

AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES PRESENTS:
100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH



CACE **RACE** 2026 **EDUCATION**

CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN DIASPORIC
CULTURES AND EXPERIENCES

PRESENTATIONS, ROUNDTABLE CONVERSATIONS,
POETRY, PERFORMANCES, AND WORKSHOPS

KEYNOTES:

DR. TRACY BAILEY

DR. DEBORAH BARNES

DR. FREDERICK DOUGLAS DIXON

FEBRUARY 24, 25 & 26

ELLIOT UNIVERSITY CENTER

1400 SPRING GARDEN STREET, GREENSBORO, NC 27412

EUC ALEXANDER

CLAXTON

KIRKLAND

CONE BALLROOM C



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
REGISTRATION REQUIRED





36th ANNUAL CACE CONFERENCE

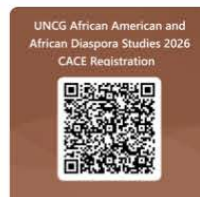
Established in 1989 with the first conference taking place in 1990, CACE brings nationally renowned speakers and showcases student participation from AADS majors, minors, and alumni who often go on to careers in education and advocacy. Community partners include area educators, librarians, civic leaders, artists, musicians, environmentalists, preservationists, museums, and partner colleges and universities. Keynote speakers have included Annette Gordon-Reed, bell hooks, Michael Eric Dyson, Cornel West, and Lenora Fulani.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH:

AADS honors the educational legacy of Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950), who initiated Negro History Week in February 1926. Woodson, an accomplished historian and journalist, recognized the importance of education and awareness of African American accomplishments and contributions to the U. S. These accomplishments were, in his words, “overlooked, ignored, and even suppressed by the writers of textbooks and the teachers who use them.” He created “Negro history kits” and teacher curriculum to counter this ignorance. Woodson dedicated his life to advancing research and education about African Americans. He founded a press, a journal, and a professional society to support academic discourse and understanding of African American history and life. The son of enslaved people from Virginia, Woodson worked as an agricultural laborer and later a miner while earning a high school diploma. He went on to earn a BA (Berea), an MA (UChicago), and a DPhil (Harvard).

THIS YEAR’S THEME:

The 36th annual CACE 2026 addresses Race and Education. Academic panels, workshops, roundtables, keynotes, poetry, and performances address history, memory, unconventional archives, North Carolina African American educational institutions, popular culture, media and digital history, mentorship and leadership, the power of autobiography and intersectionality, music, representation, incarceration and structural inequality, care, and mental health advocacy.



LEADERSHIP AND THE BLACK STUDENT FUTURE



DAY 1

Tuesday February 24, 9am-9pm
*EUC Ground Floor**

9AM
REGISTRATION

9:30AM
OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Kelly Joyce, Dean, CAS
EUC Alexander

9:45AM
POSTER PRESENTATION: EUC KIRKLAND

Christianity's Role in Shaping America's Society
Bashar al-Janabi

The Educational Legacy of the Black Church
Quiana Anthony

9:45AM
ROUNDTABLE: EUC ALEXANDER

Black Men in Higher Education
Facilitator: Dominick Hand

Panelists: Dr. Jesse Ford, Mr. Jarrod Rudd, Mr. Cedrick Brown, Dr. Magana Kabugi

11:00AM
KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

The Struggle for Black Studies: Where do we go from here—Chaos, or Community?
Dr. Frederick Douglas Dixon
EUC Alexander

12:30PM
WORKSHOP: EUC KIRKLAND

Student Leadership

Facilitator: Dr. Frederick Douglas

Supported by: Tobias Postell, Office of Intercultural Engagement; Jarrod Rudd, Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement; David Sandy, Black Student Union; Cerenity Cornell, NAACP; Nakayla Hill, Black Student Union, WCU

LEADERSHIP AND THE BLACK STUDENT FUTURE



DAY 1

Tuesday February 24, 9am-9pm
EUC Ground Floor*

12:30PM

A CYCLE OF MENTORSHIP: EUC ALEXANDER

Women of Color and Educational Mentorship

Dori Mondon, Lauren Shook, Humanities at Work Interns

2PM

SPORTS, MEDIA, AND CARE: EUC ALEXANDER

Sisterhood and Survival: A Womanist Critique of WNBA Leadership and the Pedagogy of Communal Care

