

Curriculum Vitae

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Highlights

- *Educator; Scholar; Public Intellectual*
- *Co-Founder and Co- Director of Stewart and Jones Scholar Leadership Program (retention measure for minority male students)*
- *Currently, Chair of Black Studies (African American Studies minor)*
- *Sought after public speaker for universities, community organizations*
- *Co-Chair of Penn State DEIB Task Force for Commonwealth Campuses*
- *Penn State Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence Advisory Committee member*
- *Penn State Awardee for both Teaching Excellence and Social Activism*
- *Secured a 20,000 grant to create a Black Male Studies Symposium*
- *Exceptional Teaching Evaluations in History and Black Studies*
- *Penn State Greater Allegheny Equity Pedagogy Scholar 2023-2024*
- *Board of Directors – Catapult Greater Pittsburgh*
- *Skilled performing artist, creative and academic writer, moderator*

Key Leadership Experiences

- Co-Founder and Co-Director of Stewart and Jones Scholar Leadership Program. (In this capacity, I developed curriculum and programming for male students of color. I managed budget and travel. I also collected and created data on creating spaces of belonging for underserved students. Furthermore, I brokered effective collaboration between faculty, staff, students, and high school counselors to design campus experiences that embraced students from diverse backgrounds.)
- I've led and or co-chaired several campus and university-wide committees related to DEIB measures, anti-racism, and faculty development. (The volatility of social justice and racial issues require careful and compassionate institutional management. Leadership on these issues has cultivated my courage and extreme emotional intelligence.

- **I served as interim chair of the Black Studies department at PSUGA early in my tenure.** (From 2024 to the present, I've taken the lead in delivering most of the course material for the Black studies minor. I started to create a vision for how our Black Studies department can evolve in the 21st century. In the African tradition of '*Sankofa*', I'm looking back at history for inspiration to design a vibrant intellectual landscape in the future. One of my proudest accomplishments was bringing the first Black Male Studies Symposium to PSUGA in 2019.)
- **I was the moderator and public face for the Crossing Bridges program.** (This initiative, created by our former chancellor, Dr. Jacqueline Edmondson, brought nationally acclaimed social activists to McKeesport. Along with a talented cohort of PSUGA colleagues, we sustained ongoing dialogue and brainstormed solutions for critical social issues. We transformed the university into a think tank for professional scholars, students, local activists and politicians. We synthesized their ideas and labor.)
- **I serve on the Board of Directors, *Catapult Pittsburgh*.** (This significant position has enhanced my understanding of community building and urban planning. Catapult Pittsburgh facilitates affordable housing, entrepreneurship, and wealth creation in underserved communities. I offer educational expertise in support of these objectives.)

Summary of Skills

- Superlative educator
- Campus leader and Director of Retention Program
- Public Intellectual
- Connector between Academia and community
- Skilled writer (scholarly and poetic prose)
- Research and presentation experience related to doctoral research
- Grant-writing
- Budget management
- Curriculum development
- New course and program design
- Campus and community engagement practitioner
- Public Speaking
- Discussion facilitator for racial equity conversations
- Music artist, poet, and spoken word artist
- Leadership and diversity training
- Student and community youth mentoring
- Equity Literacy certification from Paul Gorski Institute

Education

PhD. University of Pittsburgh; Successful Defense – November 24, 2020; History (*Power and Inequality Field*)

M.A. University of Pittsburgh; 2001; (*American History and African-American History* – Major Field; *Sports History* – Minor Field; *Black Literature* – Outside Field)

B.A. Clark Atlanta University; 1996 (Political Science)

Dissertation

- **Power and Inequality field:**
- **Dissertation Title:** *It Was All A Dream: Pittsburgh Black Musicians Local 471– Collective Memory and Alternate Truths*
- **Dissertation Advisor:** Dr. Laurence Glasco
- This project consists of an analysis of Local 471 between 1940 and 1966. It examines the historical landscape that evolved as local black jazz musicians thrived socially and economically during segregation but found work opportunities lessening as the 1960's approached. Concurrent racial, social, and economic factors created tremendous pressure on Local 471 to protect the welfare of its clients. Unfulfilled expectations after the merger between Local 60 and Local 471 left many black musicians bitter and doubtful about the true merits of integrationist policy in eradicating racism.

