Dear Colleagues,

I’m pleased to announce that Dr. Andrea Romero is our new Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs.

Andrea brings a new voice and perspective to this role and has broad support from across the campus. She is well known as a scholar and a program builder in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, where she is a Professor of Family Studies and Human Development. She also has appointments in Psychology and Mexican American Studies. She has been director of the Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth and Families since 2015.

Andrea has solid ideas for building programs that support all faculty, including utilizing existing data to document current trends on climate and diversity in order to set new goals together with faculty from across campus to lead us in positive new directions. She will be working closely with deans and department heads to support their work to recruit and retain high-quality faculty, as well as to work with them to improve transparency, equity and trust. She also has ideas about ways to increase faculty access to training and workshops on the promotion and tenure process, career development and leadership.

She brings many skills to this position, including a strong interdisciplinary perspective, a solid track record of mentoring diverse faculty and students, and a commitment to developing a positive climate for success for both students and faculty. Her leadership will further cultivate innovative ways to advance the mission of the University of Arizona to be an outstanding research institution that supports faculty scholarship and builds community on campus.

Andrea has spent decades researching ways to get communities to collaborate to solve issues. She has examined community-based participatory action research methods to end health disparities and to close the education achievement gap for adolescents of Mexican descent. She has published two books and several scientific journal articles on her research demonstrating the protective effects of ethnic identity, familism and civic engagement of youth.

She earned a doctorate in social psychology and a master’s in psychology from the University of Houston, where her emphasis was quantitative methodology, Latino/a psychology and adolescent health. Prior to that, she earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Texas A&M University. She worked at Stanford University’s School of Medicine in the Prevention Research Center before becoming a faculty member in the Department of Mexican American Studies at the University of Arizona in 2000. She was chosen to receive with the UA Richard Ruiz Leadership Faculty Award in 2018 in recognition of her success in mentoring and professional development and was a member of the 2017-18 Academic Leadership Institute cohort.

Andrea succeeds Tom Miller, who retired from this role at the end of 2018. Please join me congratulating Andrea as she takes on these new responsibilities.