April Ruffin Adams

Discovery Through Discourse: How Tik-Tok Conversations Might Inform Anti-Racist and Inclusive Pedagogies

Talia Gray

2PM

MEDIA, LITERATURE, AND THE DIGITAL AGE: EUC CLAXTON

Black American Women in Literature and Media

Yolanda Williams

Marketing and Black Consumerism During the Civil Rights, Mass Media/ Hip-Hop and Digital Age

Jasmine Burgess

3PM

PLENARY LECTURE

Every Blessing Hides a Curse: Autobiography as Black History

Dr. Deborah Barnes

EUC Alexander

5-6PM

ROUNDTABLE: EUC ALEXANDER

Reimagining the Black Student Future: Education, Justice, and Innovation

Cerenity Cornell and NAACP E-board

7-9PM

OPEN MIC: EUC CONE BALLROOM C

James Daniels, host; guest appearances

HISTORY, MEMORY, AND BLACK EDUCATIONAL FUTURES



DAY 2

Wednesday, February 25, 9am–5pm
EUC Ground Floor*

9AM

COMMUNITY AND COMMUNION: EUC ALEXANDER

Historical Legacies and Enduring Significance of the North Carolina Rosenwald Schools

Jocelyn Rangel & Madison Cruze

A Family Legacy Across Generations: Turner Yarborough's Memory as Archive

Nakayla Hill

10AM

ORIGIN AND RECLAMATION: EUC ALEXANDER

Afrocentricity

Mario Howard & Ashleigh White

Reclaiming the Voice of the Black Man in a Silenced America

Rakeem Spearman

The Heat Was Always On: Feeding the Movement

Judaiyca High

11AM

THE POLITICS OF MEMORY: EUC ALEXANDER

She Who Remembers, She Who Speaks: Black Women Poets, Prophecy, and the Politics of Memory

Brianna Yancey

The Deep Dark Sea: African Americans' Relationship with the Sea

Serena Henderson

11AM

THE CARCERAL STATE: EUC CLAXTON

The School-to-Prison Pipeline and Police Brutality

Austin Brewer

Adversarial Injustice: Mass Incarceration and Structural Inequality in the Criminal Justice System

Na'Kenya Braddy

12PM

ROUNDTABLE: EUC ALEXANDER

Leading with Care: Advancing Mental Health Advocacy for Faculty in Academia

Angela Jacobs, Camia Rhodes, & Candace Jacobs

HISTORY, MEMORY, AND BLACK EDUCATIONAL FUTURES



DAY 2

Wednesday, February 25, 9am-5pm
EUC Ground Floor*

1PM

VIOLENCE AND INEQUALITY: EUC ALEXANDER

Between Bullets and Bodies: Unequal Lessons of Violence in American Culture

Tabitha Omanano

The Cruelty of Christian Nationalism

Michaela Ysabela Fitch Nelson

1PM

UNDERSTANDING RACE: EUC CLAXTON

Race and Education

Michael Cauthen, Emeritus Professor, AADS

2PM

PANEL DISCUSSION: EUC ALEXANDER

Representation Matters: How Casting, Storytelling, and Production Practices Shape Performance and Media Education

North Carolina Black Repertory Theater, Mya Brown & Juanita Thacker

3:30PM

ROUNDTABLE: EUC CLAXTON

30 Hands-on Black History: Preservation, Policy and Practice at the Efland Home and Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum

Facilitator: Juanita Thacker

Panelists: Rhonda Jones, Arnetta Girardeau, & Michelle Lanier

5PM

THE CENTRALITY OF BLACK LIFE AND CULTURE: EUC ALEXANDER

Art Decentering the White Narrative

Delany Hart

Embodied performances

Charlotte Hawkins Brown, Ella Baker, Shirley T. & Henry E. Frye

EDUCATION IN PRACTICE: EMBODIED KNOWLEDGE



DAY 3

Thursday, February 26, 9:30am-6pm
EUC Ground Floor*

9:30AM

INCLUSION AND EQUITY AT WORK AND ABROAD: EUC ALEXANDER

Against the Current: A Narrative Study of Four Music Education Faculty Navigating Equity Work Amidst Political Opposition

Dr. Quinton Parker

Navigating Belonging: Black and Latina Students's Racialized Experiences in Global Health Study Abroad

