



Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate

# FMU/FIU

## RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

FEBRUARY 28-29, 2024



FLORIDA  
MEMORIAL  
UNIVERSITY



**FIU**

FLORIDA  
INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY



# RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

2024 Research Symposium hosted by Florida International University (FIU) and Florida Memorial University (FMU) at FMU on February 28th - 29th, 2024 in Miami Gardens, FL.

STEM and Academe, Professional development workshops, research presentations, and Career conversations and more!



**USF FLAGEP**

[flagep.eng.usf.edu/AboutUs.html](http://flagep.eng.usf.edu/AboutUs.html)

**FIU FLAGEP**

[gradschool.fiu.edu/agep/](http://gradschool.fiu.edu/agep/)

**FMU FLAGEP**

[www.fmu.edu/academics/school-of-arts-and-sciences/fl-agep/](http://www.fmu.edu/academics/school-of-arts-and-sciences/fl-agep/)



Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate



**AGEP AWARDS**

HRD-2055302 // HRD-1916086

HRD-1916094 // HRD-1916044

For more information contact [NSFFLAGEPAlliance@gmail.com](mailto:NSFFLAGEPAlliance@gmail.com)



## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**Dear Scholars,**

On behalf of Florida International University, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Florida Alliance for Graduates in the Professoriate (AGEP) Research Symposium.

I hope you find this an enriching and exciting symposium, hosted by Florida International University (FIU) and Florida Memorial University (FMU) FL-AGEP. Plan for an impactful day of networking with leaders in STEM and academia, professional development workshops, research presentations, and career conversations.

FIU is proud to be recognized as a the #4 best public university in the nation, according to The Wall Street Journal Rankings. FIU is also the country's largest Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI).

Our trajectory is fueled by our commitment to achieving exceptional student-centered learning, upward economic mobility, faculty success, academic excellence, meaningful research, creative activities, which allows us to lead transformative innovations locally and globally.

Our alliance partners –Florida A&M University, Florida Memorial University, University of South Florida, and Bethune Cookman University – are pleased to host an event that has the potential to increase the number of successful outcomes for graduates in the professoriate in the state of Florida. This gathering will provide professional development and mentoring in the STEM disciplines. FIU is thrilled to be part of such a transformative event that may well further your career paths as faculty members, researchers, and scholars. We hope you find this a highly valuable event and wish you all the best on your respective journeys.

Sincerely,

**Kenneth A. Jessell**  
*President*



## Dear Research Symposium Participants,

Welcome to the National Science Foundation, Florida Alliance for Graduate Education in the Professoriate (FL-AGEP), hosted by Florida International University and Florida Memorial University. The symposium seeks to cultivate research and impact the research in the STEM disciplines. During this action-packed week, it is anticipated that new ventures, career opportunities, and professional advancement will occur.

The FL-AGEP alliance leadership team are enthusiastic about meeting with each of you, one-on-one to assist you with your career goals. Make sure to take advantage of the round-table event that will answer some pertinent questions that could be a great asset in aiding in your success. Faculty and administrators representing the University of South Florida, Bethune-Cookman University, Florida A & M University, Virginia Tech, Florida Memorial University and Florida International University are available to mentor, guide and direct in your future endeavors. We invite you to get involved, visit our websites, and continue to cultivate your research.

We congratulate you on your success and encourage you to continue to build the foundations that develop a legacy that cannot be erased.

Your hosts,

**Diedra Hodges, Ph.D.**

**Michelle Bradham-Cousar, Ph.D.**

**Samuel Darko, Ph.D.**





## DIEDRA HODGES, PhD

Dr. Deidra R. Hodges is the Department Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Florida International University. Dr. Hodges is an exceptional leader in photovoltaics (PV) and solar energy research with extensive experience in PV and X- and gamma-ray radiation detectors for National Security. Dr. Hodges is highly focused in advancing Renewable Energy, Sustainability, Nuclear Materials and Extreme Photon Sensing. Her contributions include the support and development of the pixilated cadmium zinc telluride (CZT) gamma detector at BNL, and highly efficient thin-film mixed perovskite halides photovoltaics. She has achieved perovskite solar cell power conversion efficiencies greater than 21%, approaching the world record efficiency of 25.2%.



## MICHELLE BRADHAM-COUSAR, PhD

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Dr. Michelle Bradham-Cousar has over 25 years' experience working with individuals with disabilities. Dr. Bradham-Cousar has utilized her skills in the areas of Research at the University of South Florida in the Education Center of Research, Evaluation, Assessment and Measurement. Throughout her journey, she has completed certificates in the areas of the Military School Age Child Development through Fort Carson, Colorado Military Command. Other experiences included working within psychiatric hospitals, supervision, faculty advisory boards and as a correctional officer.



## JAFFUS HARDRICK, PhD

Dr. Jaffus Hardrick is an award-winning senior academic executive with a proven track record for promoting student success, enhancing student outcomes, optimizing faculty and staff development, and cultivating a culture of excellence.

Dr. Hardrick fully understands the promise of education. Through education, Dr. Hardrick was fortunate to earn significant roles as a higher education administrator. He served as the vice provost for access and success at Florida International University, the nation's fourth-largest public urban research university; assistant vice provost for Academic Affairs at Baylor University; and now the president of Florida Memorial University. As an education executive, he is committed to developing future leaders and closing achievement gaps among underrepresented students and creating a culture of academic excellence in higher education. He is also the co-author of "Making Global Learning Universal: Promoting Inclusion and Success for All Students" (Stylus).

A visionary leader with a keen eye for strategic direction, Dr. Hardrick has developed a record of success by working across the academy to enhance organizational effectiveness and efficiency, improve academic quality, and ensure student success. Some of his professional experiences include attracting and developing talented workforces, increasing donor and business relations, and forging strong community relationships. Dr. Hardrick is recognized as a strategic thinker, thought leader, problem solver, consensus builder, motivator, and fund and friend raiser. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, a master's degree from Prairie View A&M University, and his doctorate from Baylor University. He is a proud member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. 2. Academic Quality



## SAMUEL A. DARKO, PhD

Samuel A. Darko, Ph.D., became Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences on August 16th, 2021. An avid learner, he is a technologically savvy problem-solver with ability to communicate technical information to non- technical audience at all organizational levels.

He possesses excellent managerial and organization skills with an interactive, hands-on approach; able to build strong teams to achieve overall corporate and project objectives.

Dr. Darko served on the faculty of Benedict College for seventeen years starting as an Assistant Professor of Environmental Science where he served for seventeen years. In May 2021, He was named Professor of Environmental Engineering. Through a public, private partnership initiative, he co-founded and leads the FMU Climate Resiliency Center, dedicated to creating the first Net Energy Positive + 100% Resilient University Campus with integrated sustainability, technology, and innovation education at its core.

During his tenure at Benedict College, he founded and directed the Environmental Engineering program, the Benedict College-Scientific Village™, and the Freeda Moore Laboratory for Sustainability Research which he directed for more than fifteen years. He served on the President's Advisory Council and on BC Board of Trustees for two years, representing the faculty and staff.

