



# CAL STATE LA

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

VICE PROVOST FOR DIVERSITY & ENGAGED LEARNING AND CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER FOR ACADEMIC AND STUDENT LIFE – DR. OCTAVIO VILLALPANDO

FINAL – SENT DECEMBER 6, 2016

Dear Campus Community,

I am very pleased to announce that our search for Vice Provost for Diversity & Engaged Learning and Chief Diversity Officer for Academic and Student Life was successful. Dr. Octavio Villalpando will begin on January 3, 2017. Dr. Villalpando joins us from the University of Utah where he has been a faculty member for seventeen years and is currently a Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy. He has extensive experience in diversity and inclusive excellence initiatives and formerly served as Associate Vice President for Equity and Diversity at the University of Utah from 2007-2014. Working collaboratively with campus communities, Dr. Villalpando will be instrumental in the development and implementation of the strategic planning for diversity and inclusion, as well as efforts to strengthen student learning and engagement.

As the University of Utah's chief diversity officer, he shaped institutional policies and practices related to gender, racial, ethnic, and sexual equity and diversity. He had oversight responsibilities for the University's faculty recruitment and appointment processes and served as de-facto dean for Ethnic Studies and Gender Studies. He supervised the LGBT resource center, the Center for Ethnic Student Affairs, the American Indian Resource Center Undergraduate Diversity Scholarships and Grants, Early Student Outreach, Transfer Student Outreach, and other related student support services for underrepresented students.

Dr. Villalpando brings with him a wealth of academic experience, including advising students and teaching courses in the areas of critical race theory and diversity and equity in higher education. Over the last decade, the University of Utah's College of Education recognized his scholarly contributions by awarding him the Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award and the Outstanding Faculty Research Award.

Joining Cal State LA is in some way a homecoming for Dr. Villalpando. He was raised in Boyle Heights and Burbank. Dr. Villalpando received his Ph.D. and second master's degrees in higher education at UCLA, where he also conducted research in the nationally-renowned Higher Education Research Institute. Prior to attending UCLA, he completed a bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Master's in Social Foundations of Education at California State University, Northridge.

Please join me in giving Dr. Villalpando a very warm welcome to Cal State LA.

I would like to offer my special thanks to the people who attended the open forums and shared their feedback, as well as to the Search Committee members: Anthony Hernandez, James Ford, Krishna Foster, Margaret Garcia, Nancy Wada-McKee, and chair of the committee, Emily Acevedo.

Kind regards,

Lynn Mahoney  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs