

Dr. Mitch Avila

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs - CSU Channel Islands



Dr. Mitch Avila joined CSUCI in January 2021 as Provost with over twenty-five years' experience in the CSU system at four separate campuses. In prior roles he has served as Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities at California State University Dominguez Hills, one of the most ethnically diverse universities on the West Coast. Avila oversaw 18 academic programs and has implemented budget models to increase support for faculty research and grow smaller programs, notably ethnic studies and Women's Studies. As Dean, he established the Center for Sacred Music of the African Diaspora with \$1.6M endowment, facilitated creation of College bylaws, developed College-level policy promoting diversity and inclusive hiring practices, advanced accreditation and reaccreditation in Music, Theatre, and Journalism, and built external partnerships with music organizations and city governments. He served on the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences Board of Directors, where he promoted advocacy efforts

for federal funding for the arts, humanities, and sciences. Previously as Associate Dean and Chair of the Philosophy Department at Cal State Fullerton, Avila directed professional development for adjuncts, expanded study abroad programs, and developed innovative new degrees, including Vietnamese Studies. He earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy from UC Santa Barbara in 1993 and researches theories of human rights and global justice, along with the aesthetics of film and photography.