Conscientious self-starter and highly motivated team player with proven ability to function in detail- oriented environments, Dr. Darko is an avid learner and inquisitor to all things science and engineering. Dr. Darko has been an active researcher in the fabrication and application of novel nanomaterials for environmental protection. Over the years Dr. Darko secured more than \$3MM in grant funding from Goldman Sachs, the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control that enabled him to enhance and impact institutional capabilities and capacity.

In 2012, he was awarded The South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities Excellence in Teaching Award following his recognition as the Benedict College 2010-2011 Distinguished Faculty of the Year Award.





## SYLVIA WILSON THOMAS, PhD

Sylvia Wilson Thomas, PhD, was appointed Vice President for Research & Innovation and President & CEO of the USF Research Foundation, Inc. on December 1, 2023, after serving in the role on an interim basis for two years. Dr. Thomas directs aspects of USF's research enterprise as a member of USF's presidential cabinet.

Dr. Thomas is a Professor in Electrical Engineering, leads the Advanced Materials Bio and Integration Research (AMBIR) laboratory at USF, and formerly served as Assistant Dean of the USF College of Engineering. She has contributed to USF's efforts for research innovation, strategic planning and renewal, faculty success, consolidation, cultural transformation and economic development among underserved communities, and student recruitment and workforce development.

"As the USF research enterprise forges a path forward, at the forefront will be scholarly transformations that support faculty interests, student success, community/partner engagement, and institutional strategic priorities," says Dr. Thomas.

Having over 25 years of global experience in academia and industry, Dr. Thomas is the author of numerous peer-reviewed journal articles, proceedings, presentations, and six book chapters, and her creative, current affairs-driven projects have been supported by a wide-range of funders, from the USF seed grant programs to the National Science Foundation. She is a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), a Senior Member of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) and Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). She is currently Vice President of the USF Chapter of the National Academy of Inventors. She is the recipient of the 2020 Black Engineer of the Year (BEYA) Education STEM Educational Leadership Award from US Black Engineer and Information Technology Magazine.

## SYLVIA WILSON THOMAS, PhD

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As a longtime leader in the effort to bring more diversity to engineering, Dr. Thomas has melded her mentoring of students and an ambitious range of projects that has her lab at the forefront of exploring new ways to solve global technological challenges and broaden participation. More recently, Dr. Thomas' lab has led several high-profile projects applying advanced circuitry, materials, and data analytics to the COVID-19 pandemic, partly supported by a grant from the USF Pandemic Response Research Network (PRRN).

As an advocate for innovation and collaborative engagement, she has produced 12 patents and patent disclosures, and assisted in the success of such companies and organizations as Agere Systems, Lucent/Bell Labs, Kimberly Clark Corporation, IBM, and Procter & Gamble. Dr. Thomas is also the USF GEM Consortium Representative and mentor for the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation University Center for Exemplary Mentoring (UCEM).

Dr. Thomas' research and teaching endeavors are focused on bio (biomedical, biological) and nano electronic device integration using advanced membrane/material systems to meet global technological challenges for alternative energy sources, sustainable environments, and bio-applications. Her research explores the synthesis and device integration of inorganic and organic thin films and nanofibers. Thomas' research group specializes in characterizing, modeling, and integrating materials that demonstrate high levels of biocompatibility, thermal reflectivity, mechanical robustness, and environmental sustainability. Her research is interdisciplinary in nature and fosters collaborations across One USF, regionally, nationally, and globally.

Dr. Thomas is involved in various organizations, having served as the first female chair and Florida Senate appointee to the Florida Education Fund Board of Directors and the Engineering Workforce Commission of the American Association of Engineering Societies. Additionally, she serves as the President of the IEEE's Engineering in Medicine and Biology Florida West Coast Section; advisor for the Society of Women Engineers and National Society of Black Engineers; and a member of the Board of Directors for Black Girls Code. Dr. Thomas has been director/co-director of three NSF Research Experience for Undergraduate Program sites, NSF Research Experience for Teachers programs, NSF ADVANCE, and a current NSF Florida Alliance for Graduate Education in the Professoriate (FL-AGEP) Transformation Alliance. Her outreach includes international efforts in Italy, Singapore, Portugal, South Korea, Mexico, and South Africa.

She holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Electrical Engineering from Vanderbilt University, where she was a Patricia Roberts Harris Fellow, and received her Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Howard University, as a NSF Materials Research Center of Excellence Fellow.



## BRENDA L. WALKER, PhD, JD

Dr. Brenda L. Walker is a Professor in the Exceptional Student Education Program at the University of South Florida and Director of the CAROUSEL Center. In 1995, she developed Project PILOT, the first of several initiatives that prepared African American men for urban special education teaching careers. As a result of that initiative, 31 African American men have graduated and are teaching children with special needs. Dr. Walker is also the director of a federal outreach and technical assistance project that enhances the urban school research capacity of faculty and graduate students in minority institutions.

She co-authored a constructive behavior management text and has several book chapters and papers on schooling issues related to African American children. Her scholarship also centers on the disciplinary practices to which African American learners are disproportionately subjected, issues around ethics, power, and privilege, and strategies for African American students with academic gifts and talents. In sum, Dr. Walker has delivered myriad presentations and workshops for teachers, administrators, and family members on enhancing African American students' success by affirming their individual and cultural differences and developing culturally responsive pedagogy.

Dr. Walker earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Art degrees from Central Michigan University, a Doctorate of Philosophy degree from the University of Kansas, and a Juris Doctorate from Stetson University College of Law.



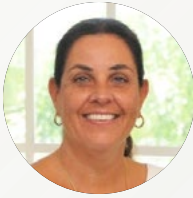
## SAUNDRA JOHNSON AUSTIN, EdD

Dr. Saundra Johnson Austin has dedicated her career to promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging of elementary, middle, and high school students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and careers. Her research is grounded in the effective implementation of STEM curricula in urban middle schools. She has published and presented on STEM education and organizational change. Dr. Johnson Austin earned a BS in Civil Engineering from The Pennsylvania State University, an MBA from the University of Notre Dame, and Ed.D. in Organizational Change and Leadership from the University of Southern California.

At the University of South Florida (USF) she is the project coordinator for the National Science Foundation sponsored Florida Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (FL-AGEP). Also, Dr. Johnson Austin is the project coordinator and Co-Principal Investigator for Project Racism In School Exclusionary Suspensions (RISES), a grant awarded to explore the suspensions of African American middle and high school students in Hillsborough and Pinellas County Florida.

Dr. Johnson Austin held positions as: math faculty at Academy Prep Center of Tampa; executive director of Curated Pathways™ to Innovation; senior vice president for operations at the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, Inc.; president and CEO of St. Michael's High School; executive vice president of the Community Partnership for Lifelong Learning; executive director of the National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science; and Minority Engineering Program director at The Pennsylvania State University. She began her career as a cost engineer at Bechtel Power Corporation. In 2007 she founded Charis Consulting Group, LLC.

