

We had received only one nomination this year for the BOR Research Award, we had considered it very seriously and we had supported that nomination. The recommendation letter to the Provost is attached.

---

December 21, 2020

To:

David Dauwalder, CCSU Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

Louise Williams, President, CCSU-AAUP

Fred Latour, President, CCSU Faculty Senate

From:

The CCSU BOR Research Award Committee

(Ivan Gotchev, Chair, Barry Hoopengardner, Ben Tyson, Drew Harris, Jacob Werblow, Krishna Saha,)

Re: Central Connecticut State University Board of Regents Faculty Research Award 2020-21

It is with unanimous consent of the award committee that Dr. Rati Kumar, Associate Professor, CCSU Department of Communication, receive the 2020-21 BOR Faculty Research Award for CCSU.

Dr. Kumar has been a full-time faculty member in the Department of Communication at CCSU since August 2013. Her area of expertise is Health Communication. She is a tenured Associate Professor. To date, she has produced six peer-reviewed publications (two as first author), some in top academic journals (e.g., several in *Health Communication*, which has less than a 20% acceptance rate) and has published seven book chapters (four as first author). In addition, she has presented at numerous international, national, CSU, and local community conferences and workshops. Her past record of research and scholarship is admirable, and her future production looks promising as she is currently preparing three additional manuscripts based on her research and a fourth study is in the data analysis stage. She is also a committed professional, as evidenced by her serving on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, and has served as a reviewer for several other journals and conferences.

Dr. Kumar's research is community-based, advocacy-oriented, and is centered around three key strands: 1) minority health in the U.S. including African American, Latinx and other communities of color, 2) migrant labor health in the U.S. and in the global South, and 3) refugee health of those displaced within South Asia or resettled in the West. In her own words she states, "my research critically engages with structures of power to imagine transformative possibilities for health as a human right... it is my hope that through this body of research the discipline of health communication increasingly shifts its focus to global issues of health inequities and establishes meaningful conversations with mainstream health policy structures." In addition to being a prodigious researcher and scholar, she is also a conscientious instructor who believes that "through a triangulated focus on the praxis of diversity in pedagogy, research and service, academics can help universities create spaces for underserved voices."

As one of her references from a senior colleague succinctly explains, "Dr. Kumar is an outward-thinking global scholar who is extremely deserving of this recognition of her impact in the area of critical health communication research... [she] is one of the foremost voices in the area of minority and global health communication." The award committee agrees and unanimously believes Dr. Kumar should receive the 2020-21 BOR Faculty Research Award for CCSU as acknowledgement of her fine work.