

Dr. Rhonda M. Gonzales is a historian of African and African Diaspora history who holds broad experience as a higher education administrator. Her undergraduate training in sociology, with a concentration in race, ethnicity and stratification, anchored her in developing the critical lenses she utilizes in assessing institutional systems and leading positive transformational change. Gonzales is a proud first-generation high school and college graduate, who grew up in Southern California. She is a committed and effective advocate for human-centered, campus improvements that prioritize student onboarding, retention, graduation and career preparation, while also recognizing that faculty and staff are central to advancing and achieving these student success goals. As dean, she has garnered more than \$27 million in philanthropic funds. As PI and co-PI, she has been awarded more than \$11 million in external grant funding to create institution-strengthening student success programs. Her hobbies include reading historical fiction, growing food in her home garden, learning new languages, and traveling with her family.