

Becky Wai-Ling Packard , Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology and Education

Mount Holyoke College



Becky Wai-Ling Packard is the Mary E. Wooley Professor of Psychology and Education at Mount Holyoke College where she has been on the faculty for over 25 years. Packard is an expert in the area of strategic mentoring and the persistence of minoritized students in higher education, to include first-generation college students, low-income students, community-college transfer students, nontraditional students, people of color, and women in technical fields. Her research has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, Google, and Microsoft. In 2005, she was recognized by the White House with the Presidential early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the nation's highest honor for early career scientists and engineers. She was elected a 2023 fellow of AAAS.

A translator of research into practice, Packard has visited more than 75 campuses to lead sessions on the power of mentoring and advising, including ways to navigate difficult conversations and leverage everyday interactions. As a campus leader, she has served as associate dean of faculty, founding director of teaching and learning, director of leadership, and senior advisor for STEM initiatives. In Spring 2018, Packard served as a Chancellor's Leadership Fellow-in-Residence at the University of Massachusetts Amherst to contribute to campus equity initiatives. During the 18-19 academic year, she served as a faculty fellow at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor sponsored by the National Center for Institution Diversity where she is working on inclusive climate strategies in STEM departments across the sciences and engineering.

Packard is the author of "Successful STEM Mentoring Initiatives for Underrepresented Students: A Research-Based Guide for Faculty and Administrators" published by Stylus and well as numerous articles in journals such as *Mentoring and Tutoring*, *Journal of College Science Teaching*, *Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering*, and *Journal of Career Development*. A multi-racial, first-generation college graduate, Packard earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Michigan State University.