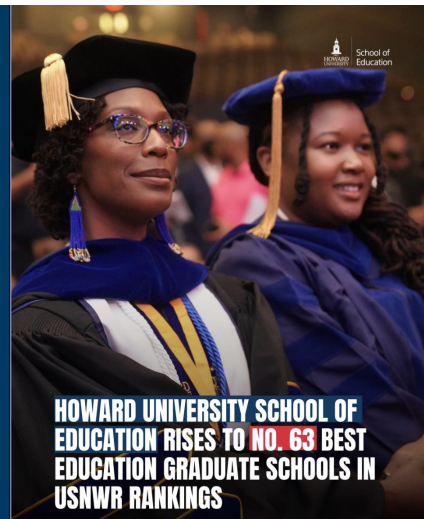


ELPS Newsletter

Celebrating
Excellence: Highlights
and Achievements
from Fall 2024



Welcome ELPS Community

Happy Spring 2025! As we embark on a new semester, let's take a moment to celebrate the incredible milestones from Fall 2024. From groundbreaking research to inspiring student achievements and notable alumni success stories, our department stands out as a beacon of excellence and innovation.

We are also excited to welcome our new students to the ELPS community. Your fresh perspectives and energy enrich us, and we can't wait to see the contributions you will make.

Building on last semester's momentum, let's aim even higher this spring. Together, we can make this semester one of meaningful growth, collaboration, and success.

Here's to another semester of progress and achievement!

Nelson Pham & Jody Dixon

Graduate Assistants
Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Howard University School of Education | Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
2565 Georgia Ave NW, Miner Hall
Washington, D.C. 20001

IN THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Events

Discover what's happening during the Spring 2025 semester and mark your calendars!

New Student Spotlight

Meet the newest members of our ELPS & HELPS programs and learn about the unique perspectives they bring to our community.

Student Recognition

Join us in celebrating the outstanding accomplishments of our students, whose hard work and dedication continue to inspire us all.

Faculty Recognitions

Read about the incredible achievements of our faculty, whose dedication to excellence and innovation makes a lasting impact.

Alumni Highlights

Celebrate the successes of our alumni as they continue to make meaningful contributions in their fields and communities.

ELPS/HELPS VIRTUAL EVENT CALENDAR SPRING 2025

05 FEB. 2025	EXPLORING NON-ACADEMIC CAREERS AND BUILDING COLLABORATIVE PROFESSIONAL IDENTITIES 01-02 PM https://tinyurl.com/y8btt3h
26 FEB. 2025	WRITING A SUCCESSFUL ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PROPOSAL 12-01 PM https://tinyurl.com/54tre5zb
12 MAR. 2025	NAVIGATING HOWARD UNIVERSITY: DEPARTMENTS, RESOURCES, AND OPPORTUNITIES 12-01 PM https://tinyurl.com/bbmb6m4
24 MAR. 2025	MAKING THE TRANSITION FROM HOWARD STUDENT TO EMPLOYEE 12-01 PM https://tinyurl.com/yrsue35b

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT NELSON PHAM, NELSON.PHAM@BISON.HOWARD.EDU AND JODY DIXON, JODY.DIXON@BISON.HOWARD.EDU.

ELPS/HELPS Virtual Event Calendar Spring 2025

Exploring Non-Academic Careers and Building Collaborative Professional Identities

February 05, 2025 | 01-02 PM EST
RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/y8btt3h>

Writing a Successful Academic Conference Proposal

February 26, 2025 | 12-01 PM EST
RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/54tre5zb>

Navigating Howard University: Departments, Resources, and Opportunities

March 12, 2025 | 12-01 PM EST
RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/bbmb6m4>

Making the Transition from Howard Student to Employee

March 24, 2025 | 12-01 PM EST
RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/yrsue35b>

MEET OUR NEW STUDENTS



Brandi Byrd she/her/hers
Lake Charles, Louisiana
Educational Leadership and
Policy Studies



Glenn Starnes II he/him/his
Educational Leadership and
Policy Studies



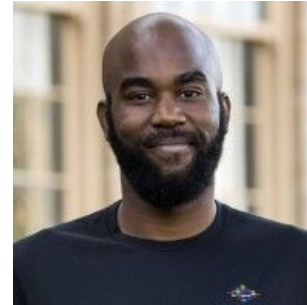
Tomeka McKenzie
Educational Leadership and
Policy Studies



Phyllis Shepherd
Educational Leadership and
Policy Studies



Sharon Welchsshe, her,
hersVirginia Beach, Virginia
Educational Leadership and
Policy Studies



