

Diversity & Inclusion Award 2023



Mary Lee Vance, Disability Access Center

I'd like to nominate Dr. Mary Lee Vance for the Diversity & Inclusion Award. Dr. Vance serves as the Director of the Disability Access Center (formerly Services to Students with Disabilities), a position she has held since 2018. She also served as the Interim Director for Equal Opportunity and Title IX Coordinator/CHR Administrator in 2021-22, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most recently, she paved the way to the creation of a cultural center to serve students with disabilities. To each of her roles and efforts, Dr. Vance contributes a wealth of knowledge and a steadfast commitment to the betterment of Sac State and our students.

Under Dr. Vance's direction, the Disability Access Center ensures continuous support, offering academic accommodations to students with mobility, visual, hearing, psychological, and mental disabilities. And, the Disability Cultural Center, located in the AIRC, offers students with disabilities a safe place to study, get counseling, attend workshops and social events, and obtain other resources to achieve their academic and personal goals. The cultural center fulfills a dream Dr. Vance has had since she came to Sac State. The center is the first in the CSU system. The Testing Center is also under her purview, furthering Sac State's commitment to equity, diversity, justice, and inclusion.

In summary, Dr. Vance consistently supports equity for all communities of individuals in advocating for those with disabilities. She embodies the expression "we are all educators" by

taking the time to provide education and context to her colleagues and peers, bringing our attention and awareness to the diversity of needs among all students.

Diversity & Inclusion Award Nominees

- Catherine Mayorga, Multi-Cultural Center