

2024 MLK Beloved Community Award Recipients



Student: Royston Lester, '26

Royston Lester is a second-year criminal justice major with a minor in sociology. He is also in the pre-law advisory program, a program designed to help him transition to law school. After graduating in 2026, he plans to attend law school to pre-sue a career as a criminal defense attorney / Civil rights attorney.

Staff: Bevin Rainwater

O'siyo! Bevin Rainwater is of Cherokee and Choctaw descent, teaches Native American Cultures, and is the Assistant Director of Academic Technology, Teaching, and Learning at UHart. Bevin is co-chair of the UHart Amplifying Indigenous Voices Affinity Group and serves on the West Hartford Native American Task Force. She is passionate about sharing her voice and perspective to educate others about the culture and heritage of all peoples indigenous to the Americas.

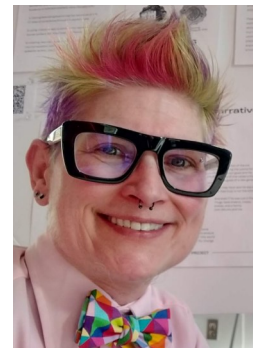


Staff: Judith Wyman

Judy Wyman, Ph.D., is Associate Director of the University Interdisciplinary Studies program, where she supports curriculum development and teaches about Western and Chinese history and culture. She holds a doctorate in Chinese history and a master's in social work policy. She co-founded the Amplifying Indigenous Voices Affinity (AIV) Network for students, faculty, and staff. AIV has crafted a Land Acknowledgement, partnered with Connecticut tribes, and sponsored Indigenous events, among other things.

Faculty: Kristin Comeforo

Kristin Comeforo Ph.D. (they/them) is the Graduate Programs Director and Associate Professor of Communication. Embracing Sara Ahmed's belief that "to complain is to acquire the feminist knowledge and skills that are needed to build less hostile institutions," Kristin fights against capitalism, the patriarchy, and other modes of class, racial, gender and sexuality injustices through their research, teaching, and social activism on campus.



Faculty: Kayon Morgan

Kayon Morgan, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in Educational Leadership at UHart. As a scholar-practitioner-leader, her teaching, research, and leadership focus on advancing systems and policies to better serve historically marginalized groups. Her work examines dimensions of inclusion and equity in varying organizational contexts and aims to co-construct and re(shape) spaces so that individuals may embrace their full and authentic selves essential to their well-being. Dr. Morgan is committed to building partnerships and regularly collaborates with faculty, students, government agencies, and non-profits across the US and internationally.

Alum: Richard Wells, '10

Richard "Rick" Wells has a unique journey, emphasized by his diverse experiences, commitment to family, and passion for financial empowerment. He is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, serving with distinction and retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel from the United States Marine Corps Reserves. Rick also volunteers his time to a mentoring program affiliated with the Hartford Police Athletic League and speaks at local veteran events. Rick is married and lives in West Hartford with his wife, Krista, and their four children.



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