Elsie Miranda's new title reflects scope of ATS work

By Frank M. Yamada



As part of the Association's ongoing commitment to clarity and alignment with its mission, ATS has updated Elsie Miranda's title from director of diversities to director of culture and community engagement. This change reflects the breadth and impact of her work over the past two years and more accurately describes the direction of diversities work going forward.

Among the core values of ATS, diversity remains a signifier that holds the contextual complexities of our schools together, as uniquely expressed through the missions of our member schools. As an ecumenical organization, ATS affirms each institution's responsibility to define and express diversity in ways that reflect its theological commitments and cultural context. Miranda's leadership has been vital in helping member schools live out that responsibility with integrity and imagination.

In her role, Miranda has led initiatives that explore the interconnections between diversity and the ATS *Standards of Accreditation*, designing programs that elevate awareness of cultural competencies and developing learning opportunities that attend to holistic formation for ministry. Her collaborative and strategic insights have also strengthened the capacity of schools within an array of institutional contexts to support students and engage faculty to build capacity for leadership development across cultures and denominational identities. Her work helps schools attain the highest standards of quality graduate theological education with both theological depth and practical skill.

Beyond programming, Miranda is a trusted advisor to ATS member schools, helping them assess their culture and community engagement initiatives using data, qualitative research, and feedback from the field. She curates and shares effective models across the membership, ensuring that learnings from one school can inform the growth of others. Her revised title, director of culture and community engagement, captures both the relational and strategic dimensions of her work.

ATS remains deeply committed to fostering theological education that is rooted in the rich diversity of God's creation within the plurality of our communities across our membership in the United States and Canada. This updated title not only acknowledges the work Miranda has already done, it also affirms the Association's collective responsibility to cultivate learning environments marked by integrity, respect, and thoughtful engagement.



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