Dr. Johnson Austin was recognized by numerous organizations for her work in promoting equity and access to STEM education. Her most notable award is Outstanding Engineering Alumnus in Civil and Environmental Engineering from The Pennsylvania State University. She is a member of various STEM organizations including the United States White House endorsed initiative, Algebra by 7th Grade, and advisory committee member for the Smithsonian Science Education Center's 'Zero Barriers in STEM Education.' Dr. Johnson Austin is currently the President of the American Association of University Women Tampa, Inc., consultant to the board for the Caribbean Community Association of Tampa, and Treasurer for the Northeast STEM Starter Academy of MountVernon, NY.



## HELENA MARIELLA-WALROND, EdD

Dr. Helena Mariella-Walrond is the Provost and Senior Vice President at Bethune-Cookman University (B-CU). As Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Mariella-Walrond oversees all academic and research programs at the institution.

Prior to her appointment as Provost and Senior Vice President, Dr. Mariella-Walrond served as the Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness at the University. In this capacity, Dr. Mariella-Walrond oversaw the development of the University Strategic and Assessment Frameworks, as a foundation for the annual planning, budgeting, and assessment programs. Prior to her appointment to Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness, Dr. Mariella-Walrond served as Associate Provost. In that position, her major responsibility included a complete revision of the University's general education core as well as the development of an academic plan for the Division of Academic Affairs.

Having joined Bethune-Cookman University in 1997, Dr. Mariella-Walrond spent 16 years in the College of Education, first as faculty and later as Coordinator for Assessment and Accreditation. In the College of Education, Dr. Mariella-Walrond taught courses in foundations, curriculum, and research.

An member in all aspects of SACSCOC and the Florida Department of Education reaccreditation reviews, Dr. Mariella-Walrond has presented at numerous conferences and workshops and most recently, she is the co-author, with two of her former students, of a manuscript, titled "The Legacy Lives, 'I leave you a thirst for education' Dr. Bethune's vision in action: A study of the impact of an HBCU on teachers and educational leaders."

A native of Västerås, Sweden, Dr. Mariella-Walrond received her B.A. in Anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, her M.A. in Anthropology from Wake Forest University and the Ph.D. in Foundations of Education from the University of South Carolina.



## HERBERT W. THOMPSON, EdD

Dr. Herbert W. Thompson, Professor of Biology, serves as Associate Provost and Dean of the College of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics at Bethune-Cookman University. A native of Daytona Beach, Florida, he graduated from Bethune-Cookman with a bachelor's degree in Biology and received his master's and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Biology from what is now Clark-Atlanta University. Prior to his appointment as Dean, he served as Chair of the Department of Biology and Project Director of the Health Careers Opportunity Program at B-CU.

Dr. Thompson has served as a committee chairman in the university's re-accreditation process and oversaw a revamping of the STEM programs within the College of Science, Engineering and Mathematics. As Dean, he spearheaded the establishment of the new Department of Integrated Environmental Science which began offering undergraduate courses in 2009.

Dr. Thompson has received funding for various projects from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Human Resource and Services Administration (HRSA), the U.S. Forest Service and the National Science Foundation, among others. He served on the task force which brought Bethune-Cookman its first graduate program, an M.S. in Transformative Leadership, and chaired the task force which developed and implemented the graduate program for the M.S. in Integrated Environmental Science.

Dr. Thompson has received the "President's Award for Excellence" on two occasions since joining the faculty at Bethune-Cookman University. In 2014, he received the Whitehouse Champion of Change Award as a part of the Whitehouse HBCU Initiative, for outstanding work to cultivate a rich learning environment and build initiatives that promote success.

A strong student advocate, Dr. Thompson continues to mentor students and faculty. Over the years, he has guided many individuals to careers in medicine, STEM research and STEM education.



## ALLYSON LEGGETT WATSON, PhD

Dr. Allyson Leggett Watson serves as Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. She is the former Dean of the College of Education at FAMU. Prior to her arrival at FAMU, Dr. Watson served as interim chief academic officer and dean at USF St. Petersburg (USFSP), and at Northeastern State University (NSU) as an assistant dean and the first named endowed chair. Her educational background includes a master's (M.Ed.) and doctoral (Ph.D.) degree in educational administration, curriculum, and supervision from the University of Oklahoma. Her baccalaureate degree is from Bethune-Cookman University in Elementary Education.

Dr. Watson served as assistant director at the University of Oklahoma–Center for Educational & Community Renewal (now K-20 Center). Additionally, her educational career and experience include teaching 1st-8th grade in urban areas.

Dr. Watson has focused her research on urban education, faculty of color in higher education, and urban school and university partnerships. She is a full professor and tenured graduate faculty with a substantial amount of teaching experience in courses such as educational research, advanced educational measurements and statistics, public school relations, and instructional strategies.

In 2010, Dr. Watson founded the Teaching & Urban Reform Network (TURN), a program to prepare pre-service teachers in urban education and encourage effective pedagogical practices. This work has served as a platform for successful acquisition of grants, research presentations, journal articles, and a book chapter.



## ENDYA B. STEWART, PhD

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Dr. Endya B. Stewart is a Professor in the Department of Secondary Education, Technology Education, and Foundations (SETEF) at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU). She serves as the Coordinator of the Curriculum & Instruction Master's degree program within the department. She also serves as the Coordinator of Strategic Initiatives for the College of Education. She has served the College of Education in a number of leadership capacities, including Associate Dean and SETEF Department Chair. Dr. Stewart currently teaches classroom assessment and research methods courses. Her research interests include academic outcomes, African American education, minority student success, neighborhood- and school-level influences, teacher education, and teacher quality. As part of the FL-AGEP Alliance, Dr. Stewart serves as the Project Coordinator for FAMU. In this role, Dr. Stewart assists with the coordination of project personnel and completion of grant-related tasks at FAMU and partner institutions.





## TONISHA B. LANE, PhD

Dr. Tonisha B. Lane (she, her, hers) is an assistant professor of Higher Education at Virginia Tech (VT). She earned her doctorate in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education (HALE) at Michigan State University. Prior to becoming a faculty member, Dr. Lane served in a number of administrative roles including multicultural engineering programs, TRiO Student Support Services, Wayne County Community College District's Educational Affairs and Distance Learning, and the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Post-secondary Education.

Dr. Lane studies the experiences and outcomes of underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Her research also focuses on representation, retention, and well-being of Black students and professionals in higher education. Using a variety of methodological designs, and with the support from Spencer Foundation and the National Science Foundation, she has explored underserved, undergraduate researchers in remote research environments amid COVID-19; pre-college, undergraduate, and graduate learners in STEM enrichment programs; recruitment and retention of early career women of color faculty in STEM; and Black women in doctoral education.

Dr. Lane has presented her research at premier national and international conferences including the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE), American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE), and ACPA-College Student Educators International (ACPA). She has also been the recipient of several honors including VT's College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (CLAHS) 2022 Excellence in Research and Creative Scholarship Award, ACPA Emerging Scholar (class of 2018), McKnight Fellow, and a National Center for Institutional Diversity (NCID) Emerging Diversity Scholar.

