



DIVISION
FOR EQUITY
& INCLUSION

UNM Division for Equity and Inclusion &
the LGBTQ Resource Center
Announce Expansion of Staff

(October 20, 2020) – The University of New Mexico Division for Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and LGBTQ Resource Center are pleased to welcome new additions to the staff for the FY21 academic year. April Adams has joined DEI as Administrative Coordinator and will serve as Executive Assistant to VP for Equity and Inclusion Assata Zerai. Joanna Furnans joins the LGBTQ Resource Center as Administrative Assistant 2 and will also serve as a scheduling assistant to Professors Liz Hutchison and Nancy López, Associate Vice Presidents for Equity and Inclusion.



April Adams is a social justice advocate with a background in creative placemaking, visual storytelling, community engagement, organizational management and art program administration. As a youth advocate in the non-profit sector, her work centered around strengthening community support networks for young people by collaborating with diverse community partners including visual and performing artists, extreme sports athletes, educators, parents, art and human services organizations, governmental agencies and businesses. Using hip hop, art and extreme sports as vehicles for transformation, she co-created programs designed to engage young people, support their development and contribute to their success. As an organizer and arts advocate, April contributed to the development of the creative economy in our city by curating and coordinating youth-oriented public art projects, programs, installations and events including: The *Quantum Bridge Mural* on Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd; *Consumption*, a sculpture made out of recycled materials for the ABQ BioPark; and *Hip Hop Culture Day* at Expo New Mexico. She graduated from the University of New Mexico with a degree in Broadcast Journalism in 2010. Ms. Adams can be reached at aadams01@unm.edu.

Joanna Furnans is a professional dance maker, dance writer, and administrator. She is the co-founder and co-organizer of the Performance Response Journal, is a mentor for the 2020-2021 cohort of Chicago Dancemaker's Forum Lab Artists and serves on the board of the Roman Susan Art Foundation. She and her wife relocated to Albuquerque this summer from Chicago by way of Minneapolis, New York and Connecticut. Ms. Furnans can be reached at joannafurnans@unm.edu.



“We are pleased to add to the capacity of the Division for Equity and Inclusion and the LGBTQ Resource Center,” said Assata Zerai, VP for Equity and Inclusion. “The additions of April and Joanna and their experiences in community engagement, inspiring youth, and as creators of art and dance will enhance our footprint at UNM and beyond.”

Our new colleagues will join VPEI Zerai, Associate VP Elizabeth Hutchison, Associate VP Nancy López, Ms. Blanco-Silva, Mx. Frankie Flores, Ms. Mónica Jenrette and Mr. Rodney Bowe to advance excellence-and-equity across all dimensions of the academic mission, culture, and climate in ways that improve opportunities for all of New Mexico’s residents, and UNM’s students, staff, and faculty. Additional information regarding DEI staff can be found at <http://diverse.unm.edu/about/staff.html>.

About the Division for Equity and Inclusion:

The UNM Division for Equity and Inclusion (DEI) was established in 2007 to strengthen the organizational capacity in order to serve UNM’s diverse population. DEI provides leadership for addressing institution-wide equity and inclusion and lends its support to student, staff and faculty efforts which build on the university’s diversity initiatives. DEI Supports system-wide initiatives to enhance student recruitment and retention, academic excellence, employee diversity and campus climate which embraces diversity as an asset.

For additional information, please contact:
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