Dr. Andrea Lewis

11AM

EDUCATION IN CONTEXT: EUC CLAXTON

Ethnic Mosaics, Regional Whiteness, and the Implications of Racial Misrecognition in Late-20th-Century Educational Contexts

Andrea Ventura

Intersectionality in Motion: Examining Research, Practice, and Student Outcomes in K-12 Public Schools

Nia Malachi

12:30PM

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

*Forever Free: A True Story of Hope in the Fight for Child Literacy:
A Memoir and a Call to Action*

Dr. Tracy Bailey

EUC Alexander

2PM

WORKSHOP: EUC KIRKLAND

Grandma's Hands: How I Learned to Hold Onto Our History

Amber M. White & Brianna Yancey

3:30 BLACK COMIX: EUC ALEXANDER

Black Superheroes: Exploring Race, Power and Culture through Comic Studies

Carlos Grooms & Nasir Jean-Paul

DAY 3

Thursday, February 26, 9:30am-6pm
EUC Ground Floor*

3:30PM

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT: EUC CLAXTON

Sonic Pedagogies: Improvisation and Black Educational Futures Roundtable

Rhonda Jones & Aya Shabu

5:00PM

PLENARY REFLECTION

Dr. Tracy Bailey and AADS faculty

EUC Alexander

ONGOING EXHIBITS

Through August 1, 2026

Weatherspoon Art Museum 1109 Spring Garden Street Greensboro, NC 27412

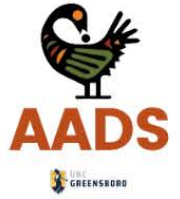
PRECIOUS D. LOVELL: HARRIET'S POWERS

https://weatherspoonart.org/exhibitions_list/precious-d-lovell-harriets-powers/

**OF SALT AND SPIRIT:
BLACK QUILTERS IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH**

https://weatherspoonart.org/exhibitions_list/of-salt-and-spirit-black-quilters-in-the-american-south/

UNCG PARTNERS:



**Black Student
Union**

**Educational
Leadership and
Cultural
Foundations**

English

**Liberal
Studies**

**Human
Development and
Family Studies**

**Humanities at
Work**

**Public Health
Education**

**Languages,
Literatures, and
Cultures**

NAACP

Sociology

**Office of
Intercultural
Engagement**

School of Theatre

**University
Libraries**

**Office of
Leadership and
Civic Engagement**

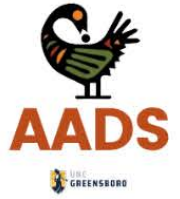
School of Music

Political Science

**Teacher Education
and Higher
Education**

**Spartans Thrive:
Student Success**

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS:



**Western Carolina
University**

**Weatherspoon Art
Museum**

Davidson College

**North Carolina
Black Repertory**

**North Carolina
Agricultural and
Technical State
University**

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



Bashar al-Janabi

**Dr. April Ruffin
Adams**

Mario Howard

Na'Kenya Braddy

Jasmine Burgess

Ashleigh White

Quiana Anthony

Talia Gray

Judaiyca High

Dr. Jesse Ford

Yolanda Williams

Dr. Quinton Parker

Jarrold Rudd

Cerenity Cornell

Dr. Andrea Lewis

Cedrick Brown

James Daniels

Dr. Angela Jacobs

Dr. Magana Kabugi

D. Noble

Camia Rhodes

Dominick Hand

Jocelyn Rangel

Candace Jacobs

Dori Mondon

Madison Cruze

Tabitha Omanano

Dr. Lauren Shook

Nakayla Hill

Austin Brewer

**Humanities at Work
Interns**

Rakeem Spearman

**Michaela Ysabela
Fitch Nelson**

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



Juanita Thacker

Dr. Deborah Barnes

Arnetta Girardeau

Michelle Lanier

Delany Hart

Brianna Yancey

Serena Henderson

Andrea Ventura

Nia Malachi

Amber M. White

Brianna Yancey

Rhonda Jones

Aya Shabu

Carlos Grooms

Nasir Jean-Paul

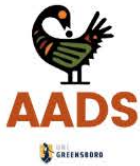
**Dr. Frederick
Douglas**

**AADS faculty
and
affiliates**

Dr. Kelly Joyce

Dr. Tracy Bailey

Mr. Tobias Postell



Alumni Spotlight

Educators



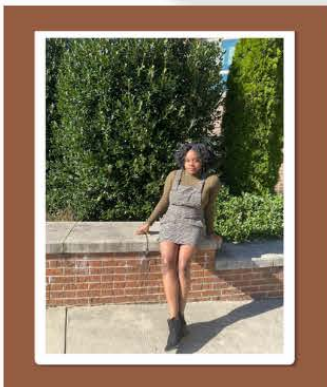
Charles Chavis, Jr, 2015
Professor, Conflict Resolution & History
founding director,
Program for History Justice & Race
George Mason University



