

## **DEI Statement**

Visual art courses should be an environment for students to explore their identity, celebrate differences and be a safe space to express themselves. I develop an inclusive curriculum for courses, differentiate instruction and develop relationships with students that provide an opportunity for them to be successful and grow as artists and learners. I try to understand my students' cultural backgrounds and individual differences as a way to guide instruction and provide support so all students feel that they belong in my courses. I have a safe classroom and work environment where students and colleagues can feel supported and celebrated for the diversity they bring to the University.

In 2020 I participated in the Building Cultural Capacities in Organizations: Celebrating Cultural Uniqueness (CCU) training at Tiffin University. This course is designed to strengthen our approach to diversity and inclusion by developing a culture of openness to diversity through action. This experience allowed me to investigate personal bias and privilege, explore cultural differences of our community, and learn action strategies for the future. I have utilized the gained knowledge in my courses, my art team and my role as the Director of the Diane Kidd Art Gallery. In pairing with this training, I was the Co-Chair of the Diversity Celebrations Committee that oversaw events on campus and in conjunction with the Diane Kidd Art Gallery that educated and celebrated the diversity at Tiffin University.

It is important to me to continue to explore, learn and grow my understanding of DEI. Our students and community are changing and evolving, it is important to me to do the same with my DEI experience. This ensures that all my students are receiving the best educational opportunities and learning experiences that create belonging in the community.