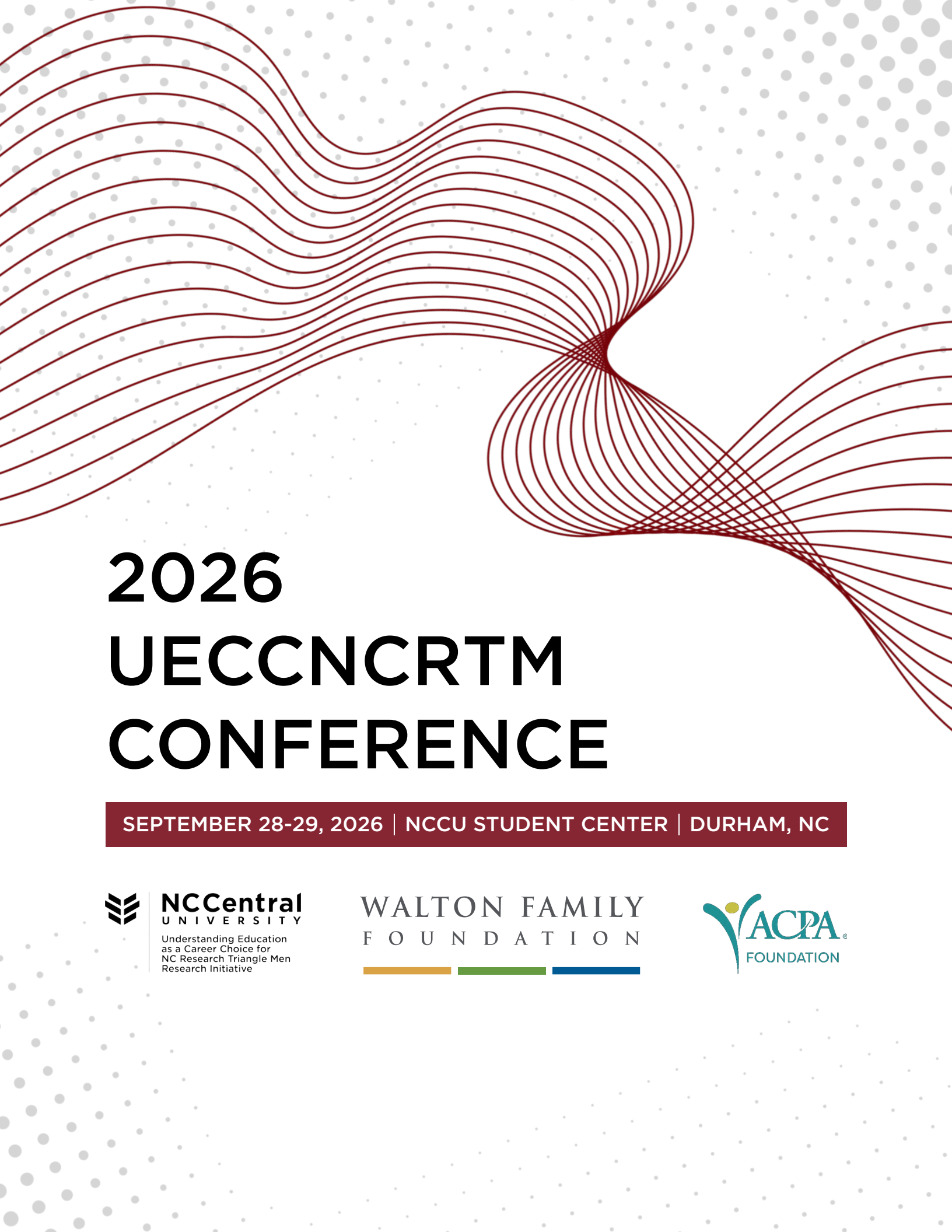




2026 UECCNCRTM CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2026 | NCCU STUDENT CENTER | DURHAM, NC



NCCentral
UNIVERSITY

Understanding Education
as a Career Choice for
NC Research Triangle Men
Research Initiative

WALTON FAMILY
FOUNDATION



Welcome

The Understanding Education as a Career Choice for NC Research Triangle Men Conference brings together educators, researchers, students, community leaders, and practitioners to explore pathways into education careers and discuss opportunities to strengthen educational access, representation, and workforce development.

