

Our Colleague JJ Jackson

Feb. 26, 2015

Members of the University Community:

Dr. Judy Jackson, who has served as UK's first Vice President for Institutional Diversity since 2008, has informed me that she will be leaving the University of Kentucky at the end of the Spring 2015 semester to move closer to her family in Boston, Massachusetts.

Students and student success have been the top priorities for Dr. Jackson since her arrival, and her contributions will be greatly missed. Dr. Jackson has been instrumental in increasing diversity on our campus. She led initiatives such as the Whitney Young Scholars Summer Residential Program, oversight of the Minority College Awareness Program, and the Jamal Mashburn Scholarship Program. She has led a strong corps of offices that work daily and passionately to increase student success. These include the Center for Academic Resources and Enrichment (CARES), Student Support Services, the Health Colleges Student Diversity Services Office, and the Martin Luther King Center where she established the MLK Center Scholar-in-Residence faculty position. She also spearheaded the creation of "First Thursday: The 411 on Student Success," in which the four areas — Institutional Diversity, Undergraduate Programs, Student Affairs, and Enrollment Management — come together to share and/or collaborate on successful aspects of student retention.

Dr. Jackson has provided leadership and expertise for the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) grant, awarded to our University to attract a diverse student population to pursue degrees in the STEM fields. Through embrace of the concept of community and sensitivity to the quality of the student experience, she created the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) Task Force and established an LGBTQ Program Coordinator position. She established a Latino Task Force and annually has provided support for the Latino Leadership Conference. Dr. Jackson also oversaw the founding of the Black and Latino Male Student Success Initiative. She also created the Task Force on Women's Career and Leadership Development. She has provided advice and assistance on diversity strategies through her participation on numerous grants and other committees, and has served on several boards in the larger community.

With passion for the whole life of the student and each one's development as an "educated individual," Dr. Jackson has increased the number of under-represented students participating in study abroad. In collaboration with the German-American Fulbright Commission, since 2009 Dr. Jackson has helped 130 UK undergraduates to open their minds to a wider world of possibilities through the "Discover Germany" student exchange program. She has provided support for the Discover South Korea Program, giving more underrepresented students an opportunity to become "at home in the world." As a member of the faculty in the College of Education, she has helped students achieve their doctoral degrees. Her work with the Southern Region Educational Board and with the National GEM Consortium has given UK valuable inlets into areas of faculty recruiting across the disciplines, but especially in STEM.

I have much appreciated the advice and wisdom of her experience and insight, and will miss her calming perspective on many an issue. I invite the entire University community to join me in wishing Dr. Jackson the very best in her future endeavors as she relocates to the Boston area.

I will be communicating with the campus soon about next steps for the Office for Institutional Diversity and in our work to continually seek greater diversity and inclusion on our campus.

Eli Capilouto  
President