



UNIVERSITY BLUM OF CALIFORNIA FEDERATION

Research and Policy Committee

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR RELEASE

First Meeting Held of the University of California Blum Federation's Research and Policy Committee

The Research and Policy Committee (RPC) of the UC Blum Federation held its first coordinating meeting on Monday, March 14, 2016. Representing the three campus leads for this committee – UCLA, UC Santa Cruz, UC Riverside – were: **Billy Norfleet** and **Michael Rodriguez** of UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America; **Nancy Chen** and **Lisa Nishioka** of UC Santa Cruz Blum Center on Poverty, Social Enterprise and Participatory Governance; and **David Brady** of the Blum Initiative on Global and Regional Poverty at UC Riverside.

This committee's core objective is to identify shared research interests among the University of California's 10 Blum Centers with the goal of bringing researchers together in order to develop new projects, create and submit proposals, coordinate projects, and ultimately co-author and publish their results.

The RPC has identified three strategic priority areas to reach this objective: 1) coordination, 2) outreach, and 3) participation.

Coordination. Beginning with a thorough and comprehensive inventory of current research being conducted at all UC Blum Centers, the Research and Policy Committee will identify senior and junior scholars working on each research area, with the eventual goal of connecting people with similar interests.

Outreach. The RPC's outreach strategy is embodied in the **UC Blum Research Action Network, or UC-BRAN**. Housed and administered at UCLA, UC-BRAN is a new organization and infrastructure solely for the Blum Federation designed to showcase original research and policy initiatives within the UC Blum

Centers, the UC system, and throughout the world via a thematic annual publication. UC-BRAN will bring together junior and senior scholars from the UC Blum Centers and other affiliated scholars who are conducting similar research.

Participation. Members of all the UC Blum Centers are invited to join the committee, attend the meetings, and contribute to its development and to the advancement of the RPC and UC-BRAN. The RPC is currently soliciting ideas for concrete ways to develop a network for scholars and their community partners, possibly including such events as webinars and conferences.

The RPC will hold its next meeting in April; all are invited to attend. Date and time details will follow.

The Research and Policy Committee (RPC) of the UC Blum Federation is led by:

- Blum Initiative on Global and Regional Poverty at UC Riverside
- UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America
- UC Santa Cruz Blum Center on Poverty, Social Enterprise and Participatory Governance

All interested UC Blum Federation members are encouraged to attend meetings.

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