

## Dr. Sumun Pendakur Biography

Dr. Sumun Pendakur, Ed.D., is the Chief Learning Officer and Director of the USC Equity Institutes at the USC Race and Equity Center, dedicated to advancing racial justice in higher education and other sectors. Prior to this position, Sumi served as the assistant vice president for diversity and inclusion at Harvey Mudd College. Sumi was appointed to the President's Cabinet and served as the co-chief diversity officer, partnering with Academic Affairs, to focus on campuswide efforts related to access, equity, campus climate, and inclusion. She also directed HMC's social justice education center, the Office of Institutional Diversity (OID). Before joining the team at HMC, Sumi served as the director for Asian Pacific American Student Services at the University of Southern California.



Sumi is a consultant, speaker, and facilitator regionally and nationally, helping campuses, nonprofits, and other organizations build capacity for cultural competence, social justice, and equitable practices. She is a scholar-practitioner, whose research interests and publications focus on critical race theory, Asian American and Pacific Islander students, change agents, and institutional transformation. Sumi is passionate about empowering students, faculty, staff, and administrators to be transformational agents of change in their spheres of influence.

She has held leadership positions and presented her original research at NASPA, ACPA, NADOHE, NCORE, and ASHE. Most recently, Sumi was appointed to the Board of Directors for NADOHE, the national chief diversity officers' organization, for 2016-2019.

Sumi is also the co-editor, with Dr. Shaun Harper and Dr. Stephen Quaye, of *Student Engagement in Higher Education*, 3rd edition (2019). She is a graduate of Northwestern University with a double major in women's studies and history and a minor in Spanish and holds an MA in Higher Education Administration from the University of Michigan. Sumi received her doctorate in Higher Education Leadership from the USC Rossier School of Education.

Sumi is married to actor Sunil Malhotra and is the proud (and permanently tired!) mommy of five-year-old Shashi Veer Pendakur Malhotra.