Through research presentations, panel discussions, and keynotes, participants will engage with current research and practice while building connections across educational sectors.

This packet contains details regarding the agenda, panelists, and presenters. Additional details pertaining to parking and conference logistics will be shared with registered attendees.

Conference Details



Dates

September 28-29, 2026



Location

NCCU Student Center
500 Nelson Street,
Durham, NC 27707



Accessibility

Accessibility accommodations will be requested through the registration process.



Parking

Parking information will be provided to registered attendees prior to the conference.

Agenda

DAY ONE

AGENDA OVERVIEW

9:00 AM

Registration & Breakfast

NCCU Student Center
Event Hall 4

2:30 PM

Research Presentation: Key Findings from K-12 Educator Participants

Student Researchers

10:00 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Ontario S. Wooden, Ph.D., Provost and Vice
Chancellor for Academic Affairs at North
Carolina Central University

3:30 PM

Break

Mayor Leonardo Williams, City of Durham

Jim C. Harper II, Ph.D., Interim Associate
Provost & Dean, Graduate Studies at North
Carolina Central University

3:40 PM

Book Discussion: Scholarly Discussion on Featured Conference Publication

Jayla Moody Marshall, Ph.D., Assistant
Professor, Interim Program Coordinator, HEA,
Counseling and Higher Education at North
Carolina Central University

10:40 AM

Keynote Presentation

Tryan L. McMickens, Ed.D., Interim
Associate Dean of the School of Education
at North Carolina Central University

James Earl Davis, Ph.D., Professor and the
Bernard C. Watson Endowed Chair in
Urban Education at Temple University

11:15 AM

Lunch

NCCU Student Center
Event Hall 4

Keon McGuire, Ph.D., Associate Professor
of Higher Education Opportunity, Equity,
and Justice at North Carolina State
University

12:10 PM

Research Presentation: Key Findings from High School Participants

Student Researchers

4:20 PM

Closing Remarks & Announcements

1:10 PM

Break

1:20 PM

Research Presentation: Key Findings from Undergraduate Participants

Student Researchers

2:20 PM

Break

DAY TWO

AGENDA OVERVIEW

8:30 AM

Networking & Breakfast

NCCU Student Center
Event Hall 4

12:45 PM

Community Perspectives on Supporting Black Men

Pastor Cory Rawlinson, Executive Pastor of Grace Church of Durham

Glen Fisher, Executive Services Representative at Fidelity Investments

Jarvis Lundy, Director of Policy at the Hunt Institute

Shambo Medina, Visual Artist, Poet, Musician & Breath-Work Practitioner

9:00 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Tryan L. McMickens, Ed.D., Interim Associate Dean of the School of Education at North Carolina Central University

9:20 AM

Keynote Presentation

Derrick R. Brooms, Ph.D., Inaugural Executive Director of the Black Men's Research Institute (BMRI) and Professor of Africana Studies at Morehouse College

10:20 AM

Break

1:45 PM

Closing Remarks & Announcements

10:30 AM

Mental Health and Well-Being Among Black Men

Robert T. Palmer, Ph.D., Department Chair and professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Howard University

Felix Morton IV, PhD, LCMHC, GTC, Clinical Assistant Professor of Counselor Education at College of William & Mary

Bredell Moody, Ph.D., LCMHC, LCAS-A, Assistant Professor in the Counselor Education Program at North Carolina Central University

Kamala L. Uzzell, PhD, LCMHCS, LPC, Psychotherapist, Assistant Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Campbell University

11:45 AM

Lunch

NCCU Student Center
Event Hall 4

STUDENT PRESENTERS

JarDearia Gaston

JarDearia Gaston is a graduate student in the Higher Education Administration program at North Carolina Central University, where she also received her undergraduate degree in behavioral and social sciences. Her research and professional interests include student success, equity and access in higher education, student engagement, and the experiences of historically underserved student populations.

As a graduate researcher, she has collaborated with faculty and fellow research assistants to examine the educational experiences of young men and the factors that influence their access, persistence, and success in education. Her experiences as both a graduate student and emerging higher education professional have shaped her commitment to creating supportive and equitable educational environments.