Itane Phillips, 2017
J.D., Wake Forest
Educational Consultant
Public Impact of NC
Teach for America,
Guilford County Schools



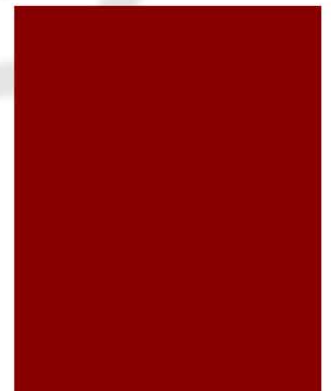
Stephanie Orosco, 2018
History Dept. Chair
Goldsboro High School
founding member,
Rural Teacher Leader Network



Alecia Richardson, 2022
Teacher, National Heritage
Academies Public School
Sigma Gamma Rho



Tiera C. Moore
International Marketing
Consultant, Artist, Educator



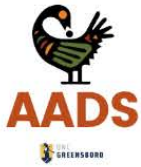
Deandra Hough,
Substitute Teacher GCS



Brodrick Brody Johnson,
Dudley HS (formerly)

AN AADS DEGREE PREPARES YOU TO:

1. Lead with cultural competence 2. Analyze systems & inequity 3. Design community solutions 4. Advocate for justice 5. Build sustainable change



Alumni Spotlight

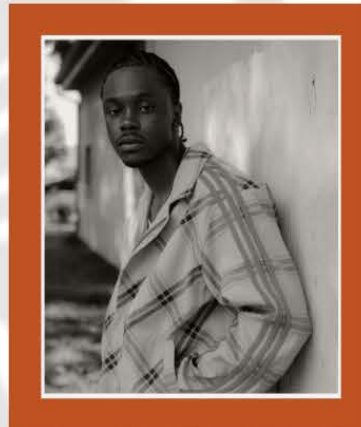
Educators



Toni M Spruill
MEd at NC State



Dionna Faith Shepherd
Wake County Public School System



Jalani Maxwell, 2024
Substitute teacher Guilford County Schools
Freelance artist
BA Studio Art



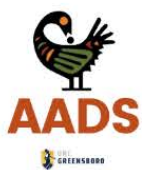
Ajasa Boluwatife
Aspiring educator



Camillia Velese Ligon
Charlotte Mecklenburg schools

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Alumni Spotlight

Civil Servants



Zechariah Etheridge, 2015
Restructuring &
Insolvency attorney



Preston Blakely, 2017
Mayor, Fletcher NC



Tiffany Atkins,
Law School professor, UKY
(previously Elon U)



Allyson Beatty, 2021
MMS, Public History
VP, Preservation Forsyth



Nique Williams, ESQ.
Veteran's Affairs Attorney



Faith L. Moore
enrolled in UNCC
MPA



Natalie Paul, 2025
Founder, Belonging
MSW student UNC Chapel Hill



Mariana Suarez-Vega
Program Manager,
Houston Museum of
Natural Science



Mikhaila Lambert, 2025
President & Founder UNCG NAACP
Omicron Eta chapter of Sigma
Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

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Alumni Spotlight

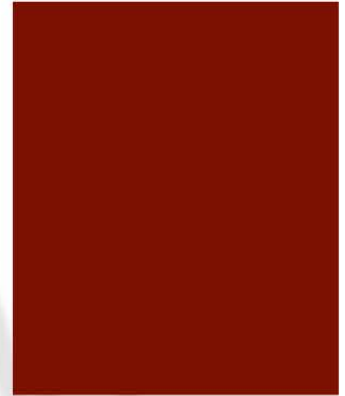
Health and Wellness



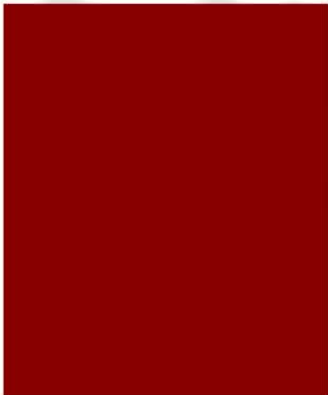
Tanae Downing
Actress certified health coach
& yoga instructor



