

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR
DIVERSITY

WELCOMED, VALUED, and AFFIRMED

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS ISSUE:

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LAUNCH OF NEW FIRST GENERATION CSU WEBSITE

Learn more about CSU's First Generation University Initiative including how to get involved, and resources available for supporting first-generation students at

firstgeneration.colostate.edu



THE WOMEN & GENDER COLLABORATIVE COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

The [Women & Gender Collaborative](#) is seeking involvement from diverse employees across campus to serve on various programming and recommending committees.

These committees will function under the [Systems-Based Leadership Development through Service \(SLDS\) model](#), which has been developed to provide structure and support for campus-wide efforts under the Women & Gender Collaborative at CSU.

The expectation is that all committee members and co-chairs will be equally invested in creating inclusive, accountable, and supportive working groups that develop leadership among all committee members as they work to advance gender equity at CSU through an intersectional approach regarding our policies, practices, and programs.

Please indicate your interest in serving on a committee and participating in the Systems-Based Leadership Development through Service model by filling out this [online form](#).

Submissions are due by Monday, December 17th, 2018, and notifications of committee assignments will be distributed by Tuesday, December 27th, 2018. The first SLDS retreat for committee co-chairs will take place the afternoon of Friday, January 18th, 2019.

FAREWELL AND BON VOYAGE, DR. OSCAR FELIX!

From Mexico to Morocco, Selma to Seoul, Dr. Oscar Felix's 30 years at Colorado State University have taken him all over the country – and the world – in his work to make college accessible to all students. But first? Everything started with a shredded beef burrito.

Dr. Felix was born in Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico, and by the age of 9, he knew he wanted to go to college. Dr. Felix's oldest brother was getting ready to go to leave for his first year of university in Mexico City, and because it would take him many days by bus, their mom made him mountains of shredded beef burritos to sustain him. That was when Dr. Felix knew – if going to college was the way to get shredded beef burritos, he was going there too.

Fast forward nearly a decade and it was looking unlikely that Dr. Felix would be able to meet his goal. Despite being a bright student with a high G.P.A. and numerous A.P. classes under his belt, none of the high school advisors approached the young Mexican-American student to ask where he wanted to go college or how they could support him. Dr. Felix's father had worked as a tuna fisherman for many years to provide for his family, but after the tuna industry left San Diego for other ports, the Felixes fell on hard times. As his family had no money to contribute to his higher education, Dr. Felix applied for and was awarded a PELL grant and went on to have an incredible and life-changing college experience, including completing not only an undergraduate degree but a master's and Ph.D. as well as a memorable study abroad semester in London. His personal experience with financial barriers to higher education, particularly given how significant his time in college became to him, instilled a deep desire to help others achieve higher education and set him on his career path.

Dr. Felix is now well-known as a passionate advocate for first generation students and a national leader for first generation initiatives and student access to universities. He has served as the Associate Vice President for Diversity, Executive Director of The Access Center, the Education Opportunity Center, Educational Talent Search, Upward Bound, Reach Out, Dream Project, Alliance Partnership, Bridge Scholars Program, and routinely lobbied Senators and Representatives for continued support of the TRIO program and first generation students while serving as a board member for the Council for Opportunity in Education. His legacy includes the establishment of the first national graduate certificate for college access and success, the first national first generation scholarship, the Global Access Program and award, and the many long-lasting and meaningful relationships he has built in pursuit of equal higher education access for students. After retiring from C.S.U., Dr. Felix will continue serving students in his role as the Dean of Student Life for the Spring 2019 voyage of Semester at Sea and in further consultation opportunities.

And it all started with a shredded beef burrito.

Thank you for everything, Dr. Felix. We'll miss you.

PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF

DR. OSCAR FELIX

AND HIS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CSU COMMUNITY



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2018

3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

GREY ROCK ROOM - LORY STUDENT CENTER

RSVP by December 6th at bit.ly/oscarfelix

Questions? Email bailey.cross@colostate.edu.

TWO MEMBERS OF THE VPD OFFICE RECIEVE NOMINATIONS FOR LOCAL SERVICE AWARD

Dr. Shannon Archibeque-Engle (top) and Dr. Cori Wong (bottom), both Assistant Vice Presidents in the VPD Office, were nominated for the 2018 Marcile N. Wood Award.

This award was established in 1992 to acknowledge women and men who have significantly contributed to the status of women in our community. The award is in memory of Marcile Norby Wood, who volunteered in Fort Collins for 40 years and established or helped to establish The Women's Resource Center; United Day Care Center; and Volunteers Clearing House.

The work that both of these women have done and are doing on CSU's campus and the greater community is inspiring, and the VPD office is beyond grateful for their contributions. Congratulations to you both!



CONGRATULATIONS FALL 2018 GRADUATES!

Congratulations to all of CSU's Fall 2018 Graduates! The Office of the Vice President for Diversity sends a special "Congrats" to Katie Simota, our research assistant, who has been a huge asset to our entire team throughout this past year.

Information on the various commencement times and details can be found [here](#).

SUPPORT DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

Your support of our inclusive excellence initiatives will impact the entire campus. We appreciate your contributions to our programs designed to create the best CSU possible!

**MAKE YOUR
GIFT TODAY**

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