JarDearia expects to earn her master's degree in December 2026 and plans to pursue a career in higher education and student affairs.



Michael L. Terrell Jr.

Michael L. Terrell Jr. is a graduate student in the Higher Education Administration program at North Carolina Central University, where he is currently completing his Master of Education degree and anticipates graduating in December 2026. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies-Interdisciplinary Studies, with a minor in Music, from North Carolina A&T State University.

His academic interests include first-generation college student success, access and equity in higher education, student support and engagement, and issues affecting the changing higher education workforce.

Following the completion of his master's degree in December 2026, Michael plans to pursue a doctoral degree in the field of education to further develop his knowledge, research, and leadership skills. His long-term goal is to continue advancing within higher education and pursue leadership opportunities that allow him to contribute to institutional effectiveness and the development of policies and practices that support both students and employees.



Zaida M. Walker

Zaida M. Walker is a bilingual education leader with nearly two decades of experience supporting multilingual learners and expanding access to higher education. She is the College and Career Readiness Program Lead for Distance Learning at Central Carolina Community College. Ms. Walker holds a master's degree in Higher Education Administration from North Carolina Central University and a bachelor's degree in Communication from Fayetteville State University.

A 2024 LatinxED Fellow, Ms. Walker is passionate about helping students and working professionals achieve their educational goals through accessible, flexible learning opportunities.

Ms. Walker has collaborated on a forthcoming book and scholarly publications, contributed to Spanish-language publications, participated in expert panels, and delivered presentations on topics including education policy and mental health challenges affecting students and their families.



Kamaiya C. Scott

Kamaiya C. Scott is a Graduate Student in the Higher Education Administration Program at North Carolina Central University. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Her love of higher education comes from her journey at UNC-Greensboro as a Guarantee Scholar, a program designed for low-income, high achieving rising college students. Throughout her time in the HEA program she has grown a strong passion for orientation and transition spaces as well as special populations including but not limited to: First-gen, Transfer students, Adult learners, Military, and Distant learners.

Kamaiya expects to graduate with her M.S.Ed in May of 2026. She plans on pursuing a career in Higher Education as a Program Coordinator for New Student Programs/Orientation and Transition Programs.



Titilayo Somorin

Titilayo Somorin is Graduate Assistant in the Higher Education Administration program at North Carolina Central University. With a strong commitment to student wellness and equity, Titilayo focuses her research on grief, trauma, and the mental health experiences of bereaved college students, particularly at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions.

As a recognized grief advocate and speaker, she has organized statewide grief education events and spoken at regional higher education conferences, including her most recent presentation at the NCARE conference, titled "Giving Grief a Voice in Higher Education Through Hip Hop."

Titilayo's academic and professional journey is grounded in a mission to create compassionate, inclusive, and accessible environments that recognize the emotional and psychological needs of historically marginalized student populations, both in-person and online.



Kaitlyn Turner

Kaitlyn Turner is a graduate student at North Carolina Central University pursuing her master's in Higher Education Administration. In holding various student-facing jobs during her undergraduate years at UNC Chapel Hill, she found her passion in being a guiding light for college students as they forge through their college careers.

Throughout her master's program, Kaitlyn has been most interested in studying the relationship of experiential education opportunities and underrepresented student populations, as well as the mental health of various underserved student minorities. When not working on assignments, Kaitlyn finds interest in various creative outlets such as crocheting, roller skating, and playing games.

After graduation, her goal is to provide the support to other college students that she was grateful to receive during her time at UNC and NCCU, further empowering the next generation of young scholars.



Summer Brown

Summer Brown is an emerging higher education professional with a passion for developing and shaping Black students. With a passion for Black education, she is a 2X HBCU alumna, holding degrees from Winston-Salem State University and North Carolina Central University.

She prides herself on leadership, mentorship, and advocacy, with hopes of utilizing these skills to advance higher education for all students.



Jamie Barnett

Jamie Barnett is a graduate student pursuing a MA in History at North Carolina Central University.



MODERATORS, PANELISTS, AND KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Tryan L. McMickens, Ed.D.