Dr. Lane's work can be found in published texts *Building Mentorship Networks to Support Black Women: A Guide to Succeeding in the Academy*, *Women of Color and STEM: Navigating the Double Bind in Higher Education*, and *Intersectionality and Higher Education: Identity and Inequality on College Campuses*. Additionally, her articles appear in *CBE-Life Sciences Education*, *Journal of Equity and Excellence in Education*, and *Urban Education*.



# FIU

# FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

## COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & COMPUTING

As the research engine of the university, our mission is to reach preeminence in the classroom, laboratory and industry. With this in mind, we are pursuing innovations in education, research that is interdisciplinary and leads to entrepreneurial pursuits, and stronger community and industry engagement. We are offering new degrees and programs that will prepare our students for jobs of the future. We are expanding our outreach in the community and engaging with our partners and alumni in the industry to promote FIU engineering across the nation and to enhance post-graduation opportunities for our students.

[cec.fiu.edu](http://cec.fiu.edu)

**124**

TENURE-TRACK FACULTY

**40**

PATENTS

**26**

NSF EARLY CAREER  
AWARDS

**\$62M**

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

# FL-AGEP ALLIANCE LEADERSHIP



**Deidra R. Hodges PhD  
FIU**  
*Principal Investigator*



**Sylvia Wilson Thomas, PhD**  
*Vice President for Research & Innovation  
President & CEO of the USF Research  
Foundation, Inc.*



**Erica McCray, PhD**  
*Associate Professor, Special Education,  
and Director, University of Florida*



**Marcia Ownes, PhD, JD**  
*Associate Professor, Environmental  
Science and Policy, FAMU*



**Sarah Price, PhD**  
*Associate Dean, College of Education,  
FAMU*



**Vanessa Pitts-Bannister,  
PhD**  
*Associate Professor and Chair,  
Secondary Education, Technology  
Education, and Foundations, FAMU*



**Ruthmae Sears**  
*Associate Professor, Mathematics  
Education, USF*



**Brenda Walker, PhD, JD**  
*Professor, Exceptional Student  
Education, USF FL-AGEP CoPI*



**Allyson Watson, PhD**  
*Dean College of Education, FAMU, FL-  
AGEP Lead PI*

# FIU/FMU FL-AGEP

## RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

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**FL-AGEP** Alliance Partner Institutions: Bethune-Cookman University (B-C U), Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU), Florida International University (FIU), Florida Memorial University (FMU), and University of South Florida (USF).

### **DAY 0: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

#### **EVENING OF WELCOME AND RELAXATION RECEPTION**

**6:00 - 7:00 PM** | Registration and Check-in, Lou Rawls Center-Foyer | **Building #29**

**7:00 - 7:30 PM** | Welcome Address, Lou Rawls Center | **Building #29**

Dr. Samuel Darko (*FMU*) | **Welcome and Introduction**

Dr. Diedra Hodges (*FIU*)

FMU Student Welcome

FIU Student Welcome

Dr. Allyson Watson (*FAMU*) | **FL-AGEP PI, Overview of FL-AGEP**

**7:30 - 8:30 PM** | Networking Reception, Lou Rawls Center | **Building #29**

**8:30 - 9:30 PM** | Dinner and Socializing, Lou Rawls Center | **Building #29**

**DAY 1: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29 | SMITH CONFERENCE CENTER | BUILDING #30**

**8:30 - 9:00 AM** | Registration, Smith Conference Center | **Room C**

**9:00 - 10:00 AM** | Breakfast and Networking, Smith Conference Center | **Room C**

FMU Ambassador Chorale Performances

FL-AGEP Scholar Introductions

University Recruitment Tables

**10:00 - 10:40 AM** | Opening Kteynote | Smith Conference Center | **Room A & B**

**INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER** Dr. Samuel Darko

Possible Greetings by other FMU cabinet members

**KEYNOTE ADDRES** President Jaffus Hardrick

**Q&A** Dr. Samuel Darko, MC

**10:45 - 11:15 AM** | Plenary Speaker | Smith Conference Center | **Room A & B**

Dr. Sandra Johnson Austin

**AI and the Future of Higher Education** | Dr. Samuel Darko

**11:15 - 12 Noon** | FMU/ FIU Faculty Presentations | 10 minutes including Q&A | **Room A & B**

Dr. Samuel Darko, MC | **Faculty and Principal Investigators discuss research, collaboration opportunities, and strategies**

**12 Noon - 1:00 PM** | Keynote Luncheon | Smith Conference Center | **Room A & B**

**INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER** Dr. Diedra Hodges (FIU)

Dr. Sylvia Thomas, USF

**1:15 - 2:30 PM** | FL-AGEP Scholar Judged Presentations | 7 minutes each

**2:45 - 3:45 PM** | Roundtable Discussion | Scholars Choose 2 at 30 Minutes Each Center

**How to Build Your Brand | How To Navigate Scholarly Platforms | Curriculum Vitae Tips | Developing Teaching, Diversity, Equity, and Research Statements** | Dr. Allyson Watson (*FAMU*)

**Grant Writing Tips and Strategies | Finding Academic Collaborations** | Dr. Tonisha B. Lane (*Virginia Tech*)

**Negotiating Salaries and Start-Up Packages** | Dr. Michelle Bradham-Cousar (*FIU*)

**Networking and Finding Mentors** | Dr. Sylvia Thomas (*USF*)

**4:00 - 4:30 PM** | Wrap-up, Evaluation, and Closing Remarks

**Quality Measures, LLC, Evaluation** | Dr. Gwen Lee-Thomas

**Judges Announce 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Winners**

**Group Photo - FMU Photographer**

**5:00 PM - 7:00 PM** | Dinner and Socializing | Smith Conference Center | **Room C**

**DAY 2: FRIDAY, MARCH 1 | ANNUAL RETREAT** (*Alliance Partners Only*) | SMITH CONFERENCE CENTER

**8:30 - 9:00 AM** | Breakfast and Networking

**9:00 - 9:30 AM** | Evaluation Update

Dr. Gwen Lee-Thomas *Quality Measures, LLC*

**9:30 - 10:30 AM** | Sustainability Discussion

Dr. Allyson Watson

**10:30 AM - 11:00 AM** | Meeting with NSF

Keri Ann *NSF AGEPE Officer*

**11:00 AM** | Working Lunch

**11:00 - 12 Noon** | Dissemination Discussion

Dr. Allyson Watson

**12:00 - 12:30 PM** | Planning for the 2024 Annual Report

Dr. Allyson Watson

**12:30 PM - 1:00 PM** | Wrap-Up, Closing Remarks, and Acknowledgments for Retreat

Participants.

**1:00 PM** | Farewell and Departure to Respective Universities

# FL-AGEP SCHOLARS' PRESENTATIONS

## **Arlisha McQueen, EdD**, *Early Career Faculty*

**Poster Topic:**

**Presentation Topic:** The Role of Mentorship in the Preparation and Careers of Black Women Technology Majors at HBCUs

**Abstract:**

## **Deborah Taffe, PhD**, *Early Career Faculty*

**Poster Topic:** “Understanding Vicarious Trauma and Burnout: A Collaborative Research Project with Broward Health Medical Center”

**Presentation Topic:** Using High-Fidelity Simulation to Improve Clinical Judgment in Undergraduate Nursing Students

**Abstract:** This collaborative research project, in partnership with Broward Health Medical Center, focuses exclusively on the examination of vicarious trauma and burnout among healthcare workers. Our multidisciplinary team, composed of nurse researchers and educators, is committed to unraveling the complex dimensions of these critical issues within the nursing domain.

