Advisor,
Instructional Technology Master Program
President, UNK Faculty Senate
College of Education, COE B187
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Appointed: 2020*

Martonia Gaskill is an Associate Professor of Education at UNK. She received her Masters from UNK and PhD from UNL both in Instructional Technology. She served as Director and Advisor for the Curriculum & Instruction Masters Program for several years before her recent role as the Director and Advisor of the Instructional Technology Masters Program at UNK. Martonia mentors undergraduate research and has recently focused on mentoring minority students interested in pursuing research and graduate school.

She has been an active member of the UNK Faculty Senate since 2014 serving in several roles in the executive committee, and in many Faculty Senate standing committees. Martonia is a member of the UNK College of Education Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, and Social Justice Committee and a member of the Nebraska Department of Education Future Ready Nebraska Council.



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT KEARNEY
JUAN C. GUZMAN

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*Director, Multi-Cultural Affairs
116 Nebraska Student Union
Kearney, NE 68849
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Appointed: 2016*

Juan Guzman has been the director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs at the University of Nebraska at Kearney for the last 12 years. Guzman started his college career with an associate's degree at Central Community College. He continued on to UNK, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in education in 2002. Guzman then worked as an assistant director for Enhancing Access to Higher Education.

In 2005, Guzman received a master's degree in counseling and school psychology, with an emphasis in student affairs. He completed a second master's in Spanish literature in 2017. Guzman's passion is to serve his community and to help students achieve their dream of obtaining a college education.



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
CECIL L. HICKS, JR.

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*Associate Vice Chancellor Diversity, Equity,
Access and Inclusion
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Appointed: 2016*

Cecil L. Hicks, Jr. is a proven leader with 20+ years of experience in the public and private sector. Hicks has held leadership roles in the financial industry, city government, non-profit and higher education. Hicks currently serves as assistant vice chancellor and director of human resources for the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He oversees employee relations, payroll, benefits, employment, compensation and human resources information systems.

Hicks is a member of the Chancellor's Cabinet, as well as UNO's Strategic Planning Committee and UNO's Diversity Strategic Committee. In 1990 he earned his Bachelor of Science degree from UNL in business management with an emphasis in human resources and is a 2010 graduate of the UNO Executive MBA Program.



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER
SHERITTA A. STRONG, MD, DFAPA

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*Assistant Professor, Psychiatry
UNMC Psychiatry PYH Rm 6020
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Appointed: 2020*

A psychiatrist at UNMC and Omaha Native, Dr. Strong is an award-winning distinguished fellow of the APA. She is the pre-clinical director and block co-leader in medical student education. In her many roles, she is the faculty advisor and mentor to an inclusive student group at UNMC (GRADS), involved with the faculty committee of SHARING, and provides care at Charles Drew Health Center. Nationally, she served on a panel for diversity & inclusion at the women's empowerment conference and co-led a workshop on microaggressions.

Furthermore, Dr. Strong has received several awards locally and nationally including the NCNW Women in Medicine Award, the UNMC's Alumni Early Career Award, and the APA's national education award. She is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Omaha Chapter of the Links, Inc. In her spare time, she enjoys basketball with her husband and teenage sons.



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
STANCIA WHITCOMB JENKINS

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*Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer,
University of Nebraska System
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Appointed: 2016*

Prior to the University of Nebraska, Jenkins spent 14 years at the University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC). While there she developed and executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Department of Justice to address diversity and inclusion concerns and implemented a "Chancellor's Lecture Series" on the nation's changing demographics and the impact on education, economics, and business.

Jenkins holds a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Advertising from the University of Kansas, and a master's degree in public affairs with a focus on business and government relations from Park University. She is also a qualified administrator and interpreter of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) designed for intercultural developmental of individuals, group training, and organizational change efforts.