

# **Student Equity and Achievement (SEA) Faculty Co-Chair Candidate Statement**

Jennie Whitlock

My name is Jennie Whitlock and I am an adjunct faculty member in the psychology department here at Moorpark College. I want to begin by thanking you for taking the time to consider me for the SEA faculty co-chair position. I am new to Moorpark College and have not had the opportunity to meet many of you since beginning in Spring 2021 due to online learning; however I am excited to build new relationships as this school year progresses with both students and staff. My interest in the SEA Committee comes from both my teaching and faculty training experience in psychology and counseling departments, and my role as a clinical mental health counselor for individuals with special needs for over 10 years. While at the George Washington University (GWU), I had the opportunity to serve on faculty committees creating DEI curriculum for undergraduate students and training instructors and student mentors on the content. From this opportunity I was able to present workshops and faculty trainings with the aim of building community in classrooms through engagement in social and personal identities, creating Brave Spaces, and understanding privilege. I also had the opportunity to work closely with first-year and transfer students, and complete both college- and university-wide assessments of the student experience. After working at GWU and Northern Virginia Community College for five years, it is important for me to continue to serve in the community college system. I believe one of the most valuable missions of community colleges is equity and providing opportunities for diverse student populations to achieve their educational and professional goals. By addressing institutional barriers to student success and retention, and providing every student with the support they need, we can close achievement gaps and improve the student experience. Currently, I am teaching Intro to Psychology to students at Ventura Youth Correctional Facility and to sophomores at the High School and Moorpark College; later this semester I will be teaching Abnormal Psychology to PACE students. I am passionate about these opportunities to work with diverse populations and hope to promote strategies and initiatives that serve them through the SEA Committee. I sincerely thank you for your time and consideration and I look forward to a great semester!

Jennie C. Whitlock, PhD