Utilizing targeted methodologies, including the Maslach Burnout Inventory and the Secondary Traumatic Stress Scale, our study aims to delve into the nuanced experiences of healthcare workers, specifically nurses, respiratory therapists, and PCAs at Broward Health. By concentrating on vicarious trauma and burnout, we seek to identify contributing factors, assess prevalence rates, and gain insights into the impact on individual well-being.

## **Deloria Jackson**, *Doctoral Student*

**Poster Topic:**

**Presentation Topic:**

**Abstract:** This dissertation research aims to bridge the knowledge gap concerning fibroid education and awareness and its' impact on the lived experiences of Black women in higher education within the southern United States. The study objectives include (1) assess the current education and awareness of fibroids among participants, (2) explore the personal experiences of participants living with fibroids, and (3) examine how fibroid education and awareness affect participants' quality of life. By addressing



these objectives, the study intends to shed light on the specific needs and challenges faced by Black women with fibroids in higher education settings. It is assumed that women within this population may experience greater health literacy, potentially leading to greater awareness of fibroids, preventive measures, and treatment options; however different psychosocial stressors related to academic pressures and career aspirations can potentially influence their experiences with fibroids. The findings from this research are expected to provide valuable insights for improving education and care delivery via policy implementation, as well as address overall disparities in fibroid management for Black women within the United States.

## **Ericka Horne, MPH, CHES**

**Poster Topic:** The role of religiosity on trauma and Type II diabetes management among Black adults in Florida: a mixed-methods study

### **Presentation Topic:**

**Abstract:** Type II Diabetes (T2D) is the most common type of diabetes occurring in adults. It is a chronic disease characterized by elevated blood glucose levels. Internationally, there have been several studies completed that look at the coping mechanisms of those with trauma and diabetes. Religiosity and spirituality have been recognized as types of coping mechanisms regardless of race or specific religion.

In Florida, the prevalence of diabetes has more than doubled in the past two decades. In 2018, the prevalence of diabetes was highest among non-Hispanic Blacks (15.4%) compared to their non-Hispanic White counterparts (12.2%). Black people make up about 17% of Florida's population and represents the largest percentage of new T2D diagnosis. For a group that makes up such a small proportion of the total population, this percentage is alarming. It is important to understand how Non-Hispanic Blacks in Florida understand and manage their diagnosis within their environments.

The research will explore the relationship between Black people in Florida and religion. It will also explore the relationship between religiosity, ACEs, and Type II Diabetes management, such as compliance with treatment plans such as oral/medical intervention or lifestyle changes in Black people in Florida.

The proposed methodology includes analysis of the 2019-2021 results of the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System for the first part. The second part will consist of analysis of primary data collected via a tool created and adapted from several tools. It is hypothesized that greater levels of religiosity will be linked to good and excellent T2D self-management.

## **Kilan Ashad-Bishop, PhD, *Early Career Faculty***

**Poster Topic:** The Intersection of Social-Environmental Burden and Cancer Outcomes in the US: A Geospatial Analysis

**Presentation Topic:** Socioenvironmental Determinants of Cancer Disparities

**Abstract:** Due to emerging evidence on the effects of neighborhood social and built environment on cancer outcomes, the assessment of social-environmental burden (SEB) across the US has become as a research priority. The Environmental Justice Index (EJI) is a novel, place-based tool based on 36 environmental, social, and health factors to quantify social vulnerability and environmental injustice across the United States. Our objective was to utilize the EJI to characterize the prevalence of cancer screening across hotspots of cumulative social-environmental burden. Hotspots of cumulative SEB exhibit the lowest rates of breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening participation relative to hotspots of SV and EI alone. SEB hotspots may represent priority areas for targeted, place-based cancer control and prevention efforts. Future research may identify indicators specific to the SEB hotspots that predict lower cancer screening risk and can be targeted via structural interventions.

## **Michelle Gayle, PhD, *Post Doc***

**Poster Topic:**

**Presentation Topic:**

**Abstract:**

## **Rabi Elabor, MS, *Doctoral Student***

**Presentation Topic:** Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping for oyster aquaculture site selection.

**Abstract:** The sustainability of oyster production relies on selecting suitable aquaculture locations influenced by various environmental and climatic factors in the Gulf region. Understanding the relationship between these parameters and the natural aquacultural habitat is crucial for identifying appropriate oyster cultivation sites. GIOVANI (Geospatial Interactive Online Visualization and Analyses Infrastructure), a remote sensing database, was downloaded on precipitation, wind speed, humidity, temperature, chlorophyll, curve, slope, and bathymetry for 12 natural oyster beds. Processing this data with Geographic Information System (GIS), we geo-referenced and visualized existing natural oyster beds—correlated parameters using Pearson analysis and prediction plot analysis to evaluate their effects on natural oyster beds' presence.

Integrating parameters in GIS through (Evaluation Based on Distance from Average Solution) EDAS and ARAS (Additive Ratio Assessment) multicriteria models showed high

predictive ability. Validation using receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve/area under curve (AUC) analysis confirmed the models' accuracy of 77 percent.

Correlation analysis revealed no strong relationships among parameters, but all parameters showed associations with oyster aquaculture sites. According to the predictive models, the northern, central, and western zones had a higher aquaculture suitability than the southern zones. For both models, over 30% and 20% of the study area exhibited high and very high suitability for oyster aquaculture sites, respectively.

In conclusion, both models demonstrated high predictive capabilities, providing valuable environmental and climatic indicators for developing oyster aquaculture management programs in the Gulf region. These findings promote sustainable practices and informed decision-making.

## **Sandy Noel, MPH, *Doctoral Student***

**Poster:** The Role of Health Messaging Interventions on Increasing Colorectal Cancer (CRC) Screening Among African American Men: A Systematic Review

**Abstract:** Background: The purpose of this systematic review is to investigate There is a persistent mortality gap between African Americans and non-Hispanic White males and females. In the United States, Colorectal cancer (CRC) is especially disproportionate for African American men, who have higher CRC incidence and mortality than any racial group.

**Objective:** This systematic review aims to explore how social media compared to traditional health promotional strategies increases colorectal cancer (CRC) screening in African American men aged 45 and older.

**Methods:** Potential studies were identified using a combination of key words in five computerized databases including: ERIC, ProQuest, Science Direct, Cochrane, and Google Scholar. We searched for studies using health messaging interventions including, social media and traditional media to promote colorectal cancer screening in African American Men from January 1, 2005, to February 28, 2023. We screened the titles, abstracts, and full-text articles.

