

PRESENTER/PANELIST BIOS

Perspectives on Career Success for Penn Students/Postdocs

Tuesday 25th May, 1pm

Moderator:

Mamta Accapadi, PhD, Vice Provost of University Life



Mamta Accapadi is the Vice Provost for University Life at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to this role, Accapadi served as the vice president for student affairs at Rollins College. She has held administrative and teaching positions at Oregon State University, University of Houston and The University of Texas at Austin. She has also served as a consultant on diversity and inclusion efforts, specifically focusing on the development and empowerment of employee resource groups. Known for her service within student affairs professional associations, NASPA and ACPA, Accapadi has been recognized for her sustained focus on leadership pipeline development and mentorship opportunities for historically underrepresented communities. She has received multiple awards, including the Zenobia Hikes Award for her commitment to the advancement of women in higher education, and has been recognized as a Pillar of the Profession by NASPA. She served as an ACE Fellow in 2016, specifically focusing on the pathways to best support community college and four-year institution partnerships in service of students. As a scholar practitioner, her research interests include Asian American identity development, social justice education and issues impacting women of color. She attended The University of Texas at Austin, where she earned a bachelor's degree in microbiology, as well as a master's and Ph.D. in higher education administration.

Panelists:

Tamara L. Greenfield King, JD, Senior Associate Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Penn University Life



Tamara L. Greenfield King, J.D., serves as Senior Associate Vice Provost for Student Affairs in the Division of University Life. Greenfield King supervises 5 departments: Career Services, NROTC, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, the Office of Student Affairs, and Platt Student Performing Arts House. In 2020, Greenfield King published a chapter entitled "Keeping It Real, Reflections on Inclusive Campus Leadership and Authentic Collaboration, in the book entitled "Reframing Campus Conflict" 2nd edition. Prior to her arrival at Penn, Greenfield King worked at Washington University in St. Louis, where she served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Support and Wellness for undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. At Washington University, Greenfield King oversaw the Habib Health and Wellness Center, which provides medical, mental, and pharmaceutical services as well as outreach and prevention programming; the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center; and the WashU Cares and Students of Concern Behavioral Intervention Team. She also directed services to first-generation and low-income students, addressing needs related to food, shelter, clothing, housing, and health insurance. Greenfield King spent nearly two decades at Washington University, previously serving in a variety of roles. They include, Associate Dean of Students, Deputy Title IX Coordinator, and Director of Student Conduct and Community Standards. She was the first African American National President of the Association of Student Conduct Administration (ASCA) from 2009-2010. She spent 9 years as a member of the ASCA Board of Directors. Greenfield King taught Civil Pretrial Practice & Procedure at Washington University's St. Louis School of Law for nearly 15 years. She has also been an adjunct faculty member at Webster University (St. Louis, Missouri), The Pennsylvania State University (Lehigh Valley Campus, Pennsylvania) and Northampton Area Community College (Bethlehem, Pennsylvania). Prior to transitioning to higher education, Greenfield King practiced law from 1988 to 1998. Greenfield King served as the first African American Assistant District Attorney in Northampton County, Pennsylvania from 1992 to 1998. She grew up in Easton, Pennsylvania and earned a Bachelor's degree from Penn State University, majoring in Political Science and minoring in Sociology and Black Diaspora Studies. She received her law degree from New York University and served as Symposium Editor for The Review of Law and Social Change.

Rudie Altamirano, PhD, Director of International Student & Scholar Services, and Director of Immigration & Integration Services



