Faculty Member Contact Information

Name	Barbara JK Nwacha
Contact Info	
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Department	Art & Design

1 Funded, one Unfunded URCA Assistant

	This position is **ONLY** open to students who have declared a major in this discipline.	**M**
	This project deals with social justice issues.	💙
✓	This project deals with sustainability (green) issues.	🍃
✓	This project deals with human health and wellness issues.	➕
	This project deals with community outreach.	✋
	This mentor's project is interdisciplinary in nature.	**I**

Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?

No

How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?
(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

8

Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?

Yes ART 430 Studies in ART 3

Location of research/creative activities:

on campus with some remote work possible

Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity?

Research in use of the software FIGMA: The Collaborative Interface Design Tool

FIGMA is a new web-based tool used for UI/UX design, rapid prototyping, and collaboration for digital products like websites and mobile apps. It allows teams to design, test, and build user interfaces by creating interactive prototypes, design systems, and developer-ready assets all in one place. This software has replaced Adobe XD software as industry standard. This software needs to be integrated into the graphic design curriculum; giving students some classroom experience with aspects of the software prior to graduating.

FIGMA will be integrated into the fall 2026 ART 312 Intermediate Studio in Graphic Design coursework. It will likely be used to produce demo sites and apps. FIGMA is available to educators and students for free which means there is no current cost incurred by the university, department or school.

Brief description of student responsibilities?

Student(s) will assist with mock projects and usage tests. The goal is to have a few functions projects ready to go for the fall semester 2026.

URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?

Yes

Requirements of Students

If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours) please indicate all required days and times:

Meeting times will be flexible on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Mondays and Wednesdays are full teaching days.

If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?

there should be no travel off campus needed for this research

Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:

ART 202i, ART 311, and ART 312

Other requirements or notes to applicants:

Willingness to learn something new and share in the creative process