Xavier Sherman
Bucksport, South Carolina
Educational Leadership and
Policy Studies



Andrey Davis she/her/hers
Detroit, MI
Higher Education Leadership
and Policy Studies



Nate McGill he/him/his
Higher Education Leadership
and Policy Studies



Amari Collinsshe/her/hers
Memphis, TN
Higher Education Leadership
and Policy Studies



Tanzania Fair she/her/hers
Detroit, Michigan
Higher Education Leadership
and Policy Studies



Grady Wright he/him/his
Miami, Florida/Detroit Michigan
(Eastside)
Higher Education Leadership
and Policy Studies



Jacqueline Ballou she/her/hers
Boston, MA, current:
Alexandria, VA
Higher Education Leadership
and Policy Studies



Erinn Carter she/her/hers
Los Angeles, CA
Higher Education Leadership
and Policy Studies



Jolania JeffCartier she/her/hers
Fairfax, VA via Cincinnati, OH
via Brooklyn, NY
Higher Education Leadership
and Policy Studies



Jody Dixon she/her/hers
Sliver Spring, MD via
Yamanashi, Japan via St.
Andrew, Jamaica
Higher Education Leadership
and Policy Studies

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

We are proud to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students, whose dedication, creativity, and resilience continue to inspire us. Each milestone they reach reflects their hard work and commitment to excellence. Let's take a moment to recognize their efforts—a simple shout-out can ignite their passion and drive them toward even greater heights. Together, we can create an environment where every accomplishment is celebrated, empowering our students to pursue their dreams with confidence and enthusiasm.



NEW APPOINTMENT!

Congratulations to **Sean Miller** on his promotion to **Assistant Principal at George C. Marshall High School in Fairfax County!** In addition to this significant achievement, Sean was also featured as a subject in the book *Promoting Student Attention: How to Understand, Assess, and Create Conditions for Attention* by Dr. Robin Wisniewski, published by ASCD.

Successful Proposal Defense

We are thrilled to celebrate the following students for their recent milestones in their academic journeys:

- **Hissah Alsubaie:** Successfully defended her dissertation proposal and advanced to candidacy.
- **Khiana Clemons:** Successfully defended her dissertation proposal entitled "*Elevating Equity: An Exploratory Inquiry of Promising Approaches to Mental Health Supports in Predominantly Black Elementary School Communities.*"
- **Courtney Gibbs:** Successfully defended her dissertation proposal, entitled "*A Qualitative Study on the Experiences of School-Community Partners Implementing Social-Emotional Learning Programs in DC Public Schools.*"
- **Nicoisa Jones:** Successfully completed her dissertation proposal defense.
- **Royce Sarpy:** Advanced to candidacy in Spring 2024 and received IRB approval in Fall 2024.

Congratulations to each of these scholars for reaching this pivotal stage!

Publications



Jaemla Joseph's research, initially published in *The Hilltop Magazine* in June 2024, gained further recognition when it was featured in *Black Star News*, broadening its reach and influence.

Jaemla also demonstrated her expertise and leadership by serving as a panelist for the Center for HBCU Research and



Congratulations to **Phillip Copeland** on the acceptance of his book chapter, "*A Community Effort: Enhancing Student Safety with D.C.'s Safe Passage Program,*" for inclusion in the forthcoming book *Ending Violence in PreK-16 Schools*. The book is edited by Drs. Phelton Moss, Eugene Pringle, and Kenjus Watson, with Series Editor Dr. Antonio Ellis.

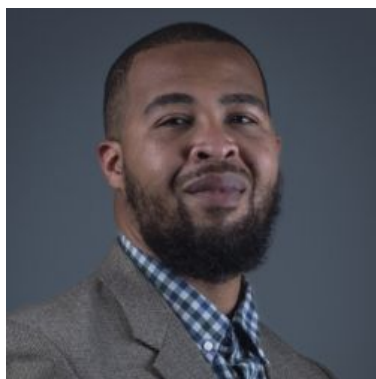
Leadership Policy during the launch of the HBCU Voter Power Toolkit, where she shared valuable insights into policy and civic engagement.

As a dynamic voice in education, Jaemla attended the Annual Brown v. Board of Education Lecture and was interviewed by *La Presse*, a Montreal-based Canadian news outlet, about the state of education in America and its implications for the upcoming election.

