

Teresa Maria Linda Scholz (Ph.D., University of Colorado, Boulder) is the new the Vice President of Equity, Inclusion and Diversity at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Dr. Scholz was previously Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Diversity Officer at UC Santa Cruz. Prior to her roles as an administrator, Dr. Scholz was an Associate Professor (with tenure) at Eastern Illinois University in Communication Studies, and affiliated Women's Studies and Latin American Studies faculty. Dr. Scholz identifies as US and Guatemalan-American, is a first-generation college student, raised in Guatemala and the United States.

She positions herself as a Critical Latina/Latin American Transnational Feminist Scholar in Communication Studies, who is interested in understanding culturally situated theories of counterhegemonic enactments of rhetorical agency. Courses she has taught include Rhetoric of Race, Rhetoric of Class, Critical Intercultural Communication, and Latina/Latin American Women's Human Rights Discourses. Dr. Scholz has also completed a certificate in Mindful Facilitation techniques.

As a scholar-practitioner she is committed to identifying discursive and material counterhegemonic practices in social justice education. As VP for EID, she is interested in leading a campus through the process of exploring and understanding power differentials, the connection between voice, victimhood, and agency, and the role that we all play in challenging, preventing, and resisting different forms of oppression. She underscores the importance of an institution of higher education needing to work with all campus and systemwide constituents to co-create and co-sustain a healthy climate that centers antiracist practices. She utilizes her academic training in Communication Studies, Women's Studies and Latin American Studies along with the facilitation skills she has developed, to enhance her pedagogical practices, campus trainings, professional and educational development workshops and discussions that address oppression, privilege, and power. Workshops she has designed and delivered are focused on Microaggressions, Communicating Across Differences, Communication, and Perception, Power, Privilege and Oppression. Dr. Scholz has also been recognized for her service and teaching, with awards including: Arts Advocate Award (Arts Division,

UCSC, 2020); Outstanding Minority Achievement Recognition Award for Outstanding Faculty Member (EIU, 2015); Achievement and Contribution Award in Service (EIU, 2014); Student's Distinguished Professor Award (EIU, 2013); Master Teacher and Faculty of the Year (Front Range Community College, 2002-2003). In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her partner Marko while hiking in any nearby mountain range, as well as many other fitness activities. She also enjoys the company of her two feisty and energetic cats--Jack and Mi-Ke.