



HAMLIN
UNIVERSITY

August 1, 2012

Dear colleagues,

One of my early priorities as your new Provost has been to talk with and listen to members of the Hamline community. As a result of these conversations, I have quickly come to appreciate that diversity is central to our educational mission of preparing collaborative learners for lives of leadership, scholarship, and service. Specifically, the following issues have come up in many of my conversations: recruiting and retaining faculty, staff, and students of color; integrating planning to connect curricular and co-curricular programs more effectively; and extending the benefits of a multicultural, diverse environment to the entire University community.

With these important goals in mind, it is my pleasure to announce that Veena Deo has accepted the position of Director of Multicultural and Diversity Initiatives, and Carlos Sneed will continue as Director of the Hedgeman Center for Student Diversity.

Veena Deo will maintain her position as Professor of English, and will join my office two days per week. Veena's main focus will be on faculty development, attempting, in her words, to "connect the dots" and tell a coherent story that all of us can see, refer to, and articulate when anyone asks about diversity at Hamline University; to rearticulate the HERI survey results; and to reassess committee structures for diversity-related initiatives.

Carlos Sneed will report to my office, and maintain his full-time effort as Director of the Hedgeman Center. The Hedgeman Center will continue its important work serving members of diverse student populations and as a resource for the staff diversity development initiative. Carlos will place special emphasis on the Hedgeman Center's mission of creating and sustaining an inclusive community that appreciates, celebrates, and advances student and campus diversity.

I look forward to working with both Veena and Carlos as we further the university's central mission to create our diverse and collaborative community of learners both outside and inside the classroom.

With best regards,

Eric R. Jensen
Provost

Office of the Provost