Lawson-Thompson appointed director of Institutional Culture/Climate and Community Engagement

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Adrienne Lawson-Thompson has been appointed as the director of Institutional Culture/Climate and Community Engagement for UC Davis Health System.

Lawson-Thompson began working at the health system in late December. She is responsible for leading efforts that transition the health system into a culturally competent, organizational community that values and embraces equity, diversity and inclusion. Lawson-Thompson will be primarily responsible for the design, development and implementation of:

- Climate-needs assessment and reporting
- Professional leadership development
- Continuous diversity plans
- Marketing of the Office for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Community engagement

“An organizational environment that respects and values our community, patients, students, staff and faculty is the framework for achieving diversity and inclusion,” said Lawson-Thompson.

Prior to coming to UC Davis, Lawson-Thompson was the diversity manager of Faculty Recruitment and Retention at Oregon Health and Science University. Her accomplishments there included the development of an unconscious bias training tool and facilitating the training sessions; creating a university-wide recruitment manual; and establishing an extensive database (recruitment tracking mechanism) to assist with the diversity recruitment efforts of prospective students and faculty.

Previously, Lawson-Thompson worked for nearly 20 years at California State University, Sacramento, in a variety of positions, including research administration coordinator, and adjunct faculty in the Ethnic Studies Department. She also served as an adjunct part-time faculty member at Argosy University in the doctoral degree program in education leadership.

Lawson-Thompson received a bachelor’s degree in sociology from San Jose State University, and a master’s degree in bilingual multicultural education and a doctoral degree in educational leadership and policy studies from California State University, Sacramento. Her research interests include post-secondary education, faculty diversity and retention, gender and equity issues, social change, role modeling, and mentorship for underrepresented students, staff and faculty.