

Campus and Community Development Diversity Training Specialist

Candidate Bios

Everardo Cuevas

Everardo J. Cuevas (he/they) is a queer, chicanx Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures. His work focuses on antiracist teacher education and pedagogy, namely the rhetorical practices of scholars of color and their approaches to redressing white supremacy, anti-Blackness, and the legacies of (settler-) colonialism. Because he understands race as a technology of settler-colonialism, race, racism, and antiracism become entry points for addressing larger intersectional harms informed by his experiences as a chicanx in coalition with other communities of color. Situated at the intersections of culturally-sustaining pedagogy, cultural rhetorics, and community engagement, he develops antiracist praxis with teachers and administrators in writing studies and other disciplines across the K-16 spectrum as a means for institutional change. He is also a poet, a gaymer, a damn good cook, a trained improv performer, and a lover of all things cats.

Abimbola Iyun

Abimbola Iyun is a diversity and equity practitioner who co-designs spaces and programs for inclusivity. As a Ph.D. candidate in Mass Communication and Media Arts at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC), she studies media texts that represent Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) and analyzes their engagement with systems that are oppressive and exclusive. Abimbola takes a social engagement approach to her work by deconstructing how these systems impact the lived experiences of BIPOC today. Abimbola's approach to diversity and equity is informed by both her scholarship and collaborations with historically marginalized communities in the US and diaspora.

Abimbola co-managed Jumpstart Academy, a global non-profit that provides equitable educational programming to K-12 students from low-income communities in Ibadan, West Africa. She collaborated with teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community members in developing a sustainable after-school program where students co-created projects that addressed socioeconomic needs in their communities. With support from the community, this program grew from serving 10 to 100 students in its first year.

Abimbola also co-founded M.A.R.P.-U., a student-led organization at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) that connects first-generation and BIPOC students and professionals to diverse mentors from the university and community. Because of the personalized mentorship design, members connect with mentors like them who offer guidance relevant to their social location and identity.

Abimbola has also consulted and worked with the Black Resource Center, the Women's Civic Institute, the First-Generation Center, and other organizations on the SIUC campus and community in co-developing equitable programming for students, staff, and faculty. She co-designed *Family Conversations at the Dinner Table*, a safe space where BIPOC students, faculty, and staff share their experiences navigating personal and professional spaces and their visions for an equitable community.

Abimbola takes a compassionate and emphatic approach in co-developing trainings and programming for the communities she works with. She believes sustainable change occurs when people are heard and their voices are represented in programming and policies. In 2019, Abimbola was inaugurated as a University Innovations Fellow with the Stanford D School for her work in co-designing equitable spaces in her community and her commitment to social change.

Tina Okoye

Tina Okoye is originally from New Jersey. She went to Lehigh University in Bethlehem PA to receive both her Bachelor's and Master's degree. After Graduate school, Tina moved to California to work at Cal Poly Humboldt, a Hispanic Serving Institution after living on the east coast for the majority of her life. She was in Northern California for 5.5 years where she had the opportunity to support Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, Desi Pacific Islanders, LGBTQIA+ Trans, Gender Non-Conforming folks, undocumented folks, and homeless communities on and off-campus. She was able to do this through collaborations, projects, interim positions, creating events/initiatives, training, and 1 on 1 conversations. Due to the low retention rates of male students of color; especially Black men in the California State System, Tina became one of the co-founders of DMSI (Diverse Male Scholars Initiative) where she was responsible for helping create a program that would help recruit male Faculty, Administrators and staff of color to mentor our male students of color on Cal Poly Humboldt's campus.

In 2021, Tina moved back to the east coast and has had the opportunity to use all of her skills at Rider University as their Assistant Director of Student Recruitment, Selection, and Programming. In her role, she is responsible for all of the recruitment, hiring, training, and supporting professional and student staff in the Residence Life Department. In addition, she is responsible for managing and supporting 7 residence hall buildings and adjudicating high-level conduct. In her spare time, Tina enjoys singing in The Westminster Jubilee Singers choir and working out.

Liz Sequeira

Liz (she/her/hers/ella) has spent the last 12 years focusing on inclusive facilitation, event and program coordination, and the promotion of equitable environments. Graduating from then-Humboldt State in 2013 with a Bachelor of the Arts in Recreation Administration and a Minor in Business Administration, Liz unites human experience with ethical business practices to create well-rounded, equitable experiences for all. Liz's background is filled with diverse experiences working with people, mostly in the outdoor environment. Working in the outdoors with people has taught Liz how to navigate and manage challenging physical, social, emotional, and psychological experiences- skills that have served her well as a rising Diversity Specialist. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging work has been a pillar of Liz's personal and work environment since first attending the Campus Dialogue on Race in 2010. Since then, Liz has continued to promote the education and implementation of DEI practices at every company she has worked for by providing trainings, ethical business reviews, resources, goal setting and leadership consultations, and more. Liz is excited for the opportunity to bring her passions together in this role by advocating for equity for all people and by advocating for the future of all things Humboldt- her favorite place in the world.