Interim Associate Dean, School of Education; Professor of Higher Education

Dr. Tryan L. McMickens serves as a full professor of higher education and interim associate dean of the School of Education at North Carolina Central University (NCCU). NCCU is an exceptional Historically Black College and University (HBCU) with an innovative higher education graduate program. Located in the Research Triangle, NCCU is the first public liberal arts institution for Black Americans in the United States, and it is one of 17 campuses that constitute the University of North Carolina System.



For the past decade, he was on the faculty of Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts, as an associate professor of higher education, the third director of the Administration of Higher Education Program, and the inaugural director of the Disability Services in Higher Education Certificate Program. He is the former director of operations and strategic initiatives, ad interim, at the University of Richmond's School of Arts and Sciences (A&S), its largest school comprised of 23 departments and 11 interdisciplinary programs. He was responsible for helping to design and execute various aspects of C30, A&S's first strategic plan.

Prior to joining the faculty at Suffolk, he spent four years as an assistant director of the National Black Male College Achievement Study, the nation's largest study of Black men in higher education. He also served as assistant director of the Grad Prep Academy and doctoral research assistant to Dr. Shaun R. Harper in the Center for the Study of Race and Equity in Education at the University of Pennsylvania. Before Penn, he served in various project management, student affairs, development, and fundraising roles at Harvard Medical School, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Tuskegee University, and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund.

Dr. McMickens teaches on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, financial aspects of higher education, student development theory and practice, and diversity issues in higher education; he also teaches practicum. He is a consultant for a diverse assemblage of organizations, including non-profits, colleges, and universities on good practices in strategic planning and implementation; equity and liberation; student success; alumni engagement; and resource development, particularly stewardship and fundraising.

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Visit these links to learn more about Dr. McMickens and his work!



[Faculty Profile](#)



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Derrick R. Brooms, Ph.D.

*Inaugural Executive Director of the Black Men's Research Institute (BMRI);
Professor of Africana Studies*

Dr. Derrick R. Brooms is the Inaugural Executive Director of the Black Men's Research Institute (BMRI) and is a Professor of Africana Studies; he also serves as a youth worker and he is a prominent speaker and an award-winning educator and scholar.

Through research, teaching, service, and community/collaborative work, Dr. Brooms is committed to educational equity, inclusion, and racial justice.

Brooms' research primarily centers on Black men's and boys' lived experiences as well as their pathways to and through college. In exploring their educational experiences, he focuses on Black boys' and men's educational aspirations, sense of self, engagement on campus, and identity development. His education research explores how institutional settings, culture, and environments as well as teaching and praxis impact students' experiences and outcomes. His work also explores the collegiate experiences of men of color and is aimed at improving the support structures that can aid in their successes. His research work has been used to inform the development, design, and implementation of various curricula, programs, and initiatives to serve Black boys and men, Black students, and men of color across K-12 and the higher education landscape.

Dr. Brooms is internationally-recognized for his work on Black boys and men's lived experiences and educational journeys. His research has been published in a range of education, sociology, and cultural studies journals, he has published numerous book chapters from his research on education and teaching, and he has contributed his writing to outlets such as *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, *Re-Imagining Magazine*, *The Black Past*, and *The Griot: The Newsletter of the Association of Black Sociologists*.

Dr. Brooms is the author of several books, including *Stakes is High: Trials, Lessons, and Triumphs in Young Black Men's Educational Journeys* (2021), *Being Black, Being Male on Campus: Understanding and Confronting Black Male Collegiate Experiences* (2017), and he is co-author of *Empowering Men of Color on Campus: Building Student Community in Higher Education* (2018).



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Visit these links to learn more about Dr. Brooms and his work!



[Faculty Profile](#)



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Jayla Moody Marshall, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Interim Program Coordinator, HEA, Counseling and Higher Education

Dr. Jayla Moody Marshall is an assistant professor of higher education at North Carolina Central University. Her scholarship centers purpose development among marginalized college students, investigating how institutional structures shape their journeys through higher education and influence their opportunities to thrive during and after college. Through critical, qualitative inquiry, she investigates how care, joy, and community function as tools for transformation. Her research also explores institutional practices in graduate education, including mentorship and holistic student development.



