

Meet the New Senior Director of Diversity Programs

PATRICIA CHÂU NGUYEN

UCLA is proud to welcome Patricia Châu Nguyen to the Alumni team. As the new Senior Director, Patricia will uphold UCLA's commitment to connecting Bruins of diverse backgrounds to create an inclusive alumni community.

For the past ten years, Nguyen has served in many capacities in diversity and inclusion initiatives in higher education, including multicultural affairs, intercultural living and learning communities, multicultural Greek life, summer bridge programs, and social justice education. Her previous positions in diversity and inclusion work involved collaboration with a wide range of campus constituents to include undergraduate, graduate, professional staff and faculty; alumni represent her last institutional frontier.



Nguyen has devoted her life to empowering voices in the community. She's driven by her passion for social justice, something that has helped her succeed in her many roles. Most recently, Nguyen served as the first assistant dean of students and founding director of the Asian and Asian American Center at Cornell University. She has presented at conferences such as the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education, NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, and ACPA College Student Educator International. Nguyen also consults nationally on issues related to interfaith conversations, ethics, meaning-making and intersectionality in practice. She is a founding member of Racial Aikido, an affinity-based identity retreat that equips students of color at predominantly white institutions.

Nguyen's experiences of working with college students have fueled her commitment to push institutions of higher education towards a higher capacity for diversity. She hopes to engage all members of the university, including alumni, in building inclusive campus communities. Her efforts in leading Diversity Programs will span in scale, from helping alumni leaders build strong and sustainable cultural networks, to helping diverse stories become part of the fabric of UCLA's legacy and history. For the Centennial, she hopes to begin an archive drive for alumni to contribute their stories, as told through their diverse perspectives. Though the university has made tremendous strides towards becoming an inclusive and equal environment, Nguyen recognizes and strives towards inclusive excellence, and her basic building block begins with creating positive interactions between students and alumni, from the day a student receives an admittance letter. Introducing students to a diverse alumni community is a small first step, but can be crucial to their perception of the campus climate.

She is excited to work with alumni, fostering a spirit of self-empowerment that encourages engagement with service-driven, diverse alumni. “And it’s fun here,” she says smiling. UCLA provides the perfect backdrop for Nguyen to launch the alumni-focused phase of her career: a large, diverse institution teeming with driven students and alumni that want their alma mater to be the best that it can possibly be.

A San Diego native, Nguyen received her Master of Education in higher education and student affairs administration from the University of Vermont and her Bachelor of Science in cellular and developmental biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara.