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Faculty Affairs Monthly

2/21/2024

Congratulations to our New Spring 2024 Department Chairs & Heads



Caree' Banton
History



Joseph "Mike" Plavcan
Anthropology



Lawton Lanier Nalley
Agriculture Economics
and Agriculture Business



Trent Roberts
Crop, Soil and
Environmental Sciences

UA ENGAGE Leadership Exploration Program



The third annual workshop for the UA ENGAGE Women's Leadership Exploration Program is underway. The semester-long program is organized by the UA ENGAGE Initiative and aims to increase the engagement of women faculty in leadership roles on the U of A campus.

The workshop includes identification of leadership values and strengths, discussion of mental and physical health in the context of leadership, learning from current women leaders, and development of a leadership intention map. The 2024 class includes 16 women faculty from various colleges on the U of A campus:

Jamie Baum, associate professor, nutrition

Ana Bridges, professor, clinical psychology

Claire Terhune, associate professor, anthropology

Jingyi Chen, professor and vice chair, physical chemistry

Kelly Hammond, associate professor, history

Lisette Szwydky, associate professor, English

Samantha Robinson, associate professor and vice chair, mathematics

Shauna Morimoto, professor of sociology and associate dean of Fulbright College

Erin Popejoy, associate professor, counselor education and supervision

Kara Lasater, associate professor, education leadership

Page Dobbs, associate professor, public health

Maria L. Carreon, associate professor, chemical engineering

Younghye Song, assistant professor, biomedical engineering

Stephanie Pierce, associate professor/librarian

Erin Henry, associate professor, accounting

Iana Shaheen, assistant professor, supply chain management

Meet LaShawnda Fields

2023-2024 Advance ENGAGE Fellow



Dr. LaShawnda Fields is a native of St. Louis, MO where she completed both her Ph.D. and MSW degree at the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. Her current research focuses on the culture and climate within social work education pertaining to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Before returning to school, Dr. Fields worked at Washington University as the Diversity in Retention Coordinator. In this role, she primarily worked with and supported students who identified as first-generation and or low-income in their persistence to graduation. As a staff member, she volunteered across campus in many diversity-related capacities. Dr. Fields has spent more than a decade immersed in the promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion, completing a wide array of training by some of the industry leaders, including the creators of the Social Justice Training Institute. Dr. Fields is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Project Description

Dr. Fields' project focuses on collaboration and networking with Arkansas HCBU's and developing writing workshops to support and prepare students from these universities for success at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Fields will facilitate institutional networks to support bi-directional exchanges of information between the University of Arkansas, Arkansas Baptist College, Philander Smith College, Shorter College, and the University of Arkansas at Pine

Bluff. Establish, and serve as faculty advisor to an affinity group for graduate students from HBCUs transitioning to the U of A, providing both peer and professional resources for success.

In collaboration with the UA ENGAGE Team Dr. Fields will 1) support the implementation of a virtual writing bootcamp for HBCU students interested in social science STEM graduate programs, with a pilot program for Social Work students; 2) generalize the virtual writing bootcamp for HBCU students across social science STEM departments; and 3) serve as a liaison between the UA ENGAGE PI team and HBCUs in establishing an advisory Board to address bi-directional challenges and opportunities in recruitment retention, and pipeline development for social science STEM women of color faculty.

Courses Transition to Blackboard Ultra

Starting Fall 2024, all courses will utilize the Blackboard Ultra interface.

What does this mean for you?

The shift to Blackboard Ultra signifies a significant upgrade, necessitating familiarity with new features and navigation. The university strongly recommends faculty upgrade courses to Blackboard Ultra by **May 15, 2024** to avoid delays in getting courses set up correctly for fall 2024.

Where can you gain insight into Blackboard Ultra and seek assistance?

Visit [here](#) for comprehensive information. Consider attending an introductory workshop during Ultra Mondays or delve deeper into specific topics during Follow-Up Friday training sessions. The Ultra Video Series offers quick training on various Ultra tools. Additionally, schedule a departmental or one-on-one consultation with a member of the TIPS team.

Provost Award for Departmental Excellence in Faculty Mentoring

The Award for Departmental Excellence in Faculty Mentoring will be awarded to the department or academic unit on campus that best displays excellence in onboarding and mentoring of early-career and mid-career faculty, including tenure track and non-tenure track faculty. The winning department will receive \$8,000 and a trophy. The unit's name will be placed on a university plaque housed in that department for a year. The Award is sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Office for Faculty Affairs.

Eligibility

All academic tenure-home units are eligible to apply for the award. The winner will not be eligible for the following two academic years.

Applications will be assessed on the following two criteria

How does your department demonstrate its sustained commitment to excellence in new faculty onboarding and mentoring of early-career and mid-career faculty?

How does your department demonstrate commitment to the professional development of faculty mentors and mentees?

The application deadline is February 29, 2024. For more information or to apply please click [here](#).

Please Nominate an Outstanding Faculty Mentor

To assist the Office for Faculty Affairs with promoting excellence in mentoring and recognizing outstanding faculty mentors, we encourage non-tenure track, pre-tenure, and mid-career faculty members on our campus to consider acknowledging their faculty mentors.

Outstanding mentors assist their mentees with building excellence in teaching, research, and/or service while encouraging a healthy balance of work and home life. They cultivate faculty career advancement and belonging. Outstanding mentors assist mentees in building their professional networks, advocate for their mentees, and create avenues for mentee recognition. They demonstrate commitment to fostering mentees' professional development and promote mutually beneficial mentoring relationships. For more information on the nomination process or to nominate please visit our [website](#).



**Professional Development Opportunities at
your own pace**

The University of Arkansas is a member of the **National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD)**. You can log on with your uark email, create your password and enjoy the curriculum! Go to www.ncfdd.org

Upcoming Events Scheduled 1:00pm-2:30 pm CST

Tuesday February 20th - Peer Reviewing as "Reflexive Mentorship"

Thursday March 14th - How to Develop a Daily Writing Practice

Tuesday March 19th - Student-Centered Mentoring: Bridge the Gap Between Faculty & Students

Thursday April 11th - Mastering Academic Time Management

Tuesday April 23rd - Panel Discussion: What I wished I would have known: Transitioning to Department Chair

Faculty Collaborative

Don't forget to visit the Faculty Collaborative if you want a space to write, meet, just have a quiet place to think. To make a reservation for use of the classroom or conference room, you send a outlook calendar invitation to HAPG 703-B (conference room) or HAPG 703-C (Classroom) .



UA ENGAGE -- Empower. Lead. Transform. Women in STEM at the U of A

The University of Arkansas is proud to be a NSF ADVANCE campus and Faculty Affairs plays a key role in the programming and initiation of UA ENGAGE activities. We are honored to recognize the excellent women researchers in our STEM departments. For more information on UA ENGAGE, visit the [website](#).

Keep an eye on the Office of Faculty Affairs social media pages to stay up to date. Links to our Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube pages are below.

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