



Dear Faculty-

Welcome to the University of Denver! While some of you may have been hired months ago, and others last week, we look forward to you joining us on campus in the next year as faculty and administrators. If you have been at DU and are in a new role, thank you for your continued commitment to our institution, students, and colleagues.

The purpose of this letter is to introduce the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and to share detailed information about onboarding activities for new faculty this fall and beyond. You will continue to receive communications from essential offices, like Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, throughout the summer. Please continue to connect with your chairs, directors, and leadership in your college, who are your best resources for navigating your specific contexts. If applicable, you will also be invited to attend an all-Employee Orientation hosted by Human Resources & Inclusive Community, where you can learn more about policies and benefits at DU.



The Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs (VPFA), established July 2019, works closely with the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor and faculty members across the university to support the continued excellence of DU faculty by enhancing faculty development initiatives, increasing faculty diversity, and building a strong, inclusive, and collaborative faculty community. Kate Willink, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, is the inaugural VPFA and works closely with deans and department heads to recruit and retain high-quality faculty, support faculty career advancement, and to create collaborative department cultures that support transparency, equity, trust and belonging.

As Director of Faculty Development & Career Advancement, Alison Staudinger works in the Office of the VPFA to support DU faculty in all series from hiring through retirement. Dr. Staudinger came to DU in January 2021 after eight years as a faculty member and three as a department and program chair at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and has the pleasure of working directly with new faculty through onboarding and the faculty learning community.

Check out the VPFA website: <https://duvpfa.du.edu/> for more information about our office, services, initiatives, programming and events.





## New Faculty Welcome & Orientation

Please plan to join us on Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup> from 9am-3:30 pm for orientation.

The morning will inform you about the people and offices you need to know to thrive at DU, and in the afternoon we'll focus on teaching to prepare for those first days of the term in a discussion and small groups.

This will be an in-person session. We will record the AM content and share for those who can't make it in person. Completely fine if you can only attend part of the day! We know that some academic units have competing events that day, and will provide access to the content through a Canvas course.

Schedule:

**9:30-10:00am**-- Breakfast

**10am-12pm**- Welcome to DU! (Presenters include Provost Mary Clark, Senior Vice Provost Jennifer Karas, Senior Vice Provost Corrine Lengsfeld, Senior Vice Provost Kate Willink, Director of Faculty Development & Career Advancement Alison Staudinger)

**12-1pm** Hosted Lunch Discussions

**1-3:30pm** -- Teaching Institute (co-hosted by VPFA & OTL)

All new full-time faculty are also invited to the 2022-2023 **“Teacher Scholar” Faculty Learning Community**. The FLC meets 10x throughout the year on Fridays from 11:30-12:30. Fall we meet as an entire group, Winter offers branching pathways related to series, field, and position, and Spring is a design-oriented engagement with setting audacious goals. Throughout, we share our experiences in the classroom, the lab, and faculty meetings. This FLC has led to higher productivity, satisfaction, and sense of community for previous cohorts of new faculty members. Watch your email for a separate invitation!

Both Kate and Alison are also available to you as a confidential resource for conversations about your faculty experience at DU—including approaching tenure and/or promotion or challenging situations in your area. Other VPFA resources include Laura Sponsler, Research Fellow, and Heather Martin, Faculty Fellow of Mentoring Initiatives. We also support subscriptions to the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity and Denver’s own Academic Impressions, for your professional development needs. For example, here is a 2021 [panel of New\(ish\) Faculty sharing what they wish they’d know when they started at DU!](#)

Again, welcome! We know it’s a time of transition--processing the effects of the pandemic and adjusting to post-ish pandemic living. And, we’re so excited to work with you as you settle in, move towards your professional goals and build a supportive, collegial community. Please get in contact if you have any questions or need support!

-Alison & Kate