

How UVic demonstrates a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion to me

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Having left my home and everything familiar to me in México, I arrived in Victoria the year of the blizzard (1996) holding two suitcases in my hands: one containing my clothes and my books; the other one containing my dreams. I am a woman with Indigenous heritage who began her journey at the University of Victoria as an international student and who now finds herself in the privileged position of being a faculty member in the Faculty of Education facilitating courses on Indigenous ways of knowing and being, diversity, and social justice among others.

While not an easy journey at times, my life at Uvic has been shaped by people who have believed in me and who value the work in which I am engaged as a community member and as an Indigenous scholar. At the institutional level, I have felt supported by administration through the development of policy and initiatives that foster diversity and inclusion such as the recent Indigenous Plan where ample consultation was sought, and the valuable Diversity Research Forum which has been organized by the Office of the Adviser to the Provost on Equity and Diversity since 2008. At the Faculty level, I have had support towards the development of courses that challenge mainstream ideologies and perspectives, and which invite students and faculty to explore together the challenges and opportunities that difference and diversity offer.

In these 20 years at UVic, first as an international student and now as a faculty member, I've had various experiences that have supported my personal and professional development, and when I have felt discouraged, I am reminded of the words of Gandhi: " Be the change you wish to see in the world"!