Dr. Moody Marshall earned her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, Policy, and Human Development with a concentration in Higher Education Opportunity, Equity, and Justice from North Carolina State University. Her dissertation, "'But Then You Remember Your Purpose:' A Phenomenological Exploration of Black Undergraduate Women's Critical Purpose Development at a Predominantly White Institution," was awarded the Dr. Melvin C. Terrell Educational Foundation Dissertation Support Grant.

While at NC State, Dr. Moody Marshall was selected as the 2025 Graduate Student Commencement Speaker for the NC State College of Education and received the 2024 Chancellor's Creating Community Outstanding Graduate Student Award. She was named to the 2025 "30 Under 40" Sawubona Class by ACPA-College Student Educators International's Pan African Network, where she was nominated in the Mentorship category. From 2023 to 2025, she served as a graduate representative on the Council for Ethnic Participation (CEP) through the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE). She also served as co-editor of the New Directions for Higher Education special issue, Humanizing Higher Education.

Dr. Moody Marshall's diverse expertise is complemented by her background as a storyteller. A regular contributor to *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*, she believes in the power of storytelling to drive change. She writes at the intersection of justice and transformative practice. Drawing on her experience in program coordination, admissions, and student advising across undergraduate and graduate education, she leverages narratives to build higher education environments where students are seen, valued and empowered.

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Visit these links to learn more about Dr. Moody Marshall and her work!



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James Earl Davis, Ph.D.

*Professor and the Bernard C. Watson
Endowed Chair in Urban Education*

James Earl Davis is the Bernard C. Watson Chair in Urban Education at Temple University and Professor of Higher Education in the College of Education and Human Development. He also holds affiliate faculty appointments in the Department of Africology and African American Studies and the Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies Program.

With an explicit concern for gender equity in education, his research has provided new insights into how social contexts of education inform racial and gender experiences and expressions, especially for Black boys and emerging adult men. More specifically, his work has investigated the construction of gender identity and its ties to engagement and performance at different education levels, from early learning to higher education.

Davis's current research focuses on gender-based education policy and reform; social stratification and urban neighborhood-university relations; and the intersection of schooling options and housing inequality. His work has been funded by various agencies including the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, Spencer Foundation, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the William Penn Foundation.

Professor Davis holds a BA in Sociology from Morehouse College, a Ph.D. from Cornell University, and completed post-doctoral study in the Division of Education Policy at the Educational Testing Service, Princeton, NJ.



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*Visit these links to learn more about Dr.
Davis and his work!*



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Keon McGuire, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor of Higher Education
Opportunity, Equity, and Justice*

Dr. Keon M. McGuire is an Associate Professor of Higher Education Opportunity, Equity, and Justice in the College of Education at North Carolina State University. Dr. McGuire is an interdisciplinary scholar who draws on Africana studies frameworks to examine how race, gender and religion shape minoritized college students' identities and their everyday experiences. Additionally, Dr. McGuire investigates the ways racism, sexism, and heteronormativity undermine the experiences of minoritized college students as well as the ways students resist and respond to such marginalization.

Dr. McGuire's research has been funded by the Spencer Foundation, National Science Foundation and published in peer-reviewed journals such as *Journal of Negro Education*, *Journal of College Student Development*, *Journal of Higher Education*, and *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*. In 2019, he was named a National Academy of Education (NAEd)/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellow and ACPA Emerging Scholar. He received a B.A. in History from Wake Forest University and a joint PhD in Higher Education and Africana Studies from the University of Pennsylvania.



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Visit these links to learn more about Dr. McGuire and his work!



[Faculty Profile](#)



[LinkedIn Profile](#)

Robert T. Palmer, Ph.D.

Department Chair and Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Robert T. Palmer, Ph.D. is Department Chair and professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Howard University. His research examines issues of access, equity, retention, persistence, and the college experience of racial and ethnic minorities, particularly within the context of historically Black colleges and universities.

