



Violet Haas Award

Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Leadership Excellence
and Office of the Provost

4:45 pm **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

Dr. Mangala Subramaniam

Chair and Director - Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Leadership Excellence;
Professor of Sociology

4:50 pm **Presentation of Awards**

Dr. Jay Akridge

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity

Dr. Levon Esters & Dr. Neil Knobloch

Department of Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication
College of Agriculture

Dr. Venetria Patton

School of Interdisciplinary Studies
College of Liberal Arts

5:00 pm Continued on next page - Leadership in Action Award



Violet Haas Honorees



Levon Esters

Dr. Levon T. Esters is an Associate Professor in the Department of Youth Development and Agricultural Education, Director of the Mentoring@Purdue Program, and Senior Research Associate at The Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions at the University of Pennsylvania. He is recognized nationally and internationally as an expert and scholar within the field of mentoring. His research focuses broadly on issues of educational equity and access of underrepresented minorities with a concentration on the mentoring of women and underrepresented minority graduate students; STEM career development of racial and ethnic minorities attending Historically Black Land-Grant Colleges and Universities; and educational and professional mobility of women and underrepresented minority graduate students and faculty.



Neil Knobloch

Dr. Neil Knobloch is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication, Chair of the Purdue Agriculture PK-12 Engagement and Outreach Initiative, and Co-Director of the Mentoring @ Purdue Program. He is a Fellow of the American Association for Agricultural Education. He has been recognized nationally for his research, teaching and engagement to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion. His research focuses on motivating, engaging and retaining K-12, undergraduate and graduate students in the agricultural sciences to support and advance the STEM career pipeline. He currently serves as chair of the Editing-Managing Board of the Journal of Agricultural Education.



Venetria Patton

Dr. Venetria K. Patton is Head of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Professor of English and African American Studies at Purdue University. Dr. Patton is the author of *The Grasp That Reaches Beyond the Grave: the Ancestral Call in Black Women's Texts* (2013), *Women in Chains: The Legacy of Slavery in Black Women's Fiction* (2000), the Co-editor of *Double-Take: A Revisionist Harlem Renaissance Anthology* (2001) and editor of *Teaching American Literature: Background Readings* (2006, 2014). Having won the Kenneth T. Kofmehl Award, she is an award-winning teacher, who specializes in African American literature and Diasporic Women writers. Dr. Patton is a former Chair of the Purdue Black Caucus of Faculty and Staff and former board member of the National Council for Black Studies and the Hanna Community Center.



Leadership in Action Award

5:00 pm **Presentation of Awards**

Dr. Jay Akridge

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity

Faculty

Dr. Ximena Arriaga

**Department of Psychological Sciences
College of Health and Human Sciences**

Staff

Jessica Ramsey

Purdue Promise Scholarship Program

Student

Brittany Mihalec-Adkins

**Human Development and Family Studies
College of Health and Human Sciences**



Leadership in Action Honorees



Ximena Arriaga

Dr. Ximena Arriaga, Professor of Psychological Sciences, has dedicated her career to fostering relationships that bring out the best in others, particularly those who have been disadvantaged, undervalued, or marginalized. Her diversity efforts include coauthoring Purdue's diversity roadmap, co-leading the Diversity Transformation Awards and Provost's Advisory Committee on Diversity, and forming and directing the Purdue Acceptance and Inclusion Consortium to promote research on inclusion. In addition to holding several leadership positions in her field, she has improved teaching and mentoring at Purdue, provided violence-prevention resources locally and nationally, and advocated common-sense inclusive practices that foster success.



Jessica Ramsey

Jess Ramsey joined Purdue Promise in May 2014 as a Student Success Coach, before being promoted to the Assistant Director role in November 2016. She is a University of Mount Union alumna who earned a secondary education teaching license, before completing her Master's degree at Kent State University in Higher Education Administration and Student Personnel. Jess is a first-generation college student from the Appalachian region, who through her experiences gained an interest in helping students from similar backgrounds succeed. She is an Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) Qualified Administrator and QPR Gatekeeper Instructor (suicide prevention advocate).



Brittany Mihalec-Adkins

Brittany Mihalec-Adkins is a 3rd-year PhD student in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies. Prior to beginning her PhD program, Brittany obtained her Master's and Bachelor's degrees from Purdue as well. Brittany's research focuses on the experiences of children and families in the child welfare system, and the short- and long-term consequences of both maltreatment and foster care during childhood and adolescence. In the community, Brittany volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) in the Tippecanoe County family court system, and as a Big Sister with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Lafayette (BBBSGL).