

Greetings new DU Faculty,

Since the launch of the annual Diversity Summit twenty-three years ago, the University of Denver has worked to engage and critically question the ways in which we as a community (students, staff, faculty, alumni, leadership, and community partners) could more fully embody our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is charged with envisioning and implementing these commitments. To read more about DEI, the work of our division, and to get to know our team please visit our website at: www.du.edu/equity.

As we welcome you to DU, we want to introduce you to key campus players and make you aware of important initiatives and resources that we hope will enable you to thrive at DU. We would like to start by inviting you to DU's 23rd annual Summit, October 16th-17th. This year we will be featuring speakers and panels as we explore our theme **"Persisting with Integrity: Embracing Diversity and Empowering Equity."** More information, including a save the date, will be sent to the DU Community in a few weeks.

Meet Dr. Lauren Hammond

Dr. Lauren Hammond just joined DU in mid-August and is our Assistant Vice Chancellor (AVC) for DEI Academic Engagements. Dr. Hammond is joining us from Augustana College where she was a professor of Latin American and African Diaspora history as well as an advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion. As AVC for DEI Academic Engagement, Dr. Hammond will be working closely with faculty and academic administration toward making DU a more affirming and welcoming campus for our faculty. On issues related to faculty concerns, curriculum, classroom management, scholarship, and other matters at the intersection of Academics and DEI, Dr. Hammond will serve as the primary point of contact. As she settles in, more detail will be added to the parameters of her portfolio.

Centers & Institutes

The DU Latinx Center

The [Latinx Center](#) at the University of Denver advances critical interdisciplinary research, scholarly and creative work, and curricular development related to the historical, political, cultural, and intellectual legacy of Latinx people. The Center promotes and advances knowledge affecting the Latinx community through hosting visiting Latinx scholars, filmmakers, poets, performing artists and culture critics; providing grants that support scholarship and creative works on topics that contribute to the knowledge and experience of the Latinx community nationally and internationally; providing research briefs on areas of policy that affect the Latinx community; and supporting graduate education for University of Denver Latinx students and students engaging in research focused on the Latinx issues, concerns, and culture.

Interdisciplinary Research Institute for the Study of (In)Equality (IRISE)

[IRISE](#) is the intellectual home for faculty and students to engage in the development of cutting-edge interdisciplinary research on issues of inequality, social justice, and inclusivity. IRISE seeks to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion at DU, as well as furthering DU's public good mission by extending and connecting this work across campus to locally diverse communities in a comprehensive and meaningful way. IRISE is co-hosting the second annual Collective Welcome Back event on September 20th from 12pm-2pm in the Community Commons. This event will feature organizations and centers across

campus, drawing on IRISE's interdisciplinary approach. Join us to learn more about IRISE and the many organizations across campus that engage in the work of DEI.

Current Initiatives

Native American and Indigenous Initiatives

[Native American and Indigenous initiatives](#) includes increasing access to a DU education through support and financial aid. We are working to address recruitment and retention of Native American and Indigenous faculty and staff, student support and community building, exploring the creation of a Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies, among other efforts. During the fall quarter, Native American and Indigenous Initiatives will be working alongside various organizations, faculty, and staff, and our Native American student group to host various events, including Orange Shirt Day and Indigenous People's Day. Keep an eye out for more information in the Bridge.

Black Community Initiatives

[Black Community Initiatives](#) works to create a vibrant and inclusive community at DU where Black individuals in their full humanity, can personally and socially thrive, advance scholarly inquiry, cultivate critical and creative thought, and generate new knowledge. As part of its DEI action plan (2020), [DU continues to commit resources](#) to BCI with the goal of building a community where Black faculty, staff, and students can bring their full and authentic selves to the institution and thrive while being vital parts of the growth and excellence of the University of Denver. BCI will be hosting its welcome event on Saturday September 9th from 12pm-3pm. For more information email us at inclusion@du.edu.

Faculty Affinity Groups

Faculty of Color Association (FOCA)

The DU Faculty of Color Association is a voluntary empowerment and advocacy group working to promote inclusive and equitable practices and policies toward creating a supportive and affirming University community for faculty members from under-represented racial and ethnic groups. Meetings are held monthly. To learn more about FOCA, please reach out to us at inclusion@du.edu

Queer Faculty Association (QFA)

QFA supports LGBTQ and questioning-identified faculty on campus through advocacy, scholarship, and social networking. QFA works to connect queer faculty across the university and ensure that DU is an affirming space for all queer students, staff, and faculty. To learn more about QFA, please reach out to us at inclusion@du.edu

The Women's Coalition

The DU Women's Coalition creates and fosters a University of Denver culture that values and empowers all women. You can learn more about the Women's Coalition here: <https://www.du.edu/women>

Whites Organizing for Racial Consciousness (WORC)

WORC is an informal campus network that holds space for DU community members to support racial justice and the responsibility white people have in building a more just and fair community in solidarity with people of color. (Any discussion of identity is intersectional; however, the focus of this group is to discuss racial identity.) For more information, contact us at inclusion@du.edu

In Solidarity,

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