**Study Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria.** Articles were selected if they met all of the inclusion criteria and PICOTS: (P) African American Men aged 45 and older; (I) Health promotional strategies, (C) Social media interventions vs. traditional media interventions (O) Reducing the burden of colorectal cancer (CRC) on the United States population. Increasing perceived relevance of CRC messages; Increased CRC screening; Growth in the incidence of CRC; Improved access to CRC screening (T) Studies following 2005; studies based in the United States, and (S) any study design.

**Data Extraction.** Abstracts and reference lists were scanned to determine relevance and a copy of the article was obtained.

## Sheneeka Favors, PhD

**Poster Topic:** Cultivating Blackness: A critical poetic inquiry into co-constructing a pro-Black STEM classroom.

**Presentation Topic:** Humanizing Blackness in Math Education

**Abstract:** In *The Mis-Education of the Negro*, Woodson (1933) states that “The thought of the inferiority of the Negro is drilled into him in almost every class he enters and in almost every book he studies (pg. 9).” Ten years shy of the 100th anniversary of the publishing of Woodson’s book, k-20 educators continue to grapple with how to address anti-Blackness in education explicitly. For example, when educators have undertaken anti-racist projects popularized notably by Gloria Ladson-Billings’s *Dreamkeepers*, (2009) and Geneva Gay’s *Culturally Responsive Teaching* (2018), approaches at times have been overly simplistic and uncritical (Asante, 2020; Dumas & Ross, 2016; Grant et al., 2020; Ladson-Billings, 2014; Love, 2019; Warren, 2021). Thus, I argue that producing education research that definitively centers Blackness and invokes criticality is necessary if education aims to transform and preserve Black lives. Consequently, in this proposal, a high school mathematics instructor with a Ph.D. in education and three Black student members of the instructor’s 11th-grade mathematics course reflect on practices and identity development, altering the focus from an anti-Blackness to a pro-Black educational space.

The significant findings of this research revealed that a pro-Black classroom design sparked students’ interest in understanding past historical events that affect their present lived experiences promoted students’ to critique structural and systemic forms of oppression, which led to their development of critical consciousness. advanced their love of self, family, community, and Black culture furthered their beliefs that they are capable of completing high-level STEM and college courses ushered them into becoming agentic in school and out-of-school environments.

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**Kilan Ashad-Bishop, PhD**



**Michelle Bradham-Cousar,  
PhD, CDC, NCC, LMHC**



**Rabi Elabor, MS**



**Sheneeka Favors, PhD**



**Michelle Gayle, PhD**



**Ericka Horne, MPH, CHES**



**Deloria Jackson**



**Sandra Johnson Austin, EdD**



**Arlisha F. McQueen, EdD**



**Sandy Noel, MPH**



**Deborah Taffe, PhD**

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- STUT-STEMEX: Strengthening The University Through Stem Excellence
- IES: Integrated Environmental Science

# FMU Campus Map



## CAMPUS DIRECTORY

BUILDING USE TYPE	NO.	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF STORIES
EDUCATIONAL (CLASSROOM)	1	WILLIAM LEHMAN AVIATION CENTER	3
	2	JAMES WELDON & J. ROSSAMOND JOHNSON FINE ARTS BUILDING	1
	3	MUSIC ANNEX	1
	4	SARAH A BLOCKER HALL (Centers for Academic Support & Retention)	2
	5	FUJIRU COOPERATIVE USE BUILDING	2
	6	M. ATHALIE ORANGE SCIENCE BUILDING	2
	7	FUTURE SCIENCE ANNEX	2
	8-A	FUTURE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CLASSROOM BUILDING	2
	8-B	FUTURE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CLASSROOM BUILDING	2
RESIDENTIAL (DORMITORIES)	9	J.T. BROWN RESIDENCE HALL	3
	10	A.B. COLEMAN SR. RESIDENCE HALL	3
	11	R. BAY GOODE RESIDENCE HALL	1
	12	WILLIE C. ROBINSON RESIDENCE HALL	1
	11-A	LIVING & LEARNING RESIDENCE HALL #1	3
	11-B	LIVING & LEARNING RESIDENCE HALL #3 (University Health Center)	3
	11-C	LIVING & LEARNING RESIDENCE HALL #2	3
	11-D	LIVING & LEARNING RESIDENCE HALL #4	3
	11-E	LIVING & LEARNING RESIDENCE HALL #5	3
EDUCATIONAL (STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICES)	14	J.C. SAMS STUDENT ACTIVITY CENTER (Bookstore & Student Development Center)	1
	15	ROYAL W. PURYEAR ADMINISTRATION BUILDING	1
	16	ANDREW ANDERSON & DONALD BAYDON SCIENCE CENTER	1
	17	STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING (Registrar, Admissions, Bureau, Financial Aid, Sec. 104)	1
	18	DENNY'S PROGRAM	1
	19	CHURCH RELATIONS (Institutional Advancement)	1
	20	ALUMNI AFFAIRS (Institutional Advancement)	1
	21	HUMAN RESOURCES / BUDGET & CASH MANAGEMENT	1
	22	NORTHWEST ENTRANCE (Transponder only & Vendor)	1
	23	ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT	
	24	SOUTHWEST ENTRANCE (Faculty & Staff only)	
	25	NORTHEAST ENTRANCE (Special Events only)	
	26	SUSIE C. HOLLY CHAPEL	1
	27	FUTURE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING	2
EDUCATIONAL (LIBRARY)	28	NATHAN W. COLLIER LIBRARY	2
EDUCATIONAL (PERFORMING ARTS)	29	LDU SAMS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS	1
EDUCATIONAL (PRIORITY & ASSEMBLY AREAS)	30	ALBERT E. & SAGE B. SMITH DINING HALL / CONFERENCE CENTER B (logically Sertom & Schebding)	1
EDUCATIONAL (SPORTS FACILITY)	31	A. CHESTER ROBINSON ATHLETIC CENTER	1
	32	FUTURE MULTIPURPOSE ARENA & WELLNESS EDUCATION CENTER	2
PARKING GARAGE	33	HARRY T. MOORE BASEBALL FIELD	N/A
	34	FUTURE 4-STORY PARKING GARAGE W/ 2-STORY OFFICE BUILDING	4
UTILITY BUILDING (WATER PLANTS)	35	COLEMAN - WESTFALL PHYSICAL PLANT	1
	36	CENTRAL ENERGY PLANT	1

## PARKING AREAS

- A** PARKING SPACES = 430      **E** PARKING SPACES = 95      **I** PARKING SPACES = 169  
**B** PARKING SPACES = 32      **F** PARKING SPACES = 49  
**C** PARKING SPACES = 11      **G** FUTURE PARKING SPACES = 98  
**D** PARKING SPACES = 89      **H** FUTURE SPACES = 182

## LEGEND

- PROPERTY LINE  
 WATER LINE  
 6' HIGH CHAIN LINK FENCE  
 6' HIGH IRON FENCE  
 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING  
 SIDEWALK  
 BUS STOP  
 EXISTING FIRE HYDRANT  
 EXIST. LANDSCAPE AREA TREE/SHRUBS/EDGES  
 NEW LANDSCAPE AREA TREE/SHRUBS  
(REFER TO ARCHITECTURAL SITE PLAN)



# FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MAP

# FL-AGEP SCHOLARS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Michelle Bradham-Cousar

### PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

**Bradham-Cousar, M.** (accepted, 2022). Students with Special Needs and School Counselor Collaboration. American Counseling Association. Atlanta, GA.

