

**Dear MASP Family and Friends,**

At the foundation of our program is the belief that community is a strategy for surviving challenging environments. In the midst of the stress and uncertainty brought on by COVID-19, we have remained resolute in this belief and have worked to envision what community looks like amidst a global pandemic.

Through the transition to remote learning, teaching, and working, the MASP students, faculty and staff demonstrated extraordinary resilience in finishing out the semester. We came together virtually to share community resources, strategies, and support. We distributed over \$6k in emergency scholarship funds to MASP students in need. We graduated 29 students. We held a remote version of our summer bridge program, welcoming over 40 new students to CU.

While much of this Fall semester remains uncertain, we know that MASP will continue to support our students through community. Please read on to learn about what we've been up to. Meet our newest team member Dr. CheyOnna Sewell, the new Assistant Director of Social Science Education. Read about new student-led programming, our featured article in the Colorado Arts and Sciences Magazine, highlights of current MASP students, and more.

Sincerely,  
Celeste Montoya



**Introducing MASP's New Assistant Director: Dr. CheyOnna Sewell**



We are delighted to introduce you to a new member of our team, Dr. CheyOnna Sewell! CheyOnna joined us as our Assistant Director of Social Science Education. Trained as a criminologist from the University of Missouri—St. Louis, she is a Black Feminist Activist Academic. She applies an intersectional-lens to all things crime and victimization related including incident trends and the varied ways that we as a society respond to situations and individuals. She is most proud of her involvement in community organizations and a practical study she conducted for the NAACP. She is thrilled to be working with MASP and sees an opportunity to dismantle and obstruct some systems of oppression through her work with students.

She is enjoying her first experience with PEAC as she becomes more familiar with the summer bridge program and is starting to build connections with our students. During the fall semester, she will also be teaching a class called Legal System Reform. The course description is as follows: Throughout the history of the criminal legal system, there have been various attempts at correcting the inequality rampant in the system. In this course, we will critically discuss reform/eradication efforts of the past, present, and what we may expect in the future. We will discuss things from mandatory minimum sentencing to prison abolition. Together we will define and use an intersectional-lens to align the course through an acknowledgement of systems of power and oppression.

**MASP Alumni Retirement Party Honoring Dr. Alphonse Keasley**

Dr. Alphonse Keasley (former MASP Director) announced his retirement as Associate Vice Chancellor in the Office of Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement. We at MASP are grateful for Alphonse's many years of service to CU and MASP specifically and wish him the best on this new chapter!

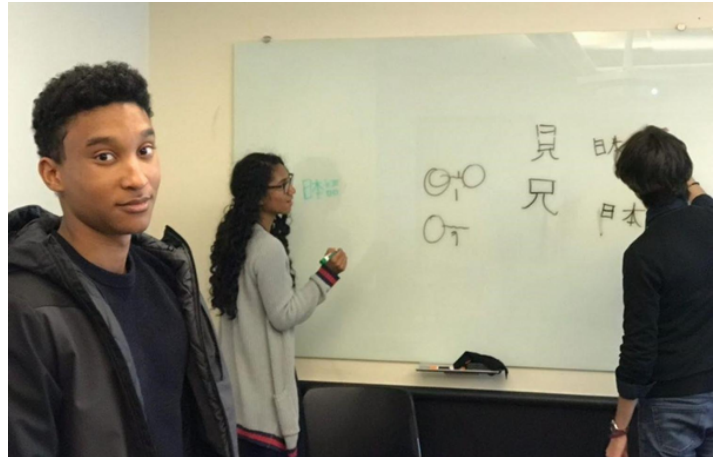
In appreciation of his work for MASP, for ODECE, and as a professor, MASP alum Becky Diaz and Amie Ha are coordinating a celebration for Alphonse. His Retirement Party will be hosted on Saturday, August 8, 2020 from 3pm to 6pm (MST).



## New Student-Led Programming

For our students who wish to connect with others that share similar passions within MASP, we launched student-led programming this past Spring. This initiative offers students the opportunities to lead as well as participate in community building activities with peers with a common interest. One of our current student-led programs is Pre-Health Society, which is designed to provide its members with the skills to enhance academic, networking and clinical skills for those in pursuit of a healthcare related profession.

The other is Japanese Club, where students gather weekly to help each other in practicing the language and to help nurture and facilitate an interest in the culture of Japan. Language Exchange Club will also be starting soon, with a goal to provide resources for instruction in, exposure to and conversational practice in a variety of languages and to create a safe space to make mistakes while practicing various languages. We are excited to work with our students as they brainstorm more ideas and form more groups!



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## New Research Seminar Features Collaboration with Crown Institute

In collaboration with the new Renée Crown Wellness Institute on campus, this past spring MASP offered a hybrid fieldwork practicum and seminar where students learned about and engage in a Youth Led Participatory Research (YPAR) project around the construct of wellness. We feel strongly that the mission of the new institute and the emphasis placed on interdisciplinary research-practice partnerships to promote wellness aligns well with MASP's goals of supporting the wellness and belonging of underserved communities of students on campus. The course was co-taught by the institute's Associate Director, Dr. Julia Zigarelli, and the Director of Participatory Research, Dr. Leah Peña Teeters. Based on principles of student leadership, MASP students explored and engaged in interdisciplinary methods of participatory research to learn more about the campus' and community's perspectives on wellness. We received excellent feedback from students regarding their experience in the course and hope to collaborate with the Crown Institute again in the future.



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## Fall 2019 Mini-PEAC Recap



In January 2019 MASP piloted a new donor-supported bridge program to intentionally integrate new MASP students (who did not join through summer bridge) into the community through a residential weekend retreat. In November 2019, MASP hosted a second successful Mini-PEAC at the CU Mountain Research Station in Ward, Colorado. The new cohort consisted of nine students from different majors and at various points in their college careers. Once settling into the cozy cabin surrounded by snow, MASP faculty led workshops and discussions covering topics such as Building Inclusive

Community, Learning Strategies, Goals & Time Management and more. The students also participated in several community building activities led by two returning peer mentors. The feedback from students has been very positive, with one student stating in their exit survey that, "I liked having the 'found family' experience from strangers to people I can trust." The weekend was very successful overall and we are so happy to welcome these students to MASP and look forward to supporting them on their academic journeys!

