## Faculty Awards

### Doctoral Dissertation Advisor/Mentoring Award

The recipient will be recognized at the Commencement Ceremony and receive a prize of $3000. All UCR ladder-rank faculty members are eligible for the award.  Letters of nomination are invited from current and former graduate students, faculty, and advisors.  To be considered for the award, a faculty member must receive at least one letter of nomination.  Letters should indicate specifically what makes the nominee an outstanding mentor and why he or she should receive the award this year.  Nominees of previous years will require re-nomination to be considered by this year's committee.

The nominations will be reviewed by a faculty committee composed of members of the Graduate Council.  The committee will take into consideration not only the quality and number of letters of recommendation received but also the number of students the faculty has mentored and whether the nominee has a long history of effective mentoring.  If a nominee came to UCR midway through his or her career, the committee will consider the entire career but will emphasize the mentoring of UCR students. If letters of recommendation were received last year for a faculty member who is being re-nominated this year, the committee will consider those letters (on file in the Graduate Division).

### Commitment to Graduate Diversity Award

This award celebrates UCR faculty who actively champion efforts to promote and maintain a diverse and inclusive campus climate, with some focus on our graduate student populations.  The recipient will be recognized at the Commencement Ceremony and receive a prize of $3000.  All UCR ladder-rank faculty members are eligible for the award.

Letters of nomination are invited from current and former faculty, and students.  To be considered, a faculty member must receive at least one letter of nomination.  Letters should specifically discuss what makes the nominee an outstanding candidate for the award.  The committee will take into consideration how the nominee's efforts have either enhanced the diversity of our graduate students (through outreach, recruitment, mentoring or other efforts), or helped establish our campus as an inclusive environment of belonging for diverse students. Nominees of previous years will require re-nomination to be considered by this year's committee; prior letters will be included in their new file.

# 2022-23 Awardees

The 2023 Doctoral Dissertation/Mentoring Awardee
**Yolanda Moses**
**Professor of Anthropology**



Professor Moses has been teaching for over 30 years and been in the Department of Anthropology since 2003 where she researches the origins of social inequality, runs nationally funded projects on understanding race and has authored multiple books on race and education. She is highly respected in her field having served as the President of the American Anthropological Association and the President of the American Association for Higher education with visiting research appointments at George Washington University, Washington DC and as Professor of Anthropology at the City University of New York Graduate University. However, as someone who received her BA in San Bernardino, her Masters and PhD here at UCR, and who has taught undergraduate and graduate students for many years, she is particularly knowledgeable about the UCR student body. Professor Moses was nominated for the Doctoral Dissertation Advisor/Mentoring Award by current and former students and faculty that have witnessed her mentorship over many years. These letters attest to her consistent, responsive and genuine support of not only her own graduate students but many to whom she sat on committees or met in corridors within and outwith the Department of Anthropology. Her students have gone on to be successful in their own right, and attest to her ongoing mentorship and advice that has helped them gain this success. Faculty describe Professor Moses as bringing her students into "broader intellectual communities" including involving them in national and international collaborations and have witnessed her honesty and compassion as an educator. The Graduate Division and the Academic Senate would like to congratulate Professor Moses on an outstanding career of mentorship and thank her for her continuing emotional and intellectual support of so many graduate students.

The 2023 Commitment to Graduate Diversity Awardees
**Gabriela Canalizo**
**Professor of Physics and Astronomy**



Professor Canalizo received her degree from MIT, conducted her PhD at the University of Hawaii and was a postdoctoral fellow at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. In 2003 she joined UCR where her research focuses on understanding the role that black holes play in shaping the evolution of galaxies and the universe as a whole. Professor Conalizo has shaped the future of many students at UCR and has been recognized with significant honors including the 2013 Distinguished Teaching Award and the 2016 Social Innovation Award. Her colleagues describe her as "a natural mentor" and "fierce advocate" of minorities. Her current and former students describe her patience and support; that their success is down to her training, her positive attitude and her continued guidance. Professor Canalizo has spent many hours as a member of the Graduate Mentoring Workshop where she has shared her experiences in graduate school and gives advice to many students outside of her own research, indeed she frequently works outside the realm of Physics and

Astronomy to include collaborations with those in theatre and music. Many of her graduate students have continued in academia and all have been successful following their graduation. All are full of admiration and state "the fields of physics and astronomy can greatly benefit from more research mentors like Dr. Canalizo because they validate the challenges of marginalized groups and thus open up a space for them to be part of science, the same sciences that have excluded women and minorities for centuries".

**Kinnari Atit**
**Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Education**

<u>Assistant Professor Atit</u> received her PhD in Psychology from Temple University and conducted postdoctoral research at Johns Hopkins and Northwestern Universities. She has been at UCR in the School of Education since 2018 and despite this relatively recent tenure received a significant portfolio of nominations from her colleagues and students. Dr. Atit studies spatial thinking in the STEM fields and how to promote STEM learning and engagement. Faculty are impressed with the quality of her training of graduate students, with her students standing out as particularly well prepared, experiencing presentation opportunities and collaborative research. Students describe feeling supported throughout tough personal times and mentored through self-doubt. Dr. Atit has played a significant role in guiding first-gen students who describe her as "exceeding any and all expectations" of a mentor and without her "nurturing and encouragement" would not have continued. She has fostered the idea of participation in outreach helping her graduate students become well rounded and give back to their communities. Dr. Atit's support and sense of community has had a particularly significant impact in recent years "I have never been made to feel alone in this endeavor – even during a global pandemic". Colleagues from across campus describe Dr. Atit as a positive role model and an inspirational mentor and it is clear from the many nominations submitted that Dr. Atiti has provided many students with a sense of community in which to flourish.