

Dr. Melissa Valiska Gregory

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education and Curriculum & Professor of English
College of Arts and Letters, University of Toledo

Melissa Valiska Gregory is Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education and Curriculum and Professor of English at the University of Toledo, an R2 and Division I institution that is one of Ohio's thirteen public comprehensive universities. She believes the liberal arts are the lifeblood of higher education.

As Associate Dean for UToledo's College of Arts and Letters (arts, humanities, social sciences, and interdisciplinary programs), Dr. Gregory works with over 135 faculty to deliver 29 undergraduate degree programs and 17 graduate programs. Although she provides key support to the university's humanities graduate programs, including History's doctoral program, her portfolio focuses on the undergraduate experience, where she takes an active role in the college's enrollment and retention efforts and collaborates with faculty to manage the undergraduate curriculum. Dr. Gregory is passionate about helping faculty develop curriculum in new and exciting ways, and in the last three years she has played a key role in developing a minor in Latin American and Latinx Studies (2021), a BA in Data Analytics (2019), and a PhD in the Public Humanities (due for review by the Provost's office this month). Dr. Gregory also chaired the university-wide committee for the General Education Core for over two years, where she led the first-ever external review of the Core as an academic program in preparation for the fall 2021 visit from the university's national accrediting body.

Dr. Gregory is committed to undergraduate research, and under her leadership the students in her college have dramatically increased their participation in university-wide research opportunities. Arts students now seek and receive funding from the Office of Undergraduate Research alongside the university's STEM majors, and participants from the arts, humanities, and social sciences grew from a mere handful of students in 2016 to over 48% of the university's annual undergraduate research symposium in 2019. Driving these efforts and others is Dr. Gregory's belief that student success is not successful unless it's happening for all students. She is committed to reducing equity gaps in education and advances this mission by prioritizing inclusive curriculum, culturally responsive pedagogy, and strategic scholarship support.

Dr. Gregory is also a strong advocate for faculty success and believes that building a culture of productive research starts from the moment a new faculty member arrives on campus. In an earlier leadership role as the university's first Presidential fellow, Dr. Gregory led an initiative to create new university-wide tenure and promotion guidelines that would strengthen the culture of research, scholarship, and creative activity at the institution. The finished guidelines, which Faculty Senate formally endorsed in 2017, were transparent, rigorous, and fair, and have done much to support a culture of research and to demystify the process of tenure and promotion.

Dr. Gregory received her BA from The College of Wooster and her MA and PhD from Indiana University.

Dr. Elaine Correa

Dr. Elaine Correa earned her Ph.D. in Administration and Policy Studies in Education from McGill University, Montreal, Canada. In Fall of 2016, she joined the California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) campus community, serving as Professor and Chair of the newly formed Department of Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies in the School of Social Sciences and Education (SSE). Dr. Correa was a representative of CSUB at the California Latina Leadership Summit (2017) and participated in the ACE Leadership Academy (2018). In 2019-2020 she served as the Interim Associate Dean for the School of Social Sciences and Education. Most recently in 2021, Dr. Correa completed Harvard University's Women in Leadership Training.

At CSUB, Dr. Correa actively participates in shared governance on the Academic Senate serving on the Executive Senate as Chair of the Academic Support and Student Services Sub-Committee. She is a strong voice for diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives that move from talk to practice. Dr. Correa actively engages in mentoring of faculty as she is acutely aware of academic workload demands, particularly during a Global Pandemic. Prior to her appointment at CSUB, she was the President of the Faculty at Medaille College where she was a recipient of the Western New York Service-Learning Coalition Faculty Fellowship. She was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Verona, Italy, and has worked on several International research projects.

At CSUB, Dr. Correa has worked collaboratively with colleagues to support their advancement towards tenure and promotion with team grant proposals, scholarly publications, and service-learning projects. Her department achieved award winning recognition by the Chancellor's Office as one of three CSU's to offer an Open Educational Resources (OER) degree program, to address equity gaps and increase retention to graduation rates. Dr. Correa's advocacy for social justice is intertwined with her passion for merging theory with practice through community engagement. Dr. Correa's focus on experiential learning is reflected in her International, National and Local research, publications, and conference presentations, that focus on the areas of educational equity, multiculturalism, feminist pedagogy, e-learning, and service learning.

Dr. Correa is excited about the possibilities for outreach and innovation that emerge with Humboldt State University's Polytechnic designation. She is enthusiastic about learning and embraces challenges by seeking evidence-based creative solutions, through a collaborative team approach and an attitude that promotes success.

Dr. Jeff Crane

Jeff Crane grew up in Washington State on Whidbey Island. After four years in the army, and as a first-generation college student, he attended The Evergreen State College, earning a bachelor's degree with an emphasis in American Studies. He earned his Ph.D. in American History at Washington State University, with an emphasis on the Environment and the West. After serving as adjunct, VAP, and tenure-track and tenured faculty, Dr. Crane began his career in administration as the Associate Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. In 2016, he joined Saint Martin's University in Lacey, WA, as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, a position he still holds. In addition, he served as the Interim Dean for the School of Business for two years and is currently in his second year as the Interim Dean for the College of Education and Counseling. As dean of these colleges and school, he has worked with faculty to make curriculum improvements, build programs, and increase the emphases on educational opportunities and greater equity.

As an academic leader, Dr. Crane has amassed extensive experience in assessment, accreditation, faculty and staff mentoring, budget management, fundraising, and program development leading to strong increases in majors. He has worked with faculty to steadily grow service-learning and engagement experiences while also supporting and promoting interdisciplinary teaching.

In San Antonio, he collaborated with faculty, community members, and non-profits to build four community gardens in food apartheid communities. At Saint Martin's Dr. Crane collaborated with faculty and community members to launch Our Common Home Farms (OCHF, <https://ourcommonhomefarms.wixsite.com/ochf>), which is dedicated to food justice and climate and community resilience through organic and regenerative farming. OCHF has donated more than 36,000 lbs. of produce to the community over the last five summers.

Dr. Crane's scholarship has focused on land and resource use, ecosystem change, opposition to development and restoration efforts, and is increasingly dedicated to food justice and climate justice. He has published numerous articles and book reviews and the following four books: *The Politics of Hope: Grassroots Organizing, Environmental Justice, and Social Change*, University of Colorado Press, co-edited with Dr. Char Miller, 2018; *The Environment in American History: Nature and the Formation of the United States*, Routledge Press, 2014; *Finding the River: An Environmental History of the Elwha River*, Oregon State University Press, 2011 (a finalist for the Washington State Book Award); *Natural Protest: Essays on the History of American Environmentalism*, Routledge Press, co-edited with Dr. Michael Egan, 2008. He has received the following recognitions in his career: selected as an NEH Fellow for the NEH Conflict and Trauma Program at the University of the Incarnate Word in August 2015; awarded the Sam Houston State University History Department Excellence in Research Award in 2012; and awarded the Sam Houston State University History Department Excellence in Teaching Award in 2008.

Dr. Crane complements his academic life with active work on environmental issues in the community. In San Antonio, Texas, he served on the board and as Vice-President of the Board for Green Spaces Alliance, a Land Trust and Community Gardening organization. He currently serves on the Board for the Coastal Watershed Institute, an organization that conducts research and restoration ecology in the nearshore ecosystems of the Elwha River and surrounding areas. He also gives regular talks on climate justice and community farming.

Dr. Jaye Cee Whitehead

Bio coming soon