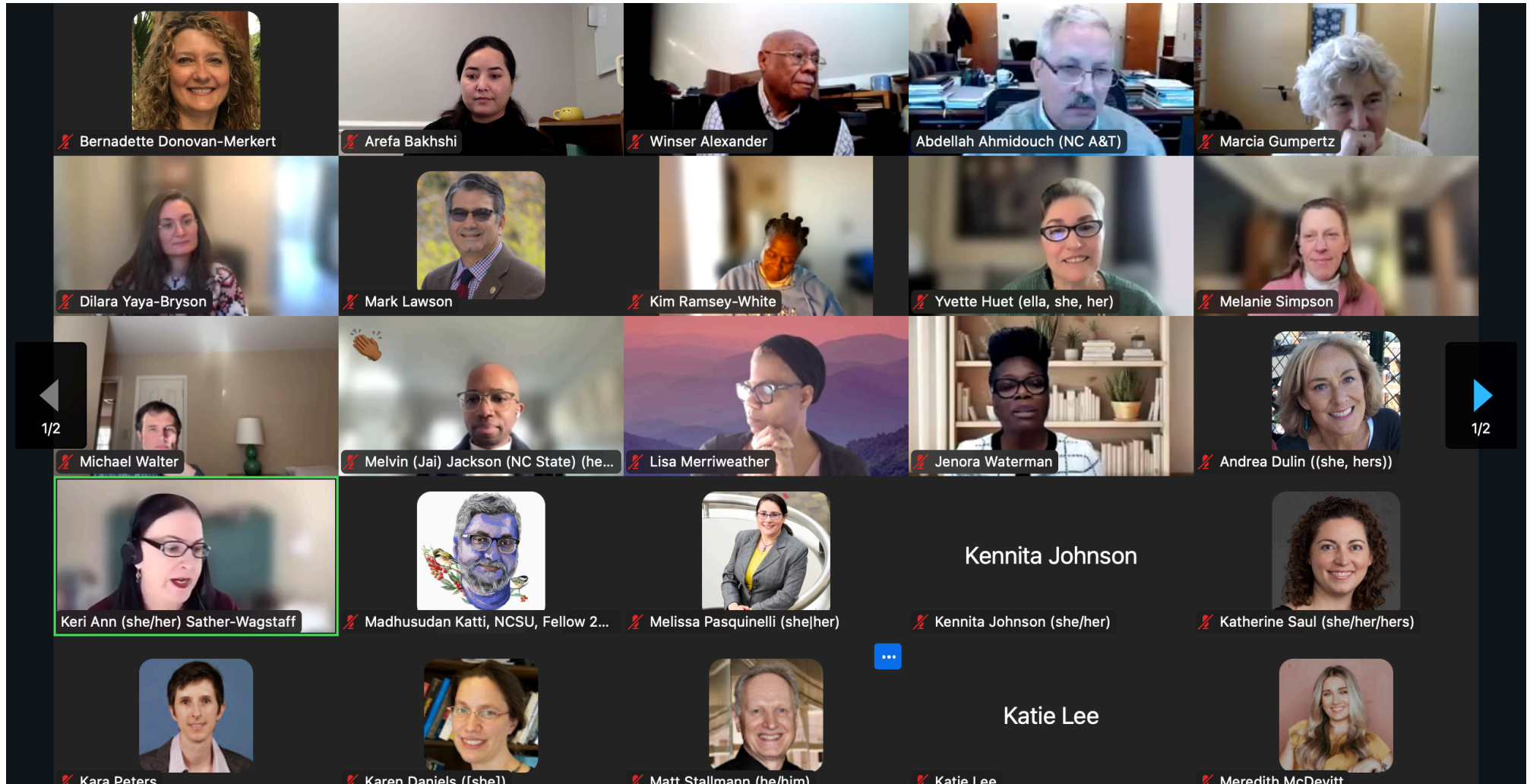


AGEP-NC NEWSLETTER

2025 AGEP-NC WINTER ALLIANCE MEETING

Thank you to those who attended the 2025 AGEP-NC Winter Alliance Meeting! As a result of adverse winter weather conditions, the meeting was moved to Zoom.



Faculty Development in a post SFFA environment, Lessons from the UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program.

The 2025 AGEP-NC Winter Alliance Meeting, Mark Lawson, Ph.D., delivered a wonderful keynote speech titled Faculty Development in a post-SFFA Environment, Lessons from the UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program.

Dr. Lawson is a professor in residence in the Department of OB/GYN and Reproductive Sciences at UC San Diego School of Medicine. He is also the director of the UC Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (PPFP). The PPFP aims to support Ph.D. recipients to contribute to research, teaching, and service, with the goal of expanding the professoriate and improving mentorship for students. The program focuses on selecting individuals with unique experiences that contribute to the field.

The PPFP was established to address the need for a more representative faculty within the UC system. After Proposition 209 passed, which prohibited state governmental institutions from considering race, sex, or ethnicity in public education and employment, the program broadened its focus by prioritizing the identification of scholars through their educational backgrounds and life experiences rather than targeting particular groups.

The program attracts a variety of candidates, drawing from a broad national pool of Ph.D.-trained scholars across the country. Applicants go through a selection process, reviewed by over 250 faculty members in or near the applicant's discipline, that ensures that candidates are chosen for their potential contributions to their field, with an emphasis on mentorship commitment.

PPFP has received strong support from faculty and administrators, contributing to the hiring of talented faculty, particularly on UC campuses like Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara. Fellows are selected for their scholarly excellence and are provided with the tools needed for success. PPFP, in conjunction with the Faculty Hiring Incentive Program, has made a substantial impact on faculty composition, contributing approximately 5% of faculty hires in the UC system over five years. Fellows continue to rise through academic ranks, and the program has become an important part of the UC system's efforts to enhance faculty excellence. PPFP has partnered with institutions like UNC-Chapel Hill and UNC Charlotte to support scholars transitioning into academia.

The President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program emphasizes building strong support networks and communities for scholars, ensuring they have guidance throughout their careers. The dedicated team behind the program manages hundreds of scholars across the system, fostering a sense of community that supports their academic journeys. This mentorship and community-building are crucial to the program's success.