Following the election, Jaemla continued to make an impact. She was interviewed by *Inside Higher Ed* to discuss the election's significance for education and the Howard University community. She also shared her perspectives on Howard University's Yard in an interview with *Reuters*, contributing to the national conversation on education and policy during this pivotal political moment.

The chapter, co-authored with Dr. Kathryn Wiley, highlights innovative approaches to student safety through community collaboration. This important contribution underscores Phillip's commitment to addressing critical issues in education.

Fellowships



Congratulations to **Joshua Middleton** on being selected as the inaugural **Community Schools Graduate Fellow** with the NEA Foundation for the 2024-2025 academic year. This prestigious fellowship will support the NEA Foundation's efforts to study and affirm the critical role of educators' voices and leadership in advancing student success through community schools. Joshua's selection for this role highlights his dedication to creating meaningful educational impacts and fostering stronger connections between schools and their communities.



Congratulations to **Amber Owens** on her selection to the inaugural cohort of the District of Columbia Public Schools Aspiring Assistant Principal Academy. This prestigious program is a testament to Amber's leadership potential and commitment to educational excellence. Amber was also recently featured in *The Washington Post's* **Homecoming Week coverage**, highlighting her impactful work and dedication to the community.

Presentations

ELPS & HELPS Collaboration



It's a two-for-one special for ELPS & HELPS! Congratulations to **Jessica Stamp** (HELPS), **Shajena Cartagena** (ELPS), **Jessica Morales** (ELPS), and **Stacey Speller** (HELPS) on the acceptance of their proposal for the 2025 American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) Annual Conference.

Their roundtable session, titled *"Comuni3n through Counternarratives: Navigating Latinidad, Blackness, and Belonging within HBCUs,"* will explore the intersections of identity and belonging in the context of HBCUs.

We are excited to see the powerful insights and perspectives this group will share at the conference!

Higher Education Leadership and Policy Studies



NEW APPOINTMENT!

Congratulations to **Rashad Young** on his new role as the Senior Vice President for Administration and Chief Administrative Officer at **Howard University!** In this capacity, Young oversees daily operations across multiple divisions, ensures seamless communication with leadership, and manages high-priority initiatives to enhance organizational performance and achieve strategic goals.

Young previously served as Howard University's Chief Strategy Officer, leading the implementation of the University's strategic plan, *Howard Forward*. During his tenure, he successfully launched the data *Howard Forward* dashboard in 2021, which offers transparency and performance metrics critical to the plan's execution.

Dissertation Defense

Congratulations to **Shauntell Pinckney** on successfully defending her dissertation, *"Demographic Changes and Servicing at Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs): PBIs, Black-Serving or Black-Enrolling,"* on November 4, 2024. Shauntell's groundbreaking research provides valuable insights into the evolving role of PBIs in serving Black communities and fostering inclusive educational environments.

Congratulations to **Ernest Evans** on successfully defending his dissertation, *"They Not Like Us": A Qualitative Narrative Analysis of the Role that Race and Gender Play in the Professional Identity Development of Black Men Student Affairs Professionals."* Ernest's dissertation research focuses on the experiences of marginalization of Black male student affairs professionals. It contributes to the literature, highlighting the need for more inclusion and support for different types of student affairs professionals in higher education.

We celebrate this significant milestone and look forward to the continued impact of their work!

Successful Proposal Defense

We are thrilled to celebrate the following students for their recent milestones in their academic journeys:

- **Nicole Johnson:** "The Role of Financial and Loan Literacy in Predicting Responsible Borrowing: Analyzing Disparities by Race, Gender, and Expected Family Contribution"
- **Alexus Laster:** "The Black Student Parent Experience at an HBCU: An Exploration of Institutional Practices for Student Parent Servingness"
- **Isaiah Lucas:** "Voices of the Yard" Exploring the Lived Experiences of Student Activists at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
- **Sean Miller:** "Education as an Act of War: African American History vs. The Powers That Be"
- **LaToya Parker:** "Congressional Access: Examining the Federal Lobbying of HBCU Doctoral Universities"
- **Tiffany Lathan Smith:** "It's a Small World Afterall: Howard University Research Undergraduate Study Abroad Initiative"
- **Qyana Stewart:** "Black Women Academic Entrepreneurs: HERstory: A Critical Quantitative Analysis of Black Women STEM Ph.D.s as Technology Entrepreneurs"
- **Myrah Wilson:** "In Search of Selah: Examining the Experiences of Black Women Doctoral Students at HBCUs and Their Perceptions of Program Support"

Congratulations to each of these scholars for reaching this pivotal stage!