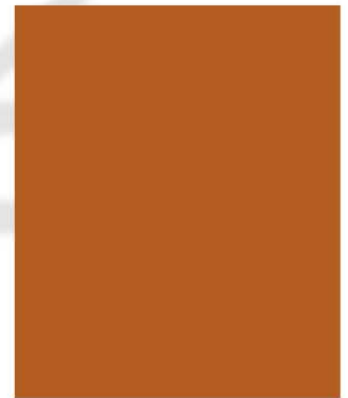
Faith Howell-Bey
Health Care Advocate



Alexandra P. Wilson, PAC
Pediatric Physician Asst



Dilora Obi
BA CAN CPhT



Destini Hogan, participant,
Restorative Youth Sports,
UNCG; certified PCA

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Special Thanks



AADS Faculty, Staff, & Affiliates

Dr. Noelle Morrisette, Director
Dr. Hewan Girma
Dr. Jazmin Eyssallenne
Dr. Omar Ali
Mr. Dominick Hand
Dr. Sarah Cervenak
Dr. April Ruffin Adams
Dr. Deborah Barnes
Mr. Demetrius Noble
Dr. Cerise Glenn (past director)
Dr. David Aarons
Dr. Elizabeth Perrill
Ms. Juanita Thacker
Mr. Calvin Lowery
Ms. Crystal Thompson
Mr. Cedrick R. Brown
Dr. Asha Kutty
Dr. Rhonda Jones
Dr. Shelly Brown-Jeffy
Ms. Natalie Paul
Dr. Frank Woods, Emeritus
Dr. George Dimock, Emeritus
Mr. Michael Cauthen, Emeritus

Mrs. Susanne Simons, Program Associate

AADS Student Ambassadors

Adrianna Mims
Hirelle Kambou

AADS Interns

Oceane Issac
Kyra D. Smith
Imani Tailly

Natalie Paul, MSW intern
UNC-CHapel Hill

Conference Organizer

Dr. Noelle Morrisette
Director, AADS 2020-2026

Conference Program Design

Ms. Natalie Paul

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WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH AN AFRICAN AMERICAN & AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES (AADS) DEGREE?

Change Systems. Build Community. Shape Policy.
Create what does not yet exist

JUSTICE & LEGAL SYSTEMS

Attorney
Restorative Justice Systems Director
Court & Reentry Specialist
Criminal Justice Reform Consultant
Compliance Executive
Victim Advocacy Program Coordinator
Civil Rights Outreach Coordinator

CORPORATE, CONSULTING & DEI

Consulting Firm Founder
Corporate DEI Program Manager
Corporate Lawyer
Equity & Belonging Consultant
Culture & Engagement Strategist
Fortune 500 Advisor
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Lead

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL IMPACT

Community Program Coordinator
Housing Stability Advocate
Youth & Family Support Specialist
Nonprofit Program Manager
Reentry & Justice Advocate
Community Outreach Director

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & GRADUATE PATHS

Nonprofit Founder / Executive Director
Social Impact Consultant
Consulting Firm Founder
Community Systems Designer

MSW | MPA | MPP | PhD | EdD | JD | MBA | MPH | DrPH | MFA | MS | MA | MEd | DPA | ScD | PsyD | PharmD | DPT | OTD | MD | DO

POLICY, GOVERNMENT & ADVOCACY

Governance/public office
Policy Analyst
Legislative Assistant
City or County Equity Coordinator
Civil Rights Program Officer
Community Affairs Specialist
Public Policy Researcher

ARTS, MEDIA, CULTURE & COMMUNICATION

Freelance Artist
Filmmaker/Producer
Social Impact Communications Manager
Museum, Cultural, or Art Program Director
Public History Project Manager
Storytelling & Engagement Director