Campus Honors/ Awards/ Achievements

- **Penn State Equity Pedagogy Scholar position. 2023-2024** (The position includes work on 2 projects: an article on Black male retention at a PWI; the collection of stories on discrimination, using various mediums to vividly narrate what inequity looks and feels like)
- **Winner of the 2021 Atherton Award for Excellence in Teaching -**
<https://harrisburg.psu.edu/story/27566/2021/04/22/six-faculty-members-receive-2021-atherton-award-excellence-teaching>
- **Creator of the *Thinkin' Too Much Podcast***, Spring and Fall 2020. This content involved the use of Zoom to expose students in AF AM 100, Living While Black, to various perspectives in the black community.

- **Winner of the 2020 Dr. James Robinson Equal Opportunity Award -**
<https://greaterallegheny.psu.edu/story/10756/2020/03/27/white-receive-robinson-equal-opportunity-award>
- **Co-Organizer of the Black Male Studies Symposium**, October 2019
- Received grant from Penn State, University Park to reconstruct and augment culturally responsive programming for the African American Male Mentoring Program, renamed the Stewart-Jones Scholar Leadership Program, for Fall 2019 and Spring 2020.
- **Moderator for Crossing Bridges Annual Speaker Series – 2017 to the present**
<https://greaterallegheny.psu.edu/story/4403/2017/10/30/heard-campus-michael-eric-dyson>
- **Crossing Bridges Committee initial member, 2017-present.** *(This committee creates programming to unify the campus body and extend the reach of the campus to neighboring communities. During Year 1 in 2017, I interviewed Michael Eric Dyson for a community forum. In 2018 we hosted Angela Davis. In (2019), I interviewed Dr. Cornel West for a free event open to the public).*
- **Co-Chair of Campus Diversity Committee** by Interim Chancellor Dr. Nancy Herron, Fall 2015
- Consistently excellent SRTE teaching and campus service scores at Penn State Greater Allegheny
- **Passed Oral Comprehensive Exams again in 2018, *With Distinction*** after being re-admitted following a 10-year period of absence. (Doctoral Committee – Dr. Laurence Glasco; Dr. Lara Putnam; Dr. Rob Ruck; Dr. Aaron Johnson)
- **Passed Oral Comprehensive Exams, *With Distinction*** (Doctoral Committee – Dr. Laurence Glasco; Dr. Rob Ruck; Dr. Van Beck Hall; Dr. Stefan Wheelock)

Summary of Teaching Qualifications

- **Associate Teaching Professor (History/ Black Studies)** – Summer 2022 – the present
- **Assistant Teaching Professor** – Penn State Greater Allegheny 2021 – 2022
- **History Lecturer** – Penn State Greater Allegheny 2017-2020
- **History Lecturer** – Penn State Greater Allegheny 2017-2020
- **Stand Alone History Instructor**, University of Pittsburgh 2005-2007
- **T.A.**, History Department, University of Pittsburgh 2000-2005
- **Extensive teaching experience: *American History, African American History, the African Diaspora, African American Art, Literature and Music, American Sports History, Leadership and Civic Engagement, Criminal Justice***

Research Interests:

- **American History** (Nationalism; Slavery and Reconstruction; the construction of historical narratives; Understanding collective memory)
- **African-American History** (Black popular culture, especially Jazz history and Hip-Hop); The Harlem Renaissance; The Civil Rights and Black Power Movement; African American Liberation Theology; The creation and evolution of freedom ideology post-Civil War and creative artistic and musical expression during the Emancipation Era; Hip Hop culture as an engine for freedom movements

Publications:

- 2 co-authored articles have been accepted for publication:
- Published Article - CROSSING BRIDGES LESSONS ON LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY BUILDING, AND ACTIVISM FOR ANTI-RACISM EDUCATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION -- Journal of Minority Achievement, Creativity, and Leadership, Vol. 2, No. 1–2, 2021 Copyright © 2023 The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
<https://doi.org/10.5325/minoachicrealead.2.1–2.0110>
- Co-Authoring, ***A Love We Need: Hip Hop at 50 and What It Offers an America in Crisis***. (This teachable text examines case studies which may offer solutions to healing a divided America)
- **Know Thyself: An African American Poetic Journey** Edited by Dessie Bey
Anthology; Lulu.com 2016 “Grandmama – Queen of the Cotton Field”
- **The Tip of My Pen Collection: Eclectic Poetry** by Lewis Colyar
Book; Author-House 2013 (Introduction)
- **Author of essay entry, “Jesse Owens”** in ***Encyclopedia of the Great Black Migration***, Edited by Steven A. Reich, Greenwood, May 2000