Publications



Randy Bumpers, M.S.

Assistant Director
Student Success and Learning Experience Design
American Association State Colleges and Universities



Isaiah Lucas, M.S.Ed

Director
Residence Life and Housing
Richard Bland College of William & Mary

Congratulations to **Randy Bumpers** and **Isaiah Lucas**, in collaboration with Dr. Katherine Norris, Program Chair for Curriculum & Instruction, for contributing to the forthcoming edited book, *Teacher Preparation as Social Activism at Historically Black Colleges and Universities*.

Their chapter, titled *"Bridging the Digital Divide: HBCUs Promoting Digital Equity in Teacher Education,"* highlights the critical role HBCUs play in fostering digital equity and innovation within teacher education programs.

The book will be available for preorder starting January 2025.

Congratulations to **Isaiah Lucas**, who has just first-authored an article alongside ELPS Professor **Dr. Kathryn Wiley** and **Dr. Stephanie Helms-Pickett**, Vice



Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at Antioch University, for the *NASPA Journal of College and Character*.

Their article, titled "*Say It Loud: Rhythms of Resistance in a Climate of Compliance: Exploring the Lived Experiences of Identity-Based Student Center Staff Amid an Anti-DEI Legislative Climate*," is part of a special edition on *Ethical Higher Education in the Anti-DEI Legislative Climate*.

The study delves into the impact of anti-diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) legislation on staff working in identity-based student centers at higher education institutions in the Southern United States.



Congratulations to **Arsene Frederic** for publishing a book review of *Higher Education Leadership: Challenging Tradition and Forging Possibilities*, co-authored with Dr. Jorge Burnicky.

Congratulations to **Qyana Stewart** for publishing an article titled, "*Persistence and Resistance: Black Women Navigating Barriers in Higher Education*". Stewart contributed this article to The Century Foundation in partnership with the Mary Jane Legacy Project led by Dr. Lori Patton Davis and Nadrea Njoku at Ohio State.



Congratulations to **Jody Dixon**, a first-year Ph.D. student in HELPS, for the publication of her op-ed in *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. Titled "**Black and Immigrant: Navigating America's Polarized Landscape Through HBCUs.**"



Congratulations to **Tanzania Fair**, a first-year Ph.D. student in HELPS, for the publication of her op-ed in *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. Titled "**Breaking Barriers: My Eye-Opening Entry into HBCU Life.**"

Tanzania's article offers a



Congratulations to **Amari Henderson**, a first-year Ph.D. student in HELPS, for the publication of her op-ed in *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. Titled "**Living Life Offline: Social Media Effects on the Success of Black College Students Amid Today's Political**"

Jody's insightful piece explores the intersection of race, immigration, and the role of HBCUs in providing support and sanctuary for Black international students.

This important contribution adds to the ongoing conversation about race, identity, and higher education in today's polarized climate.

personal and insightful look into her transformative experience as she navigates the challenges and opportunities within the HBCU community.

This powerful piece highlights the unique perspectives and growth that come with joining such a vibrant and supportive educational environment.

Challenges."

Amari's article examines the impact of social media on Black college students, especially in the context of today's political climate and its implications for their academic and personal success. This thought-provoking piece sheds light on the intersection of digital engagement and the challenges faced by Black students in higher education.

Fellowships



Congratulations to **Nelson Pham** on being selected as a Broadening Participation Research Fellow with the HBCU Undergraduate Success Research Center (STEM US), funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). STEM US brings together leadership from social, natural, and computer scientists at Morehouse College, Spelman College, and Virginia State University.

Nelson's research focuses on integrating social science teaching methods into various areas of STEM education. This contributes to enhancing interdisciplinary learning and fostering student success in STEM fields.



Congratulations to **Stacey Speller** on being selected as a 2025 New Leaders Council (NLC) Washington, D.C. Fellow! The NLC Washington, D.C. chapter works to strengthen and equip cross-sector, politically engaged leaders throughout the district.

Stacey's selection underscores her commitment to fostering leadership and policy change in education and beyond. We look forward to seeing her continue to grow as a leader in the D.C. area!

