



April 1, 2022

To SUNY Poly Faculty, Students, and Staff:

As we embark on the second half of the spring 2022 semester, I am excited to share the latest action we have taken as an institution to prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion across our campuses.

I am especially grateful to Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Mark Montgomery for his leadership in helping to establish the SUNY Poly DEI Advisory Committee at my direction, which will provide recommendations and ongoing counsel directly to me and the CDO.

This initiative builds on our concerted efforts to uphold the importance of DEI in our everyday work and interactions, supporting SUNY Poly's active pursuit of an increase in diversity at our campuses. The committee will also be tasked with further facilitating equity and inclusion through efforts in education, institutional change, and modeling of our core values. I encourage you to [read the Advisory Committee charge here](#). More information is also available [at this new committee webpage](#).

The inaugural committee members include:

- *Chair*: Dr. Mark Montgomery—Chief Diversity Officer
- Jennifer Adams—Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs
- Dr. Kazuko Behrens—Associate Professor of Psychology
- Evan Carioggia—Student
- Willjavian Dawson—Admissions Counselor
- Diana Dumesnil—Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Student Recruitment, and Public Outreach
- Dr. Kathleen Dunn—Associate Professor of Nanoscience
- Jae Fish—Student Government at Utica (SGU) President, Student
- Benjamin Fovel—Student
- Larre Harris—Police Officer
- Giovanni Harvey—Student, SUNY EOP Ambassador
- Peterson Jerome—Head Men's Soccer Coach
- Erynn Lowery—Assistant to the Provost
- Dr. André Melendez—College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering Interim Dean
- Angel Molina—Student
- Evan Murphy-Carpenter—Student
- Leslie Reid—Director of Disability Services
- Dr. Susan Sharfstein—Professor of Nanobioscience
- Megan Valentine—Athletics Director
- Megan Wyett—Student Conduct and Leadership Director



As SUNY Poly continues to pioneer hands-on academic and research opportunities, I am extremely proud of these nascent, action-oriented efforts to ensure we are fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion in ways that make everyone feel safe and valued so that they may meaningfully and comfortably contribute to our robust, supportive culture.

As the committee begins its critical work, please continue to look for progress updates which will be shared throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tod A. Laursen  
Acting President  
SUNY Polytechnic Institute