Highlighted Presentations and Public Appearances:

- Numerous public speaking appearances both virtual and in-person including: ministry related events; motivational speaking; Penn State recruitment efforts; black history community forums

- **Keynote Speaker – Rankin Christian Center Wellness Series Lecture (“Black Thought and the Freedom Struggle”)**
- **Black History Lecture Series – Dollar Bank (“The Radical History of Dollar Bank”) (Feb 20 2024)**
- Juneteenth Holiday lecture at Duquesne University: *The Thirst – Juneteenth and the Existential Quest for Black Freedom*, June 19, 2023
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- Winchester Thurston Private School, Black Student Academic Achievement Celebration, keynote speaker: *Flying Lessons – Wisdom for High Altitudes*, May 23, 2023
- Association for the Study of African American Life and History Lecture: *Love Warriors and Battle Scars – An Analysis of Black Healing and Black Resistance*, May 13, 2023
<https://youtu.be/BPFfSOKcbOg>
- American Literature Association national conference panelist: Lecture title -- *Thor’s Hammer and Liquid Swords – Remixing Scholarship for Freedom!* May 2022
- **Keynote Speaker for Juneteenth**, Chicago Medical School - Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science (June 2021)
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- **Radio Interview - Tube City Media:** “The Relevance of Dr. King’s Dream today” (Jan 2015)
- **Teaching International 2016 Guest Lecturer:** “Pittsburgh and Jazz: A Love Story” **Sponsor: Penn State Greater Allegheny**, (Nov 2016)
- **Technology and Diversity in Teaching Conference:** “*Educating Black Men in the 21st Century*” **Sponsor: Penn State Shenango** (March 2013)
- **PAEYC & Allegheny Family Support Conference:** “*The Use of Poetry in Secondary Education*” **Sponsor: Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children**, (Sept 2012)
- **Dedication to a Legacy: Panel Discussion/Presentation on the history of jazz in Pittsburgh** **Sponsor: African American Jazz Preservation Society** (June 22-23 2012)
- **African American Jazz Preservation Society Conference:** “*Local 471: The Riff Between Us*” Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Hill District (2010)

Campus, Community, and Public Service:

- **Catapult Greater Pittsburgh, Board of Directors, 2024 to the present**
- **Moderator for discussion on social justice in the Mon Valley, August 2020**

- Panelist for discussion on Education during the COVID pandemic, August 2020
- Chair, PSUGA Task Force on Racial Equity and Justice, Fall 2020
- Facilitator for discussion series on racism in the Christian church based on Jemar Tisby's text, The Color of Compromise. Presentation was entitled: *What Kind of Christian Are You?*
- Along with other members of the Langston Hughes Poetry Society, I received the *Literacy Champion Award* from the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation in May 2019.
- Social Justice Ministry member and speaker, Mt. Olive Baptist Church (2019)
- Secretary of the Educational Board, Mt. Olive Baptist Church (2013-2017)
- Chair of the NAACP Educational Committee, Monroeville Branch (2017-2018)
- Lead Instructor – Full Armor Teen Ministry, Mt. Olive Baptist Church (2014-2017)
- Servant Leader – Full Armor Men's Ministry, Mt. Olive Baptist Church (2013-2014)
- Penn State Greater Allegheny Department Coordinator for African American Studies (Fall 2009-Spring 2010)
- Servant leader – Singles and Adult Ministry, Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church (2004-2006)
- Executive board member – Langston Hughes Poetry Society of Pittsburgh (2007-the present)
- President – Langston Hughes Poetry Society of Pittsburgh (2007-2008)
- Founding member of Penn State Greater Allegheny Street team. This is an outreach collective that directly delivers needs and services to McKeesport area residents.
<https://news.psu.edu/photo/587230/2019/09/10/launchboxopeninggreateralleghenystreetteam.jpg>
- Co-founder (along with Dr. Anthony Mitchell) of the African American Male Mentoring Program in 2009 at Penn State Greater Allegheny (In 2019, this program was renamed the Stewart and Jones Scholar Leadership Program)