Meet our faculty panel:

**Brandi Asmus**, Professor in Agriculture, Woodland Community College. Prof. Brandi Asmus is a faculty member in the agriculture department at local Woodland Community College (WCC). With a Master of Science degree in Animal Sciences from UC Davis, she spent 2 years in the private sector working on research and development in the food industry before starting her career at Woodland Community College. Outside of teaching, Professor Asmus is Chair of the Curriculum Committee for WCC, and also lead the development of a Dual Enrollment Program to support high school students in Yolo, Colusa, and Lake Counties. Additionally, she and her family own and operate a dairy consulting company and a sheep dairy, supporting the industry across California.

**Robert Crawford**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences, California State University Sacramento. Dr. Crawford is an Assistant Professor of Microbiology at California State University of Sacramento conducting research in the area of how biofilm formation by the resident skin flora impairs healing of chronic wounds in collaboration with multiple faculties from University of California Davis, Mexico City, and Texas A&M University. He received his Ph.D. from Ohio State University and completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California Davis. He is the recipient of numerous recognitions including from the American Society of Microbiology, Edward F. Hayes Graduate Research Forum, and California State University Sacramento.

**Nirmala Hariharan**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor Adjunct, Pharmacology, UC Davis. Dr. Hariharan is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Division of Pharmacology at UC Davis Medical Center conducting cardiovascular research in the area of molecular signaling pathways regulating myocardial aging and cardiac stem/progenitor cell maintenance. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at San Diego State University in San Diego, CA. She is the recipient of numerous recognitions from the American Heart Association, the International Society of Heart Research, and the International Society of Heart Research-North American Section. Apart from conducting research, she is involved in and enjoy mentoring graduate/undergraduate students and postdocs. Furthermore, she is also passionate about guiding women students and postdocs through their scientific careers and is an active member of the Dean’s advisory committee on women in medicine and health sciences at UC Davis.

**Archana Venkatesan** Ph.D., Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and Religious Studies, UC Davis. Dr. Venkatesan is an Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and Religious Studies at the University of California, Davis. She was selected as a UC Davis Chancellor’s Fellow in 2014, a title she will hold for the next five years. Archana has also received numerous grants, including fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, American Institute of Indian Studies and Fulbright. Her research interests are in the intersection of text and performance in South India, as well as in the translation of early and medieval Tamil poetry into English. She is the author of *The Secret Garland: Āṇṭāḷ’s Tiruppāvai and Nācciyār Tirumolī* (Oxford University Press, 2010) and *A Hundred Measures of Time* (Penguin Classics, 2014), and is collaborating with Francis Clooney of Harvard University on an English translation of Nammāḻvār’s *Tiruvāyumoḷī*.

**Mark Williams**, Ph.D., Professor, Political Science and Director, Latin America Studies, Middlebury College. Dr. Williams is a Professor of Political Science and Director of Latin American Studies at Middlebury College. A past President of the New England Council on Latin American Studies, his research centers on U.S.-Latin American Relations, Venezuelan Foreign Policy, international drug trafficking, and Mexican Politics. He is the author of two books and a range of articles and book chapters published by *Foreign Affairs Latinoamérica, Latin American Politics and Society, Political Science Quarterly, Studies in Comparative International Development, World Development*, and the Oxford, Harvard, Lynne Rienner, and Routledge presses.