Palmer's work has been published in leading journals in higher education, such as *Journal of College Student Development*, *Teachers College Record*, *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*, *Journal of Negro Education*, *College Student Affairs Journal*, *Journal of College Student Retention*, *The Negro Educational Review*, and *Journal of Black Studies*, among others. Since earning his Ph.D. in 2007, Palmer has authored/co-authored well over 100 academic publications. His books include: *Exploring Diversity at Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Implications for Policy and Practice* (2015, Jossey-Bass), *Hispanic Serving Institutions: Their Origins, and Present, and Future Challenges* (2015, Stylus), *The African American Students' Guide to STEM Career* (2017, Greenwood Publishing), *Black men in the academy: Stories of resiliency, inspiration, and success* (2015, Palgrave Macmillan), *Effective leadership at Minority-Serving Institutions* (2017, Routledge), *Graduate and professional education at Historically Black colleges and universities* (2017, Routledge), and *Models and bridges for supporting students at Minority-Serving Institutions* (forthcoming, Jossey-Bass).

Palmer earned his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Morgan State University in 2007, M.S. in Counseling with an emphasis on Higher Education at West Chester University of Pennsylvania in 2003, and the B.S. in History at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania in 2001.



LEARN MORE

Visit these links to learn more about Dr. Palmer and his work!



[Faculty Profile](#)



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Felix Morton IV, PhD, LCMHC, GTC

Clinical Assistant Professor of Counselor Education

Felix Morton IV, PhD, LCMHC, GTC (he/him/his) is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Counselor Education at William & Mary, Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor, Clinical Supervisor, and Geek Therapy® Certified Therapist. His clinical experience spans hospital trauma units, community mental health, schools, and college and university settings, informing a professional identity grounded in culturally responsive, strengths-based, and liberatory approaches to counseling and wellness.



Dr. Morton's scholarship centers the mental health, wellness, and flourishing of Black men and boys, with particular attention to identity, belonging, culture, and the conditions that allow people and communities to thrive. As a counselor, educator, researcher, and public scholar, he also explores the intersection of mental health and popular culture, drawing on storytelling, fandom, and Afrofuturism to imagine new possibilities for healing, connection, and self-understanding.

He is the author of the forthcoming book with Wiley, *Black Panther & Black Men's Mental Health: A Wakanda Within Reach*, which explores Black men's wellness through the cultural and narrative world of Black Panther. Across his clinical, scholarly, and public-facing work, Dr. Morton advocates for expanding what we recognize as meaningful therapeutic resources and honoring the stories, cultural knowledge, and imaginative worlds people already use to understand themselves and their lives.

Dr. Morton has served as a fellow with the American Psychological Association and remains actively engaged in the counseling profession through organizations including the North Carolina Counseling Association and the Association for Humanistic Counseling. His work has taken him beyond traditional clinical and academic spaces, with national and international presentations on mental health, wellness, and popular culture. These have included presentations at Star Wars Celebration in Tokyo, Japan, and San Diego Comic-Con, reflecting his commitment to bringing conversations about mental health and human flourishing into the cultural spaces where people already find meaning, connection, and community.

LEARN MORE

Visit these links to learn more about Dr. Morton IV and his work!



[LinkedIn](#)

Bredell Moody, Ph.D., LCMHC, LCAS-A

*Assistant Professor in Counselor
Education*

Dr. Bredell Moody (he/him/his) is an Assistant Professor in the Counselor Education Program at North Carolina Central University. He received his Ph.D. in Counseling and Counselor Education from North Carolina State University.

Before joining NCCU, Dr. Moody served as the embedded counselor for the NCSU graduate school and the Wilson College of Textiles. He was also a behavioral therapist at Avance Psychiatry and the Avance Care Centers of Excellence in Raleigh, North Carolina. He is a licensed clinical mental health counselor, provisionally licensed clinical addiction specialist, and certified clinical trauma professional. He has worked with diverse populations – people from different ethnicities, cultures, socioeconomic status, and different stages of development. His scope of practice includes addressing emotional and behavioral concerns, mood disorders, trauma, anxiety, depression, addictive behaviors, grief, stress management, anger management, and self-esteem concerns.

His research interests include terror management theory, police brutality, racial trauma, Black/African American coping and healing after trauma.