Presentations

We are proud to highlight the following students who presented their research at the prestigious ASHE Annual Conference:

- **Dr. Jorge Burmicky, Arsene Frederic, Darieon McFadden, Kathleen Rzucidlo:** *"We're all very different": Beyond the Threads of Selectivity, Elitism, and the Traditions of the Undergraduate HBCU Experience*
- **Arsene Frederic:** *"Advancing Equity: The Role of Government Affairs in Two-Year*

HBCU Empowerment"

- **Alexus Laster:** *"Diapers, Degrees, and Everything in Between: The Black Student Parent Experience at an HBCU"*
- **Stacey Speller:** *"Uniendo Identidades: Critical Autoethnography of HBCU & Latine Belonging, Social Capital, and Identity."*
- **Jessica Stamp:** *"An Extension to the Multidimensional Framework of Servingness to Support Black Students: A Contribution to the Literature on Predominantly Black Institutions."*



Higher Education
Leadership & Policy Studies



Stacey Speller was honored to be alongside her sister scholar-practitioners as a guest speaker on the higher education podcast *"Qué Pasa, HSIs?"* hosted by Dra. Gina Garcia. During the episode, they shared insights on Historically Black Colleges and Universities that are also eligible Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HB-eHSIs). This discussion aligns closely with Stacey's dissertation and research agenda, which focuses on the intersections of these institutional identities and federal funding implications.

Stacy has been elected Co-Chair of the 2024-2025 American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) Graduate Student Fellowship Program (GSFP). The primary goal of the AAHHE GSFP is to prepare Latina/o/x doctoral scholars for successful careers in academia; however, the program also supports Latina/o/x scholars interested in pursuing careers in administration and policy in postsecondary education.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Our faculty's unwavering dedication and innovative spirit continue to shape the future of education. Their groundbreaking scholarship and commitment to excellence ignite a passion for learning among our students. Their profound contributions transform the educational landscape and foster an environment where knowledge flourishes and ambitions thrive. As we reflect on their accomplishments, let us celebrate their transformative impact and the inspiration they provide to future generations

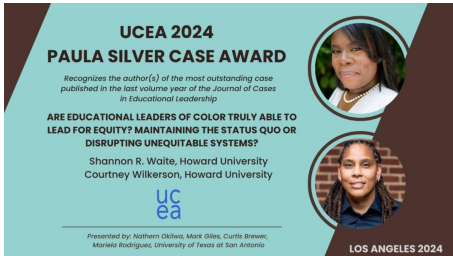
Celebrating Excellence: 2025 RHSU Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings

Congratulations to Dr. Leslie Fenwick on being



recognized in the 2025 RHSU Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings. We deeply value her contributions to higher education and look forward to her continued impact.

The rankings present the annual list of the top 200 university-based education scholars in the United States who have significantly influenced educational practice and policy over the past year.



Congratulations to **Dr. Shannon Waite** and **Dr. Courtney Wilkerson**, ELPS Ed.D. alum, on the recognition of their impactful case study, *"Are Educational Leaders of Color Truly Able to Lead for Equity? Maintaining the Status Quo or Disrupting Unequitable Systems?"* published in the Journal of Concept Cases.

Their work has been honored with the prestigious **Paula Silver Case Award by the University Council of Education Administration (UCEA)**! This award highlights their significant contribution to educational leadership and their commitment to addressing inequities in educational systems.



Congratulations to **Dr. Kathryn Wiley** on being named an **AERA 2025 Congressional Fellow!**

As a Congressional Fellow, Dr. Wiley will spend the year in Washington, D.C., working as staff for a member of Congress or a Congressional committee. She will use her expertise in education research to inform public policy and the legislative process. This prestigious fellowship is part of the **eighth year of the AERA Congressional Fellowship Program**, which provides researchers the opportunity to contribute to meaningful policy discussions at the national level.



Congratulations to **Dr. Jorge Burmicky** for being named a 2024 Emerging Scholar by **Diverse: Issues in Higher Education!**

Dr. Burmicky's groundbreaking research focuses on presidential leadership in higher education, particularly on equity-minded and socially just leadership at minority-serving institutions, community colleges, and broadly accessible institutions. His work also explores



Congratulations to **Dr. Gregory Hutchings** for his recent presentations at national conferences, where he shared his expertise on critical issues in education:

- National Alliance of Black School Educators: *"Workshop Series III-25: The Unspoken Truth of the Black..."*
- National Summit for Courageous Conversation: *"Getting into Good Trouble at School"*

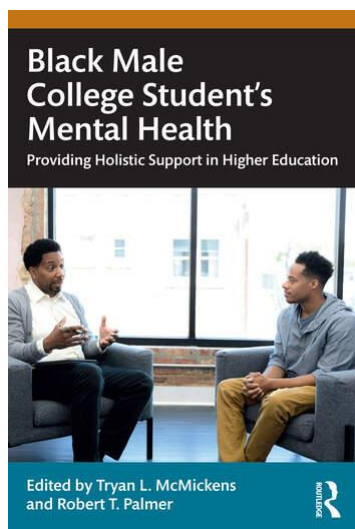
policies and practices that support the educational outcomes of men of color, including the impact of men of color programs on student success, the experiences of Latino men in community colleges, and promising student affairs practices for serving Latino men.