RESEARCH, DATA & EVALUATION

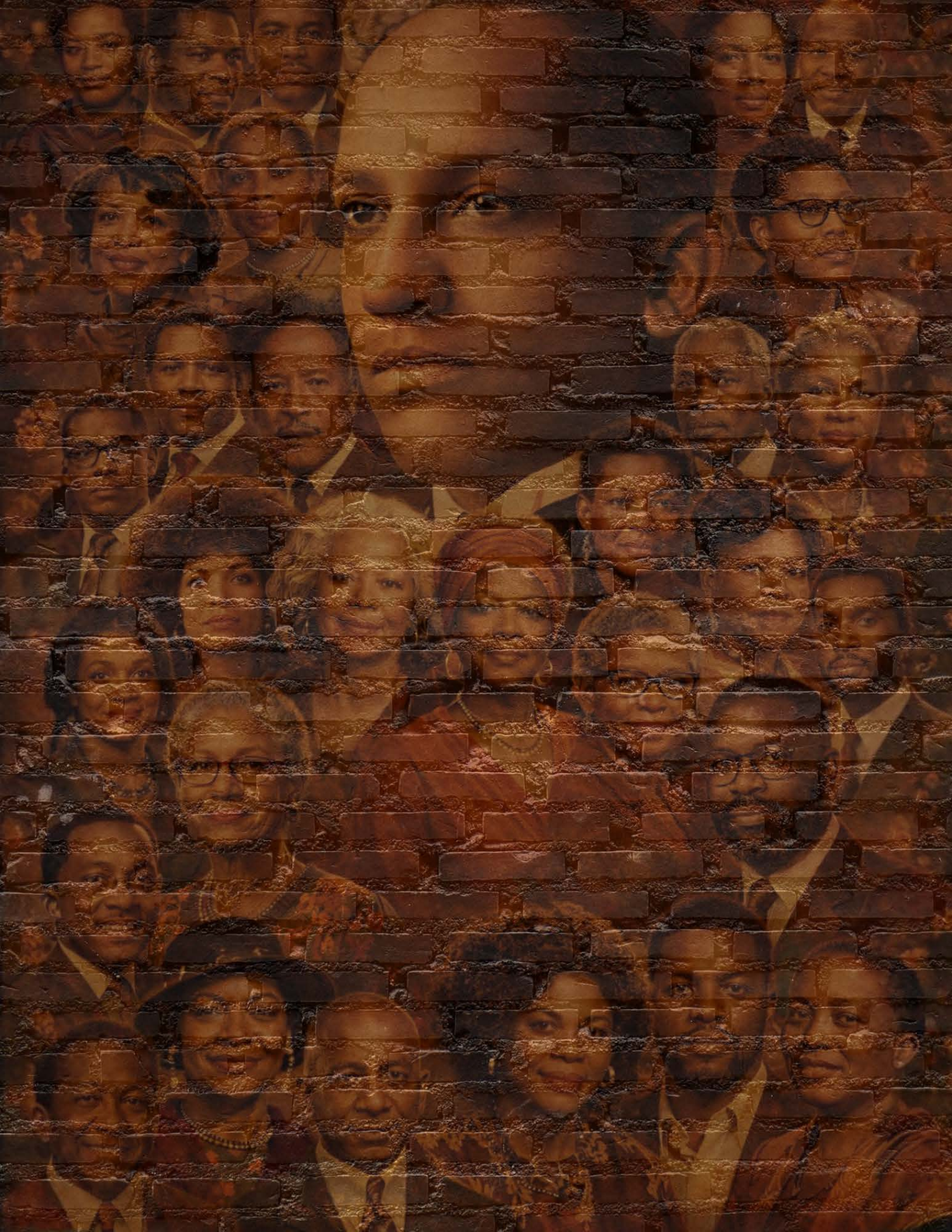
Program Evaluator
Equity Data Analyst
Qualitative Researcher
Institutional Research Assistant
Community-Based Research Specialist

EDUCATION & CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

Educator
Vice Chancellor for Student Success
Multicultural Affairs Director
Academic Advisor (First-Gen & Equity Programs)
Dean of Student Affairs
TRIO / McNair Program Director
Retention & Student Success Coordinator
Curriculum Equity Consultant

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George Clinton used to say that we needed to dance our way, out of our constrictions. He was being funny but dead serious. Whether we call it dancing, or dreaming, or making poetry, we need to embrace and understand what these semi-free spaces offer us, and to recognize that the hardest work we have before us is imagining. If we want a new society, we have no choice but to supersede the dominant reality—to imagine a different relationship not only to the economy but also to time, to work, to the natural world, to each other.

Robin D. G. Kelley, epilogue, Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination, 2022