

Michael Yamauchi-Gleason, College Administrative Officer for Porter College and Kresge College has been in higher education for over thirty years. The past twelve years at UCSC. Retention has always been a key component of his work. The past ten years his retention efforts have focused on the connection between mental health problems and alcohol and other drug use as it relates to a student's academic success. His research, along with national studies have indicated a significant number of students leave school as a result of mental health problems and alcohol and other drug use.

Yamauchi-Gleason served as the co-chair of the campus-wide Alcohol and Other Drugs Task Force and chaired the Mental Health Task Force. Recently as a part of a national mental health study, Yamauchi-Gleason become a certified Mental Health First Aid instructor. This twelve-hour course, which was cited in a recent presentation by President Obama as one way to make schools safer from gun violence has been offered at UCSC since spring 2011. Over 250 students, faculty and staff have been certified in Mental Health First Aid at UCSC.