LEARN MORE

*Visit these links to learn more about Dr.
Moody and his work!*



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Kamala L. Uzzell, PhD, LCMHCS, LPC

*Psychotherapist, Assistant Professor of
Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Dr. Kamala Uzzell is a psychotherapist, counselor educator, certified dementia care practitioner and certified trauma specialist. She is the founder and President of SOLAY Counseling & Consulting, PC, a private mental health practice she established in 2009, where she has provided counseling and mental health services to individuals, families, veterans, and communities throughout North and South Carolina. Her practice has served as a training site for more than 40 counselors-in-training and psychology interns, helping to prepare the next generation of mental health professionals and expand access to quality mental health care.



Dr. Uzzell serves as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Coordinator of Field Experience at Campbell University. She is also Adjunct Faculty of Psychology at North Carolina Central University and has nearly three decades of experience teaching at the college and university level.

Her expertise has taken her beyond the counseling office and classroom. She has appeared as a guest therapist on a reality series and has provided mental health commentary for Essence magazine and WTVD news, with regular appearances on WRAL news. She has also provided training and consultation to corporations, universities, government agencies, and community organizations on mental health, emotional intelligence, leadership, trauma, and workplace well-being.

Dr. Uzzell earned her bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Campbell University, and Ph.D. in Counseling and Counselor Education from North Carolina State University. She is a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor Supervisor in North Carolina and a Licensed Professional Counselor in South Carolina.

Throughout her career, Dr. Uzzell has remained committed to expanding access to quality mental health care and reducing the stigma that too often prevents people in underserved communities from seeking support.

LEARN MORE

*Visit these links to learn more about Dr.
Uzzell and her work!*



[Website](#)



[LinkedIn](#)

Pastor Cory Rawlinson

*Executive Pastor of
Grace Church of Durham*

Pastor Cory Rawlinson, affectionately known as Pastor C, is a devoted husband to Elder Tarica Rawlinson and a proud father of two, Cory and Christian. He serves as the Executive Pastor of Grace Church of Durham, where he ministers under the leadership and mentorship of his spiritual father, Dr. Kedrick T. Lowery.

A mentor by both calling and profession, Pastor C has dedicated more than 25 years to investing in the lives of young people. His passion for youth development has led him to coordinate and facilitate youth Bible studies in community settings, host youth conferences, organize college tours throughout North Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia, and engage in youth outreach efforts internationally in Africa, Jamaica, and Brazil. Through these experiences, he has remained committed to helping young people discover purpose, develop leadership skills, and reach their full potential.

Professionally, Pastor C serves as the Program Manager for Durham County's Gang Prevention and Intervention Program, where he leads efforts to reduce violence, build positive pathways for youth and young adults, and strengthen community partnerships. He also previously served as Manager of My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Durham, the initiative launched by President Barack Obama to improve outcomes for boys and young men of color through mentorship, opportunity, and community engagement.

Pastor C is a graduate of North Carolina Central University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature. He later continued his education at NCCU, receiving a Master of Public Administration (MPA) in December 2013.

Known for his ability to bridge faith, leadership, and community impact, Pastor C is passionate about developing the next generation, strengthening families, and creating opportunities that empower individuals to thrive spiritually, academically, professionally, and personally. Through ministry and public service, he continues to inspire others to pursue purpose, embrace responsibility, and become agents of positive change in their communities.



LEARN MORE

*Visit these links to learn more about
Pastor Rawlinson and his work!*



[Website](#)



[LinkedIn](#)

Glen Fisher

Executive Services Representative

Glen Fisher (Nkoundji II) is a youth mentor, support group facilitator, philanthropist, and financial services professional dedicated to empowering Black boys and men through mentorship, education, healing, and community leadership.

He is the founder and facilitator of the Bow Tie Kings Chess Club, a mentoring program that uses chess to enhance critical thinking, and character development to prepare Black boys to become confident, responsible men. He also created The Forge: A Healing Support Group for Black Men, providing a safe and supportive space where Black men can build community, heal, and grow together.

Committed to expanding educational opportunities, Glen is the creator and lead fundraiser for the Dr. Fletcher L. Gamble Scholarship, which provides financial assistance to young Black men pursuing higher education.

Professionally, Glen serves as an Executive Services Representative at Fidelity Investments, bringing approximately six years of experience in the financial services industry. Prior to joining Fidelity, he spent more than 11 years working in higher education administration, specializing in financial aid and helping students navigate the path to college success.

