

**2022 Awardees for Confronting Extremism through Community, Thriving, and  
Wellness**

**Project Abstracts of Awardees by unit are:**

**Claire Trevor School of the Arts, Department of Studio Art, David Trend (Lead) – *The Inclusive Course Design Institute*** – Additional team members: Stacey Branham, Megan Linos (Co-PI), Meredith Ehrenberg (Co-PI), and Andrew Berk

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

The Inclusive Course Design Institute (ICDI) is a faculty-led professional development program to cultivate diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility (DEI-A) in teaching and learning. Providing structured training, online resources, and public programs, the ICDI addresses the role of instructional design as well as course content in advancing equitable learning environments. With initial funding from the “Confronting Extremism” program, the ICDI is a joint effort of DTEI, OIT, and academic units campuswide. Its programs provide pedagogical resources for faculty in supporting transparency in course design, accessibility, student wellbeing, engagement and belonging. The ICDI’s first series of six-week faculty development programs began in Spring 2023, with all senate faculty and all instructors of record eligible to participate. The program entails weekly meetings, a Canvas course site, an informational website, and other resources for inclusive teaching. Participating faculty attend weekly discussions and complete a reflective teaching statement at the end of the program describing a redesigned course. Those completing the program will receive an ICDI certificate.

**Program in Public Health and School of Social Sciences, Department of Chicano/Latino Studies, Alana LeBrón (Lead) – *Evaluating an Anti-Racism Curriculum to Inform the Development of the Center for Environmental Health Disparities Research (CEHDR)*** – Additional team members: Jun Wu, Abigail Reyes, Mextli Lopez, and Candice Taylor Lucas

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

The new UCI Center for Environmental Health Disparities Research (CEHDR), the inaugural Black Thriving Initiative Cluster Hire effort, is working to deepen and grow environmental and climate justice action research, and to ground the emerging CEHDR in the priorities of African, Black, Caribbean and other communities of color who are disparately affected by environmental and climate injustices. We developed a popular education anti-racism process to inform the

CEHDR's research agenda and community engagement structure. At question is the effectiveness of the process for: (1) building academic and community consciousness about systems of power and systemic racism; (2) capacity to identify, critically reflect upon, and transform systemic racism in partnership activities; and (3) building partnership capacity to engage in equitable partnership activities. This project seeks to evaluate an anti-racism process related to partnership building efforts for the CEHDR to inform an equitable development of the CEHDR and future anti-racism capacity-building efforts.

**Program in Public Health**, Sora Park Tanjasiri (Lead) – *Assessing Cancer Health Disparities through a Community Outreach and Engagement Lab (COE Lab)* – Additional team members: Brittany Morey, Cevadne Lee, and Vy Le

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:** The COVID-19 pandemic has affected many different communities in Orange County. Specifically, the pandemic ignited a rise in extremism, such as the increase in hate crimes, that affected vulnerable and underserved communities of color at a disproportionate rate. Extremism created violence and fear that affected everyday activities for members in these communities, including going on walks, grocery shopping, and even doctor's appointments. This project addresses the isolation and disruption in holistic health, community activism and agency, brought on by extremist threats that result in the decrease of cancer screenings. Furthermore, this project will train UCI undergraduate students to document the effect of extremism on community wellness through qualitative research and analysis. Findings from this project will be shared through presentations, research papers, and policy recommendations.

**School of Education**, Rossella Santagata (Lead) – *Theater of Resilience (“TOR”), Part II: Bringing Together Undergrads and Minoritized High-School Interns for Collaborative Writing and Performance on the UCI Campus* – Additional team members: Joseph Jenkins, Gustavo Carlo, and Adriana Campos Johnson

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:** An interdisciplinary faculty group brought UCI undergrads to a neighboring Title 1 high school to mentor drama classes for writing and staging theater scripts, and to enhance mentee understandings about discrimination, racism and resistance AND family and community resilience. The mentees developed scripts and presented theatrical productions in their schools and other locations. Current phases of the project focus on supporting "freedom of expression") among a new cohort of undergraduates, who will examine issues with new mentees from Title 1 high schools. The year closes with research and dissemination of findings to: (1) foster diversity-related assets, resilience, and strengths in students, (2) promote effective ways to cope and manage racism and injustice, and (3) create strong cultural connections and community.

**School of Humanities, Department of African American Studies, Sora Han (Lead) – *Living Archives of Poetic Justice: Confronting Extremism through Community-Centered Oral Histories and Storytelling*** – Additional team members: Susan Bibler Coutin, Audra Eagle Yun, Richard Matthew, and Krystal Tribbett (Co-PI)

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

Living Archives of Poetic Justice is a collaboration between the UCI Libraries, Social Ecology, and African American Studies that builds upon multiple initiatives, including Community-Centered Archives Practice (C-CAP), the Pandemic Histories Archive project, and the Black Thriving Initiative's three-year Faculty Cluster Hiring Initiative on Poetic Justice. This project will both record and publicize stories of Black thriving in the face of extremism in Orange County and expand the therapeutic benefits of community-centered archival work. The project aims are three-fold: 1) developing a curriculum accessible to faculty and instructors across multiple courses and disciplines at UCI and beyond; 2) recording oral histories reflecting the Black experience in Irvine and Orange County, California; and 3) disseminating stories and strategies that illustrate the liberatory potential and empowering practices of community-centered memory keeping.

