A message from Dean Katharyne Mitchell:

In this update I want to provide some information about the positive developments in our division.

**Santa Cruz Institute for Social Transformation**

The [Santa Cruz Institute for Social Transformation](#) exists to support and showcase the great work that is taking place in the division. I'm delighted that the institute has completed its first round of "catalyze" grant funding, awarding nearly $90,000 to help fund 12 faculty-led initiatives. The institute supports projects in a range of phases: For example, Savannah Shange received a "seed" grant for an investigation of the politics of breastfeeding; Sylvanna Falcon was awarded a "sprout" grant to establish a human rights lab within the Research Center for the Americas; Steve McKay also received a "sprout" grant for community-engaged research; Rebecca London was awarded a "harvest" grant to fund a book launch this fall.

Please note: The deadline to apply for the institute's [Emerging Scholar Support](#) grants is coming up April 15. These $5,000 grants are designed to provide critical support to pre-tenure faculty working on book manuscripts and articles,
as well as more established faculty who want to broaden their impact. Don't miss the opportunity to apply.

**NSF Funding Workshops**

Looking ahead, there will be four workshops on NSF funding that will take place May 9-10, including two sessions designed for early-career scholars. The institute is co-sponsoring these workshops with the Office of Research. We're fortunate to have Holly Hapke leading these sessions. She served as a program director at the NSF in the Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences from 2014-2017. Holly recently moved to UC Irvine, where she serves as the research development officer in the School of Social Sciences and School of Social Ecology. She is well versed in all stages of the NSF grant process, and I think this will be exceptionally helpful for those interested in applying for federal grants. I encourage all interested faculty to attend.

The four hands-on workshops will cover the following topics:

- An overview of the agency; how to find funding opportunities; how to identify programs that are a good match; demystifying the merit review criteria and process; how to communicate with program officers; and tips for competitive proposals.
- How NSF makes awards, including the review and decision-making process, why proposals get declined, and urban myths.

The sessions for early-career scholars will focus on:

- CAREER proposals, which are prestigious five-year awards for junior faculty. This session will focus on what they are, how they compare to standard proposals, and how to prepare them for submission.
- A review of Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement (DDRI) grants for graduate students. This workshop will be useful for both students and advisors.

**Right Livelihood College**

David Shaw and the Right Livelihood College program have moved to the Santa Cruz Institute for Social Transformation, and we are delighted to have them join us. Last year's conference brought numerous Right Livelihood laureates—recipients of the "alternative Nobel Prize"—to campus and underscored why this program is such a good fit for the institute. David is a brilliant collaborator who knows how to leverage opportunities for faculty and staff. He is already making major contributions to our programming, including organizing a "Lunch with
Laureates" series of conversations this spring. More information on upcoming RLC events will be posted on the institute’s website.

**Coming up: Support for policy outreach**

Many faculty have asked for support in engaging the attention of policy makers. Institute Director Chris Benner and Assistant Director Mykell Discipulo are laying the groundwork for a two-pronged effort that will focus on helping faculty translate their research findings into public-policy papers for distribution to decision makers in places like Sacramento and Washington D.C., and using the op-ed pages to help get the word out to the public. Their ambitious goal is to launch this programming this fall.

In sum, the institute is quickly becoming a hub of activity and support for faculty. I urge you to take advantage of these new resources—and to stop by when you're in the neighborhood; the institute is located in Social Sciences 2, Room 150.

**Budget and planning**

Thanks to those of you who were able to attend my recent town hall about the budget. I remain committed to transparency about our budget challenges and opportunities. I'm pleased to report that Campus Provost/Executive Vice Chancellor Marlene Tromp responded warmly to our plans for the future, including the global and community health initiative you may have heard me outline. She and other campus leaders see the Coastal Science and Policy Program and our partnership with the Physical and Biological Sciences Division as a visionary model of interdisciplinary collaboration. After much discussion, I'm delighted that the central administration seems willing to partner with us to address some of our budget challenges and build a strong future for the division. There is great enthusiasm for the institute and for our work generally, which delights me and makes me optimistic.

**Reputation-building**

We are working with campus partners to raise the division's profile on campus and off, and it was a pleasure to see UCSC welcome two prominent Social Sciences alumni back to campus recently. YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki and her husband Dennis Troper, a product design executive at Google, both of whom earned master's degrees in applied economics in 1993, attracted a big crowd for a [Saturday morning conversation](#) with Marlene Tromp.
Of course, faculty work is what really shines. I was struck by this story about a class that took undergraduates to Soledad Prison. Recent media highlights include coverage of Juan Pedroza's work on the demographics of immigration enforcement in the San Jose Mercury News, Margarita Azmitia's work on teen solitude, as well as Phil Hammack's op-ed in the San Francisco Chronicle about factors that interfere with HIV prevention. Edible Monterey Bay showcased CASFS expertise on food insecurity among students, and a PBS Nova report quoted Alison Galloway on new ways to determine the sex of cremated human remains.

Thank you, staff!

None of this work would be possible without the knowledge, expertise, and professionalism of divisional staff. I hope my faculty colleagues will join me in expressing our ongoing appreciation for our dedicated staff. I also want staff to know that I fully support professional development. It's important to have an idea of where you want to go next professionally, and I encourage supervisors to have explicit conversations with staff about their options.

Events and updates

The 2019 Climate Conference focuses on the science and social justice aspects of the crisis, with a panel of brilliant researchers and leading activists in conversation with Anne Kapuscinski. A live stream of the conference is available.

For future divisional updates please feel free to contact me about what you find most relevant and useful, and what areas or issues you would like to learn more about.

Thank you.