



The University of Akron
Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences

Date: August 31, 2023
TO: BCAS Faculty
FROM: Mitchell S. McKinney
Dean
SUBJECT: Faculty Fellow for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Belonging

To support faculty leadership development within Buchtel College and to identify expertise and assistance in pursuit of the College's strategic priorities, we established a Faculty Fellow program in which BCAS faculty provide leadership for specific college-wide initiatives. Faculty Fellow appointments are part-time (representing one-quarter to one-half of a faculty member's regular appointment), and temporary positions generally lasting no more than one to two years. Faculty Fellows receive an administrative stipend and teaching release commensurate with the responsibilities, goals and objectives of each appointment. They serve as part of the Dean's leadership team, along with our Associate Deans and Directors, and report directly to the Dean. Faculty Fellow appointments are open to any ranked faculty (TT or NTT) at the rank of associate or professor.

Our initial BCAS Faculty Fellow was Dr. Jess Otto who served as Faculty Fellow for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Belonging (IDEB) from January 2022 to July of 2023. Dr. Otto was instrumental in the success we have achieved over the past two years in hiring more diverse faculty, in leading our efforts to enhance inclusive teaching within the College, and public-community engagement activities that demonstrate our commitment to diversity. We thank Jess for her many contributions and service as an important part of the College's leadership team.

To continue our intentional focus on IDEB activities within the College, I am accepting letters of interest for our next **Faculty Fellow for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Belonging**. This individual will lead efforts to develop and enhance the College's commitment to IDEB across all activities of the College. Among other responsibilities, they will lead our collective efforts in setting and achieving diversity and equity goals by diversifying our community, our faculty, staff, and students, engaging our community in diversity and equity conversations and training, and developing and promoting strategies and best practices that promote racial and social justice, sexual and gender diversity.

If you are interested in serving as our IDEB Faculty Fellow, please submit a letter explaining your interest and a CV to me (mmckinney@uakron.edu) by **Friday, Sept. 15**. I encourage you to contact me directly with any questions you may have.

Take care.