# Melissa L. Carpenter has over twenty years of experience in education. She has worked in adult education programs and at the community college where she has pursued her passion of educating first-generation and at-promise students as well as English language learners. She currently serves as the Foundations for Student Success director at Mesa Community College (MCC). Prior to that position, she was the learning center director and the Title III grant director. In all three positions she has worked with the developmental education faculty and students to improve teaching and learning. She also taught first-year composition and developmental English courses at MCC for ten years. She worked for Mesa Public Schools Adult Education program for eleven years in the role of a teacher and program coordinator. She holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Brigham Young University and a master’s degree in Comparative Literature from Arizona State University. She is a doctoral student in Organizational Change and Leadership at the University of Southern California’s Rossier School of Education. Her research interests include the persistence of racially minoritized students in STEM fields and diversity and inclusion of racially minoritized STEM faculty in U.S. colleges and universities.