Valerie Kinloch is the new Renée and Richard Goldman Dean of the School of Education and Professor at the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to her appointment as Dean, she was Professor of Literacy Studies and Associate Dean of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement in the College of Education and Human Ecology at Ohio State University. Her scholarship examines the literacies and community engagements of youth and adults inside and outside schools. Author of publications on race, place, literacy, and diversity, her books include: *Still Seeking an Attitude: Critical Reflections on the Work of June Jordan* (2004), *June Jordan: Her Life and Letters* (2006), *Harlem On Our Minds: Place, Race, and the Literacies of Urban Youth* (2010), *Urban Literacies: Critical Perspectives on Language, Learning, and Community (2011), Crossing Boundaries: Teaching and Learning with Urban Youth* (2012), and *Service-Learning in Literacy Education: Possibilities for Teaching and Learning* (2015). In 2012, her book, *Harlem On Our Minds*, received the Outstanding Book of the Year Award from the American Educational Research Association, and in 2014, her book titled, *Crossing Boundaries: Teaching and Learning with Urban Youth,* was a staff pick for professional development by the *Teaching Tolerance Education Magazine.*

Valerie is the recipient of the 2010 AERA Scholars of Color Early Career Award and the 2015 University Distinguished Diversity Award from Ohio State. In 2015, Valerie received the Rewey Belle Inglis Award for Outstanding Women in English Education from the National Council of Teachers of English, and in 2016, she was honored with the Distinguished Faculty Advising Award from the Council of Graduate Students at Ohio State. She has received grants from the Spencer Foundation, National Council of Teachers of English, Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Battelle Endowment for Technology. With colleagues, she participated in a Fulbright-Hayes project to Sierra Leone, West Africa to examine connections among language, culture, and history in Sierra Leone and the U.S. Gullah Islands. Currently, she is completing two book projects on literacy, justice, race, and community engagement.