Rudie Altamirano is the Director of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) and Director of Immigration and Integration Services. His main responsibility is to provide overall leadership in determining and implementing organizational and campus-wide strategies for ISSS including the delivery of quality services and programs to international students, scholars, faculty, staff, exchange visitors and community members. Dr. Altamirano has a doctoral degree in International Resource Development with a major in Cross-Cultural Communication. He has held regional and national leadership positions in NAFSA: The Association for International Educators. Dr. Altamirano was an elected national representative for the Council of Foreign Student Advisors [CAFSS] section of NAFSA and then was elected national Chair of KCISSS (Knowledge Community for International Students and Scholars). He has presented and conducted more than 300 immigration, cross-cultural communication and conflict resolution workshops nationally and internationally. Dr. Altamirano is coordinating Penn's International Student Advisory Board (ISAB) and International Partners Outreach Group (IPOG). He conceptualized and spearheads Penn's Intercultural Leadership Program (ILP). He has developed creative endeavors and innovative programs to advocate for international education and intercultural learning. He enjoys traveling to different cultures because of the colorful educational experience that he gains from these journeys. His quest for learning has taken him to beautiful places in Europe, Asia, and the Americas. He cherishes meeting students and scholars from all corners of the world because of the cross-cultural learning opportunities that are within his grasp. He is greatly fascinated with learning the cultures and languages of the world. He continuously strives to find ways to partner with members and key stakeholders of the campus and Philadelphia community to advance Penn's global engagement efforts!

Barbara Hewitt, EdD, Executive Director, Penn Career Services



Barbara Hewitt currently serves as the Executive Director of Penn Career Services where she leads a staff of 31 in providing comprehensive career-related services for over 20,000 undergraduates, graduate students and post-docs as well as alumni. Prior to becoming Executive Director Barbara served for 18 years as a Senior Associate Director in Penn Career Services leading the team working with Wharton undergraduates and before that as a Career Adviser to students in the College of Arts and Sciences. Before joining the Penn team she worked in career advising at both Dickinson College and The College of Wooster. Barbara holds a Bachelor of Arts from Dickinson College with majors in Psychology and Spanish, a masters in Counseling from Shippensburg University, and an EdD in Higher Education Administration from Penn. Barbara believes strongly in the power of education to change lives and indeed the world, and has enjoyed focusing her career on helping students and alumni to take what they have learned while in school to contribute to society in their own unique ways.

Steve DiNardo, PhD, Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology, Director of Training Support and Career Development in Biomedical Graduate Studies



I am a Developmental Biologist, studying stem cells and their niches. In the research lab, I have helped mentor more than a dozen PhD students and Postdoctoral fellows. Over the years our lab has been home to many additional undergraduate students, summer interns and high school students, a number of which have represented underserved communities. Administratively, for six years I oversaw the Developmental, Stem Cell & Regenerative Biology track within the CAMB Graduate Group. Currently, I am a Director of Training Support and Career Development within Biomedical Graduate Studies.

Marc A. Lo, PhD, Executive Director, Penn First Plus



Dr. Marc A. Lo is the inaugural Executive Director of Penn First Plus. Marc provides leadership for Penn's work to reimagine itself and become more inclusive of its increasing socioeconomic diversity. His career spans nearly two decades of experience in student life, academic advising, admissions, and faculty development. Marc's scholarship explores questions of campus climate for diversity and its relationship with student learning. He has also published and presented on the topics of inclusive pedagogy and curricula. He currently serves on the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Board for ACPA – College Student Educators International.

Meredith Wooten, PhD, Director, Graduate Student Center



Meredith earned her doctorate in Political Science at Penn and served as a Grad Center fellow throughout most of her academic career. At the Grad Center, Meredith worked in several different program areas, including Personal Development and PhD Student Support, during which time she created Dissertation Boot Camp and assisted with launching programming for student parents and the Family Resource Center. As a graduate student, Meredith also served as a representative on the Graduate Student Associations Council (GSAC). After graduating, Meredith held a faculty appointment at Haverford College. She then joined the Pennoni Honors College at Drexel University, first serving as Assistant Director and then Director of the Fellowships Office, after which she became Founding Director of the Center for Scholar Development. In that capacity, Meredith worked with partners across the university to offer skills-based workshops, programs, and resources designed to help students make more intentional choices about their educational and professional paths. She has also taught at Drexel, Bryn Mawr, Rutgers and Penn. As Director of the Graduate Student Center, Meredith oversees the management of the Center, advises graduate student organizations, and provides the University administration and partners with advice and advocacy related to the graduate and professional student population. She coordinates programming and support for the Fontaine Society and is responsible for developing and implementing special initiatives to improve the graduate student experience at Penn. Meredith is a proud first generation college graduate and is deeply committed to advancing equity, access, and inclusion within academia, particularly as they relate to graduate mentoring and training.