

MEMO

To: School of Medicine faculty, staff, house staff, and students

From: Robert Wilmott, M.D., Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean of Saint Louis University School of Medicine

Date: October 23, 2020

Re: Esmeralda Aharon, Program Director of Staff and Community Engagement for the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

School of Medicine hires Esmeralda Aharon, Program Director of Staff and Community Engagement for the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Esmeralda Aharon has been named Program Director of Staff and Community Engagement for the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Saint Louis University School of Medicine, effective September 28, 2020.

“I am delighted to add this essential position to the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This role will have a significant impact on our commitment to our staff and the community we serve,” said Robert Wilmott, Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean of the Saint Louis University School of Medicine. “I am grateful Mrs. Aharon will serve as a liaison to our staff and community; she has an extensive background and successful track record accomplishing this degree of work.”

In this new role, Mrs. Aharon will collaborate with hiring managers to attract and retain underrepresented individuals. She will support the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion by developing and maintaining recruitment pipelines and retention programs for underrepresented minorities, focusing on senior-level staff and managers. Additionally, she will connect and engage SLUSOM with the St. Louis community to mitigate healthcare disparities.

Mrs. Aharon holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Workforce Education and Development and a Master’s degree in Teaching. She is a decorated combat veteran of the United States Air Force. Before joining Saint Louis University, Mrs. Aharon served as the Director of Plans and Programs for the Office of the Command Chaplain, Scott AFB, IL.

A long-time USAF Chaplain Corps member, Mrs. Aharon, is experienced in community outreach, religious accommodation, and resilience training. She directed \$4.7 million in appropriated funds, advised 185 Chaplain Corps personnel and 1,500 volunteers in Air Mobility Command, and supported 28,000 combat missions.

She collaborated with the Community Action Teams and Suicide Prevention Taskforce, helping agencies on programs regarding accommodation, diversity, equity and inclusion for 136,000 employees in Air

Mobility Command. As part of this collaboration, she worked to prevent and respond to suicide, domestic violence, sexual assault, and other forms of interpersonal violence and related trauma.

Mrs. Aharon directed senior leader training seminars and infused hundreds of professional development hours and training while providing resilience acumen to 125,000 Airmen.

Mrs. Aharon focused on the diverse needs of women in the service and chaired retreats improving morale and quality of life and was selected to lead numerous installation outreach and diversity days. She has presented on the impact of Religious Accommodation in the workforce and devised a senior leader's religious accommodation matrix, syncing 16 organizations at all military levels.

Mrs. Aharon is very active at Scott AFB and the surrounding communities. Additionally, she enjoys teaching conversational Spanish at the base library.