**Bradham-Cousar, M.** (March 2022). Rehabilitation Engineering and Traumatic Brain Injury. Equity in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Florida AGEP Research Symposium. Tampa, Florida.

**Bradham-Cousar, M.** & Smith, S. (March 2022). Non-Profit Organizational Risk Management for Sustainability. American Counseling Association. Alexandria, VA.

**Bradham-Cousar, M.,**Gabbidon, K., & Johnson Austin, S., Moore, L. (February 2022). 2.0: Supporting SistaS' Presentence in the Academe via C10. USF Diversity & Inclusion Conference, Tampa, Florida.

**Bradham-Cousar, M.** & Smith, S. (January 2022). Risk Management for State 2 State development. American Counseling Association. Alexandria, VA.

Moore, L., **Bradham-Cousar, M.,** Gabbidon, K., & Johnson Austin, S. (2021). Supporting SistaS' Presentence in the Academe via C10. Education for Justice: The 2nd Annual Anchin Center Conference, Tampa, Florida.

**Bradham-Cousar, M.** (2021). Careers in Rehabilitation Counseling. Albany State University, Albany, GA.

### BOOK CHAPTER ACCEPTED

**Bradham-Cousar, M.** (in progress, 2022). Career Self-efficacy in Latino Males. In Latino Male Identity: A Mental Health Crisis of Otherness, Indifference, and Exclusion. Information New Age Publishing Group.

### OTHER PUBLICATION

Resolution No. F3 (2021). 2021-12-09 Council Agenda.pdf (revize.com) Sears, R., Reichgelt, J., McHale, J., Gallardo, G., Reese, G., Dutton, T. Akiwumi, F., Thompson-Dorsey, D., **Bradham-Cousar, M.,** Edmond, J., Blackshear, J. Structural Racism Study: Building Bridges and Supporting Racial Equity. p.173-384

# Sandra Johnson Austin, EdD

## PUBLICATIONS

**Johnson Austin, S.**, Dickerson, D., Freeman, A., Ainsworth, E., & Womack, V. (2022). Diversity professionals' perspective on building belonging in STEM education: 50 years of lessons learned. *Implementing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in Educational Management Practices*, IGI-Global. Manuscript in preparation.

**Johnson Austin, S.**, & El-Amin, A. (2022-In Preparation). A shared vision for online teaching effectiveness of K-12 STEAM minority teachers. *Implementing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Management in Organizational Change Initiatives*, IGI-Global. Manuscript in preparation.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Womack, V., **Johnson Austin, S.**, Gibert, R., Stwalley, C.S., Berhan, L., & Markey, T. (2022, March). A Focused, 5-year effort to increase the number of African American, Hispanic/Latino(a), Native American (AHLN) 7th-grade students who are academically prepared to take algebra. *Proceedings of the Collaborative Network for Engineering & Computing Diversity (CoNECD)*, February 2022. New Orleans, LA.

Moore, L., Gabbidon, K., Cousar, Y. M., & **Johnson Austin, S.** (2022, March). Supporting SiSTaS' persistence in the academe via a C10 Framework 2.0. *Diversity and Inclusion Conference, Merging our past & present to forge a brighter future*, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, Florida

Bradham-Cousar, M., Gabbidon, K., **Johnson Austin, S.**, & Moore, L. (2021, October). Supporting SiSTaS' persistence in the academe via in C10 Framework. *2nd Annual David C. Anchin Center for the Advancement of Teaching, Education for Justice Conference*, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida

Lane, T., de Murzi, N. H., Watson, A., Thomas, S., Kos, L., Cooper, A., Mariella-Walrond, H., **Johnson Austin, S.**, Dome, C., & Rowley, A. (2022, January). Research-intensive professional development program as a counterspace: A qualitative study of academic women of color in STEM. *Hawaiian International Conference on Education*, Honolulu, Hawaii

Thomas, S., **Johnson Austin, S.**, Walker, B. L., Lane, T., & Watson, A. (2022, January). Framework for strategically aligning a cultural relevant network mentoring continuum. *Hawaiian International Conference on Education*, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Debzani, D., Stewart, J., & **Johnson Austin, S.** (2022). Expanding the boundaries, impact, and diversity of data science: An HBCU pilot project. Manuscript in preparation.

## CONFERENCE PANEL

Walker, B., **Johnson Austin, S.**, Thompson Dorsey, D., Moore, L. L., Wright, S. L., Holley, M., Andrade, A., Knight, L., & Webb, G. C. (2022). Racism in School Exclusionary Suspensions: Through the lens of African American middle and high school students, their family, and community members. *Eastern Educational Research Association Annual Conference*, Clearwater Beach, Florida.

## **Arlisha McQueen, EdD, *Early Career Faculty***

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

ICUE 2022 Presentations | ATF Principal Investigator Conference 2023 Presentation

## **Deborah Taffe, PhD, *Early Career Faculty***

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Taffe, D. (2022) Empowering Students Through Guided Discussion Posts, FAMU Empowering Instruction

Taffe, D. (2021) Wrapping Equity and Inclusion into Your Everyday Practice, FNA Membership Assembly

## **Deloria Jackson, *Doctoral Student***

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Honors, Awards & Fellowships: American Public Health Association, Maternal and Child Health Section Senior Fellow

Miss Institute of Public Health (IPH) – Florida A&M University

American Public Health Association, Maternal and Child Health Section Student Fellow

Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, Kappa Iota Chapter

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Ericka Horne, Pierreson Miville, Deloria Jackson, Michelle Jenkins, ToRhonda Lee, Alan Becker, Cynthia Harris. “HBCU Campus Ambassador Training for the COVID -19 Vaccination”, abstract presented at Black Caucus of Health Workers Roundtable at APHA meeting (November, 2022), Boston, MA.

Luque, J, Kiros, G, Vargas, M, Jackson, D, Matthew, O, Austin, T, Tawk, R, Ali, A, Harris, C, Wallace, K, Gwede, C. “Colorectal cancer self-efficacy in African Americans: preliminary findings at baseline from the Test Up Now Education Program (TUNE-UP) Study,” poster presented at APHA meeting (November, 2022), Boston, MA.

### **PUBLISH ABSTRACTS & REFERRED JOURNAL ARTICLES**

Luque, J.S., Kiros, G.E., Vargas, M., Jackson, D.R., Matthew, O.M., Austin, T., Tawk, R., Ali, A.A., Harris, C.M., Wallace, K., & Gwede, C.K. Association of Preventive Care Attitudes and Beliefs with Colorectal Cancer Screening History among African American Patients of Community Health Centers. *Journal of Cancer Education* (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13187-023-02337-1>

Jackson, D, Kiros, G, Vargas, M, Matthew, O, Austin, T, Tawk, R, Ali, A, Harris, C, Wallace, K, Gwede, C, Luque, J. “Baseline Participant Characteristics from the Test Up Now Education Program (TUNE-UP) Colorectal Cancer Screening Study,” paper presented at the International Cancer Education Virtual Conference (October, 2022), College Park, MD. Published in Conference Proceedings of the Journal of Cancer Education.

