



Anya Booker (she/her/hers)

Associate Dean and Executive Director for Anti-Racism, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Anya Booker is a visionary, higher education administrator, professor and artist who centers and advances Anti-racism, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (AEDI) best practices in academia, the arts, and non-profits.

Booker brings an in-depth capacity to expand and drive university planning, strategic vision, program and curriculum design that addresses and redresses the imperatives AEDI demand and that innovation places before us. While initiating and implementing impactful institutional changes, she has also served as faculty member at schools such as UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, Scripps, and Texas Southern University, as well as in the California Community College system. Her life's work is demonstrative of her dedication to achieving transformative educational and professional experiences for students, faculty, and staff.

She comes to UCLA from Cal Polytechnic San Luis Obispo as the lead for the Black Academic Excellence Center. There she combined the institution's "learn by doing" mission with her signature focus on propelling students' beyond mere retention but rather to and through an academic and professional trajectory worthy of their brilliance, depth, and dreams.

Collaborative by nature, Booker facilitates partnerships that meet vast, collective goals, and up levels the results to provide sustainable programmatic, institutional, and systemic change. For instance, she recently created and evaluated the Americorp VIP Fellowship for the Center, to engage alumni and community members in supporting students through direct mentorship and the generation of career boosting, internships. She also created the now celebrated *Black Beyond Belonging* exhibitions, for which she commissioned Rosalind McGary, Founder of Sepia Collective to invite Black artists to speak to the heart and soul of students, staff and faculty as well as the SLO community through their art. The result - *Black Beyond Belonging* includes 22 Black artists, (including Dr. Semella Lewis, Charles Dickson, and Charley Palmer) gifting their works to the center as part of a permanent university collection as well as elevating each piece to be sold as NFT's for the wider SLO community.

As the Dean of Students / Director – Office of Black Student Affairs for Claremont University Consortium (CUC) and The Claremont Colleges (TCC), Booker provided comprehensive student and academic affairs oversight for its seven institutions, including Pomona College, Harvey Mudd College, Claremont McKenna College, Scripps College, Pitzer College, Claremont Graduate University, and Keck Graduate Institute.

Booker, along with the other cultural center directors, created the Multicultural Student Development Center at UC Berkeley, where, as the Director of African American Student Development, she also chaired various committees, including the team that created the Transfer Center. She drives for outcomes in which students excel into matriculation to graduate and professional school and are launched to reach their fullest aspirations. These achievements were built on Booker's tenure as the Director of the Writing in the Student Learning Center through which her commitment to the bridges between student and academic was born and her pedagogy honed. She has served at the pleasure of presidents to amplify their strategic, DEI initiatives.

Booker teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Television and Film, English, and African American Studies. Her approach to teaching is multi-faceted and expressed as an artform in and of itself.

Booker further extends her dedication to service through nonprofit work. As a creative consultant, Booker has worked to illuminate ADEI on behalf of and for K-12 students, fortifying her love of story, curriculum development, and teaching in a specialized writing program for BIPOC girls seeped in their lives and cultures, and illustrated by Black, Asian, Indigenous, and Latinx writers. As Sepia Collective's Chief Learning Officer, she is co-creating complimentary curriculum for the multi-city art exhibition and now immersive – IconicXR. In the coming months, she will join the board for Cakecutter, as well, she has been named a new Beacon for the national, Valence Bonds Program that provides executive training and mentorship.

As a filmmaker, playwright, and author, Booker has several films, musicals and books currently in development. She recently became a member of the Robey Theater Playwrights Lab.

Booker consistently applies her philosophy that the best educators continue to know themselves as life-long "learners", and in so doing avails herself to executive feedback, mentorship, and continued, cutting-edge professional development.

She belongs to ACPA - College Student Educators International. As a Founder of an early stage start up, "Ginger and Honey," she earned certification in the *Digital Undivided START program* and continues in their shared mission to catalyze Black and Latinx entrepreneurs.

Booker holds a BA from the University of California, Berkeley; an MFA from the American Film Institute; and an MFA in Creative Writing with a Dual-Concentration in Fiction and Creative Non-fiction from Antioch University, Los Angeles.

Booker joins UCLA School of Arts as the new Associate Dean and Executive Director for Anti-Racism, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.