This well-deserved recognition underscores Dr. Burmicky's profound impact on higher education and his commitment to promoting equity and inclusion.



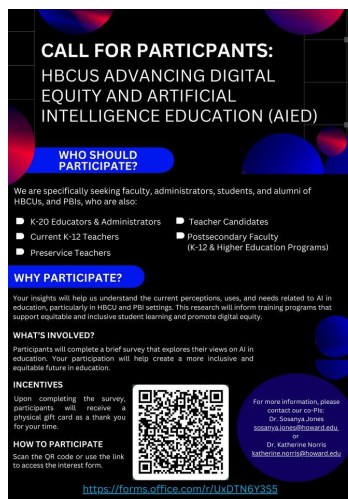
Congratulations to Dr. Robert Palmer on releasing his new book, **Black Male College Students' Mental Health: Providing Holistic Support in Higher Education!**

This important book delves into the intersection of mental health and the experiences of Black male college students, offering valuable insights and strategies for higher education administrators and educators. Dr. Palmer's work is a crucial resource for supporting Black students' mental health and well-being in higher education.



Congratulations to Dr. Sosanya Jones, Dr. Katherine Norris, and Randy Bumpers II on launching a groundbreaking study on how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is currently perceived and utilized by HBCU and PBI academic training programs for current and future K-20 educators.

This innovative research will explore the integration of AI into educational practices and its impact on the training of educators at historically underrepresented institutions. This A.I. research is funded by Howard University's Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence





Congratulations to **Dr. Shawn Joseph** on his recent article, "[Learning Loss Can Still Be Overcome with ESSER Funds](#)"

In his article, Dr. Joseph highlights that while many districts have invested in areas like salary increases and infrastructure, a critical focus should be on addressing pandemic-induced learning loss.



Congratulations to **Dr. Sosanya Jones** and **Melody Andrews**, a recent Ed.D. graduate in ELPS, on co-authoring a paper cited in new federal legislation that expanded the ban on [institutions holding transcripts for fees](#). The U.S. Department of Education announced this paper in July 2024.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



iHBCUx, Inc. Awarded U.S. Embassy Grant to Launch the HBIX Program

We are thrilled to announce that **Dr. Ashleigh Brown-Grier's international HBCU xChange, Inc.** has received a U.S. Embassy Public Diplomacy grant to fund the **Historically Black Institution eXperience (HBIX) Program**. This groundbreaking initiative will foster research collaborations and partnerships between Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the United States and Historically Black Universities (HBUs) in South Africa.

In partnership with the U.S. Consulate in Durban, the HBIX Program will explore key themes such as tourism and entrepreneurship, history and her story, cultural literacy and language, and waterways and land. The program utilizes Pan-African and Indigenous Knowledge Theoretical Frameworks and digital storytelling to offer participants a unique opportunity to engage with these critical topics through diverse perspectives.

Program Highlights:

- **Six-Week Virtual Course:** Designed to prepare participants for in-depth topic engagement.
- **U.S. Faculty-Student Exchange Capstone in South Africa:** A hands-on, immersive experience that deepens the learning process.
- **Conference Attendance:** Participants will attend a conference in Washington, D.C., and South African participants will visit HBCUs in the



Congratulations to **Dr. Shaina Thomas** for selecting and featuring her debut film, *HOME (2024)*, at the second annual **HBCU First Look Film**, which took place from November 8 to 10. Based on her doctoral dissertation research, the film explores the challenges of identifying and supporting students experiencing homelessness.

HOME follows **Jahmir Hudson**, a high school student who seemingly has it all—supportive family, good friends, great looks, stellar grades, and a promising athletic future. However, as Jahmir investigates the housing instability of his crush, he uncovers a hidden truth about himself.

We applaud Dr. Thomas for her influential work in shedding light on the critical issue of homelessness among students through this impactful film.

Howard University School of Education | Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
2565 Georgia Ave NW, Miner Hall
Washington, D.C. 20001

Howard University School of Education | Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Department | 2565 Georgia Ave NW, Miner Hall | Washington, DC 20001 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!