Glen earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from North Carolina Central University, where he developed a lifelong passion for education, leadership, and service. He is also a proud Prince Hall Masonic member of Doric Lodge #28, reflecting his commitment to fraternity, service, and community engagement.

Above all, Glen is a devoted father of five whose life's work is centered on building stronger families, strengthening communities, and creating opportunities for future generations. Through mentorship, philanthropy, and professional service, he remains steadfast in his mission to prepare Black boys to become good men, provide spaces where Black men can heal and thrive, and help young Black scholars achieve their educational dreams.



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Visit these links to learn more about Mr. Fisher and his work!



[LinkedIn](#)

Jarvis Lundy

Directory of Policy

Jarvis Lundy is the Director of Policy at The Hunt Institute, where he leads national efforts to increase diversity in the educator workforce. His work includes supporting state leaders and policymakers to understand the importance of educator diversity and the One Million Teachers of Color campaign, which aims to add one million teachers and 30,000 school leaders of color by 2030.

Jarvis started his career in education in New Orleans as a Kindergarten teacher and later became an elementary school principal in New Orleans and Texas. Before joining The Hunt Institute, he supported the recruitment and development of aspiring educators and led a national initiative to increase the number of Black teachers.

Jarvis holds a Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies from the University of Miami and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Texas. Outside of work, Jarvis enjoys cooking and spending time with his brilliant wife and two young children.



LEARN MORE

Visit these links to learn more about Mr. Lundy and his work!



[Website](#)



[LinkedIn](#)

Shambo Medina

*Visual Artist, Poet, Musician
& Breath-Work Practitioner*

Shambo Medina is a multidisciplinary artist, culture worker and ritual healing facilitator. He has spent nearly two decades engaging spiritual healing technologies, building community & creating a body of visual and sonic works of art that contemplate the destiny, humanity and experiences of African diasporic peoples.

The thread that connects his artistry and healing work is a deep investment in transformative processes that strengthen, enrich and elevate community.

Shambo is a co-owner & lead curator at Shrine of The Black Star museum in East Durham, a member of Black Men Build NC Triangle and a youth art educator (jegna) at BUMP The Triangle.

The spirit of his work is deeply informed by the Sankofa journey of connecting to the past with the intent to recover memory & lost presence, to engage in deeper knowing, and to instigate spiritual transformation.



LEARN MORE

Visit these links to learn more about Mr. Medina and his work!



[Website](#)



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Understanding Education
as a Career Choice for
NC Research Triangle Men
Research Initiative

2026 RESEARCH INITIATIVE TEAM

LEADERSHIP

Tryan L. McMickens, Ed.D.
Co-Principal Investigator
Interim Associate Dean of the School of
Education
Professor, Higher Education

Jim C. Harper II, Ph.D.
Co-Principal Investigator
Interim Associate Provost & Dean, Graduate
Studies
Professor, History

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Rachel Ruff
CHE, Higher Education, Project Manager,
Conference Coordinator

*We extend our deepest gratitude
to the research participants and
the organizations and partners
who contributed their support to
make this initiative possible.*

RESEARCH TEAM

Jayla Moody Marshall, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Interim Program
Coordinator, HEA, Counseling and Higher
Education

Regina Gavin Williams, Ph.D.
Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor,
Qualified Supervisor, & Counselor Educator

Kamaiya Scott, M.S.Ed.
Higher Education Administration Student

Titilayo Somorin, M.S.Ed.
Higher Education Administration Student

Jamie Barnett, M.A.
History Student

Michael Terrell, M.S.Ed.
Higher Education Administration Student

JarDearia Gaston, M.S.Ed.
Higher Education Administration Student

Summer Brown, M.S.Ed.
Community Director, High Point University

Zaida Walker, M.S.Ed.
College and Career Readiness Program Lead
for Distance Learning at Central Carolina
Community College

Kaitlyn Turner, M.S.Ed.
Higher Education Administration Student

Stay Connected with Conference Updates!

For questions about the conference, registration, or conference materials, send an email to:

Rachel Ruff, rruff@nccu.edu

To learn more about the initiative, click to access our website:

Visit Website

Thank you for your interest in the 2026 UECCNCRTM Conference.

We look forward to staying connected!