Jackson, D\*, Kiros, G, Vargas, M, Matthew, O\*, Austin, T, Tawk, R, Ali, A, Harris, C, Wallace, K, Gwede, C, Luque, J. “Baseline Participant Characteristics of a Colorectal Cancer Screening Study,” abstract in conference proceedings at Virtual RCMI National Conference (March, 2022).

Luque, J, Matthew, O, Jackson, D, Vargas, M, Austin, T, Ali, A, Kiros, G, Harris, C, Tawk, R, Gwede, C, Wallace, K, Jean-Pierre, P. (2022) Assessing the effectiveness of a community health advisor plus screen to save educational intervention on stool-based testing adherence in an African American safety net clinic population: study protocol for a randomized pragmatic trial. *Trials*. 2022;23(1):151. Epub 20220215. doi: 10.1186/s13063-022-06076-4. PubMed PMID: 35168640; PMCID: PMC8845372.

Matthew, O, Vargas, M, Wallace, K, Tawk, R, Ali, A, Kiros, G, Austin, T, Jackson, D, Harris, C, Gwede, C, Luque, J. “Recruitment for a Colorectal Cancer Screening Education Study for African Americans in the Southern United States,” paper presented at the International Cancer Education Virtual Conference (October, 2021), Published in Conference Proceedings of the Journal of Cancer Education.

Vargas, M, Matthew, O, Jackson, D, Austin, T, Tawk, R, Wallace, K, Gwede, C, Luque, J. (2021) Adaptation of a Community Health Advisor Intervention to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening Among African Americans in the Southern United States. *Cancer Health Disparities*. 2021;5. PubMed PMID: 35252768; PMCID: PMC8893047.

**Ericka Horne, MPH, CHES, *Doctoral Student***

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Horne, E.; Reyes-Ortiz, C. Disparities on Adverse Childhood Experiences and Health Outcomes by Ethnicity in Florida. Roundtable Facilitator at American Public Health Association Annual Conference 2023. 2023 November 13.

## **Kilan Ashad-Bishop, PhD, *Early Career Faculty***

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

#### **Scientific Honors and Awards**

- 2023 Leading Edge Fellow, HHMI Janelia Research Campus
- 2022 GMaP Region 2 Travel Award to AACR Disparities Meeting, Moffitt Cancer Center

### **CIVIC SERVICE HONORS AND AWARDS**

- 2023 Resident, Science Advocacy Institute
- 2022 Vessels: Black Professionals in Health and Medicine, Miami-Dade Black Affairs Advisory Board
- 2021 Reinvented's Woman of the Year, Reinvented Magazine

### **ACTIVE RESEARCH SUPPORT**

Training in Heat-Related Disparities and Equity (THREAD)  
01/01/2022 – 05/31/2024

Funding Agency: University of Miami Office of the Vice Provost for Research

Role: Co-Investigator (PI: A. Clement)

### **PEER-REVIEWED MANUSCRIPTS**

1. Baeker Bispo J.A., Goo I., Ashad-Bishop K.C., Kobetz E.K., Bailey Z.D. (in press). Does neighborhood social cohesion influence participation in routine cancer screening? Findings from a representative sample of adults in South Florida. *Family & Community Health*.
2. Morton, T. R., Agee, W., Ashad-Bishop, K. C., Banks, L. D., Barnett, Z. C., Bramlett, I. D., Brown, B., Gassmann, W., Grayson, K., Hollowell, G. P., Kaggwa, R., Kandlikar, G. S., Love, M., McCoy, W. N., Melton, M. A., Miles, M. L., Quinlan, C. L., Roby, R. S., Rorie, C. J., Russo-Tait, T., ... Woodson, A. N. (2023). Re-Envisioning the Culture of Undergraduate Biology Education to Foster Black Student Success: A Clarion Call. *CBE Life Sciences Education*, 22(4), es5. <https://doi.org/10.1187/cbe.22-09-0175>
3. Ashad-Bishop, K. C., Baeker Bispo, J. A., Nahodyl, L., Balise, R. R., Kobetz, E. K., & Bailey, Z. D. (2023). Hyperlocal disparities in breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening: An ecological study of social vulnerability in Miami-Dade county. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 35, 102371. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmedr.2023.102371>
4. Davis B.R., Jaso B.A., Heller A., Kohn-Wood L., Ashad-Bishop K.C. (2023). The Power of Community: The Role of CBOs in Mitigating COVID-19-Related Impacts to Well-Being Among South Florida's Minoritized Populations. *Global Journal of Community Psychology Practice*. 14(2), 1 - 18. Retrieved from, (<https://www.gjcpc.org/>).



5. Ashad-Bishop K.C., Cruz M., Bailey Z.D., Kobetz E.K. (2023). Intersectional Disparities in Climate Vulnerability and Cancer Risk. *Cancer*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cncr.34817>
6. Baeker Bispo J., Douyon, A., Ashad-Bishop, K., Balise, R., & Kobetz, E. (2023). How Trust in Cancer Information Has Changed in the Era of COVID-19: Patterns by Race and Ethnicity. *Journal of Health Communication*, 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10810730.2022.2117439>

## CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

Ashad-Bishop K.C., Baeker Bispo J.A., Bailey Z.D., Kobetz E.K. Exploring relationships between neighborhood social vulnerability and cancer screening in Miami-Dade County [abstract]. In: Proceedings of the 15th AACR Conference on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved; 2022 Sep 16-19; Philadelphia, PA. Philadelphia (PA): AACR; *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev* 2022;31(1 Suppl):Abstract nr C083.

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. Did exposure to Hurricane Andrew (1992) influence survival among people diagnosed with cancer? A 20-year retrospective survival study. Poster presentation at American Society of Preventive Oncology Annual Meeting; March 2023; San Diego, CA.
2. Exploring hyperlocal relationships between neighborhood social vulnerability and cancer screening. Oral presentation at Black in Cancer Conference; October 2022; London, England.
3. Exploring relationships between neighborhood social vulnerability and cancer screening in Miami-Dade County. Poster presentation at AACR Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved; September 2022; Philadelphia, PA.

**Michelle Gayle, PhD**, *Post Doc*

## ACCOMPLISHMENT

Co Pi - grant with FCRr

**Rabi Elabor, MS,** *Doctoral Student*

**ACCOMPLISHMENT**

Conference presentation, professional development, publications, pi and co-pi appointment

**Sandy Noel, MPH,** *Doctoral Student*

**ACCOMPLISHMENT**

2023 FPFA conference poster presentation, Served as national panelist for AmeriCorps Public Health Service

**Sheneeka Favors, PhD,** *Post Doc*

**ACCOMPLISHMENT**

Women in Math Lecture “Math for Justice” 2023

Presentation at Critical Race Studies Education Association, October 2023



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