**School of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine, Cynthia Haq (Lead) – *Thriving in UCI Health*** – Additional team members: Afshan Baraghoush, DeMarco Bowen, Jaih Craddock, Tessa Daniels, Xavier Hernandez, Michelle Quint, Juliet McMullin, Bobby Sasson, and Ursula Worsham

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

UCI Health strives to recruit and retain a diverse health care workforce to provide the highest quality of care for all patients and to reflect the characteristics of the communities that our graduates will serve. We train students, faculty, and staff to treat all patients with respect and to address implicit bias. Concurrent with the increase in extremism across the nation, health staff have been subjected to disrespectful behavior from patients and/or family members. In response to these incidents, we developed a new policy for "Management of Patient Discriminatory Conduct". We propose to develop curricula to prepare physicians, trainees, and staff to thrive, to recognize and respond to acts of intolerance, and to become effective upstanders. We will evaluate effectiveness of training through participant feedback. We will track progress and refine trainings through review of incident reports and annual summaries that describe the number and types of incidents.

**School of Social Ecology, Department of Criminology, Law and Society**, Brandon Golob (Lead) – *Teaching during Trying Times: Training the Future Professoriate in Contemplative & Inclusive Pedagogy* – Additional team members: Karma Rose Zavita (Co-PI) and Daniel Mann

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

This project seeks to create a *Pedagogical CLS Certificate Program* that trains Criminology, Law & Society (CLS) Ph.D. students in: (1) inclusive teaching; (2) teaching during trying times; and (3) mindful and contemplative pedagogy. Through a series of CLS-specific and wider campus workshops, graduate students will learn how to scaffold undergraduate student success, create inclusive learning environments, and respond to contemporary issues. Moreover, Ph.D. students will create their own specialized workshops and resources that will become part of a Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation (DTEI) digital archive used to enhance pedagogical training for all UCI Ph.D. students and beyond.

**School of Social Ecology, Department of Criminology, Law and Society**, Keramet Reiter (Lead) – *Confronting Extremism through Trauma-Informed Community Allyship Training Around Incarceration* – Additional team members: Jennifer Gomez and Ananda Van Boeyen

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

UCI LIFTED lays the foundation for advancing equity in education and building new pathways to decarceration. In Fall 2022, 25 UCI LIFTED students will enroll in UC undergraduate courses, offered in person, on site at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility (RJD). With a Confronting Extremism Grant, we would pilot, refine, and institutionalize an Allyship Training to develop resources to welcome and integrate both current and formerly incarcerated students into the UCI community. This training would promote inclusion of those with criminal records (who are underprivileged and underrepresented in higher education), cultivating a positive climate on campus; overcoming stereotypes, stigma, and intolerance associated with criminal records; and encouraging a sense of belonging in the anteater community. We propose to develop trainings for UCI staff and faculty about systems of oppression inherent in mass incarceration, trauma symptoms experienced by systems-impacted students, and developing tools for acknowledging and addressing these symptoms.

**School of Social Sciences, Department of Chicano/Latino Studies, Laura Enriquez (Lead) – *Thriving in the Face of Anti-Immigrant Extremism: Building a Toolkit for Undocumented Student Well-being* – Additional team members: Martha Morales Hernandez (Co-PI), Angela Chen, Eloisa Amador-Romero, and Shaozhuan Li**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

Undocumented students experience high rates of emotional distress fueled by rising anti-immigrant extremism. We propose to develop and pilot an empirically grounded toolkit that can be implemented to support undocumented students' wellbeing and thriving in the face of anti-immigrant extremism. We will draw on three studies conducted by PI Enriquez and doctoral student co-PI Morales Hernandez to identify key areas in which anti-immigrant extremism compromises undocumented student wellbeing and the means through which students resist and thrive. Working with staff practitioners across campus, we will develop six one-hour modules to guide students through contextualizing their mental health in light of rising extremism and developing the tools to thrive on their journey toward wellbeing. We will pilot the modules as workshops and then with a cohort of 30 students to assess their efficacy. A program toolkit will enable annual facilitation of these workshops at UCI and support their replication beyond UCI.

**Division of Student Affairs, Womxn's Center for Success, Sydney Torres (Lead) – *Reproductive Justice at UCI* – Additional team members: Erika Cortez and Britney Chen**

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

Through the project on Reproductive Justice at UC Irvine, the Womxn's Center for Success and a Reproductive Justice Intern have raised awareness of reproductive justice issues and concepts. The project shared knowledge about reproductive justice as a combination of reproductive rights and social justice, teaching comprehensive sex education, increasing access to STI prevention and care, and sharing narratives about womxn's reproductive rights. This project aims to educate an annual cohort of students about the human right of reproductive justice. Topics include: how to access safe abortion and abortion options, comprehensive sex education, and available contraception methods. Over the past several quarters, the project has executed programs that educated the UCI community on reproductive justice topics to create a more equitable campus for womxn.