



## *From the Dean's Desk*

As we watch and experience the Black Lives Matter and police brutality demonstrations across the United States and in international destinations around the world, I want to clearly address our commitment to diversity and inclusion at UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management in this 38<sup>th</sup> Communique from the Dean's Desk. When I look at the community of people who make up the faculty, staff and students at UCF Rosen College, I see diversity and inclusion. I see people of various ages, races, ethnicity, religions, genders and those who are gender neutral. The diversity of our faculty, staff and students makes us who we are, and is the foundation for the rich education and experience we are able to provide all students.

Places across the country and around the world that are known for their hospitality are now filled with cries for justice, equality and peace. We at Rosen College want those same things too. We want our students not to fear that ethnicity will be a hindrance to them becoming the future leaders of the hospitality industry. We want our students to know that race or ethnicity should not be a divider; it should be an invitation to learn more about someone who is not like you, an opportunity to engage.



At UCF Rosen College, the faculty that educate the future leaders of the hospitality industry hail from 17 different countries. They come from as far away as Brazil, China, England, Japan, Nigeria, South Korea, South Africa, Turkey, etc. They were born on islands like Aruba and Puerto Rico. They bring with them varied and exciting perspectives on tourism, travel, restaurants, lodging, events, attractions, entertainment and more, and impart those international ideas to our students during their courses. They also share their personal experiences of life. They encourage our students to think beyond what they know from their own backyards and to approach their chosen professions in hospitality with eyes open to possibilities. Take a look at our [faculty directory](#) and meet our professors, you will understand that we are a diverse group of educators from all around the globe, and we are proud of that.

Our [staff](#) is also diverse and inclusive of many races, religions, heritages and cultures. They come to us from the Bahamas, Guyana, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago. They have passports and experiences in travel and tourism that make them global citizens. We are a melting pot. Into that pot we add our diverse students population, from Indonesia, Russia, Switzerland, Haiti, China and more. And of course many of the campus population is from the United States. It is not uncommon to be on campus and hear many languages being spoken.

Our world has been made diverse and inclusive by hospitality, travel and tourism. That is evident on our campus.

While its quiet now, as we teach and work remotely, we still come together via Zoom, Skype, Webcourses and other means to teach, to learn, to advise, to share ideas. We see each others faces and our homes in the background, reflecting our cultural differences. For now, we will embrace the rich diversity of our campus family virtually and stand with those who are oppressed, in pain, angry and disappointment, and work to make the world a better place, a place filled with hospitality, understanding, and love.

Charge On!

*Youcheng Wang*

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