

## 2016 César Chávez Award Nomination – Vik Bahl, Green River 2195

Vik Bahl has taught in the English Division at Green River College for the past 18 years. He is co-chair of the Green River Diversity & Equity Council (GDEC). He founded and continues to lead Diversity & Equity in Hiring & Professional Development (DEHPD), a coalition of under-represented staff and faculty from the 34 Washington Community and Technical Colleges that works to address the lack of diversity among faculty and staff in the colleges, with a particular focus on racial inequity. Vik helped organize and presented at the DEHPD statewide conference at Bellevue College in January, 2016. He helped develop the 14 Steps document (attached).

He has presented to the leadership at the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and to the statewide Human Resources Directors about the problem and DEHPD's work to address the lack of diversity among faculty and staff in our community colleges, and the impact this problem has for student success, especially for those from underrepresented groups. He put together a website with resources that can be used to address this problem and will be soon presenting to the statewide VPI group and at NCORE (National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education) in San Francisco.

He also works with the nonprofit organizations University Beyond Bars (providing college education to prisoners at the Monroe Correctional Complex, WA) and the Center for Convivial Research & Autonomy (facilitating community-based research and knowledge production, CA). He received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, with a focus on ethnic and post-colonial literatures, cultural studies, and social movements. He is the co-author, along with Toyin Falola, of a collection of poetry entitled *Scoundrels of Deferral: Poems to Redeem Reflection* (Carolina Academic Press, 2006).