

Biographies

Ada Demb

Associate Professor, School of Educational Policy & Leadership

Dr. Demb's scholarly interests address the intersection of human and organizational behavior, particularly involving strategy, policy and decision-making. From 1986 until 1994, her research focused primarily on the effectiveness of boards of directors of multinational corporations, while based at the International Institutional for Management Development in Switzerland. She has sustained an interest in the use of technology in colleges, universities and corporations, initiated with her dissertation Computer Systems for Human Systems. "Human" Interaction with computers and the impact of technology on the shape and future directions of higher education as an industry fascinate her. A long-standing interest in the pressures and dynamics surrounding faculty behavior and performance in higher education remains a high priority. Personal experience living and working in the international arena prompts her interest in research that explores the meaning of difference and policies and practices that enable communities of diverse cultures to grow and develop.

Jessica Mercerhill

Director, Special Interdisciplinary Programs

Jessica Mercerhill was appointed director of Special Interdisciplinary Program in July 2007. She holds a B.S. Ed. in middle school education from Ohio University and a master's degree in higher education administration from the University of South Carolina where she worked in research and publications at the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition. She most recently comes from Illinois State University, where she was the coordinator for first-year orientation, served as co-chair of the Council for the First-Year Experience, ran the learning communities program, and authored and piloted a first-year seminar taught by faculty and staff.