

# 2026 Holmes Scholars Preconference Agenda

February 18 – February 20

*New Orleans Marriott*

*555 Canal Street*

*New Orleans, LA 70130, US*



All preconference speakers' bios can be found in the mobile app or in [connect360](#)

## Wednesday, February 18

*New Orleans Marriott, Salon D/E (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)*

**4:00 – 4:15 PM**

### **Welcome**

[Dr. Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy](#), President & CEO, AACTE

**4:15 – 5:00 PM**

### **Opening Keynote**

[Dr. Reynold Verret](#), President, Xavier University of Louisiana

**5:00 – 6:00 PM**

### **Scholars Town Hall | Salon D/E**

*Reyan Warren, University of San Diego, Holmes Scholar Council  
President*

*Amanda Wilkerson, University of Central Florida, AACTE National Holmes  
Program Coordinator*

### **Coordinators Town Hall | Salon H**

*Nicole Dunn, AACTE, Director of Program Administration*

**6:30 – 7:30 PM**

### **Coordinators Happy Hour | Location Announced onsite**

## Thursday, February 19

*New Orleans Marriott, Mardi Gras Ballroom Salon D/E (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)*

**7:45 – 8:30 AM**

### **Breakfast & Council Welcome**

Mardi Gras Salon D/E

### **JTE Cohort 3 Application Announcement**

**8:30 – 9:15 AM**

### **Holmes Business Meeting**

[2025-26 Holmes Scholar Council](#)

**9:30 – 10:25 AM**

### **Concurrent Sessions: Block 1**

**Still Standing: Sustaining Self, Community, and Purpose in the Academy**

**[AM1]: Wellness, Balance, and Persistence Through the Doctoral Journey**

- [Dr. Caroline Pratt Marrett](#), Senior Lecturer, University of Central Florida
- [Dr. Leslie Ekpe](#), Assistant Professor, East Texas A&M University Room, Mardi Gras Salon D

**[AM2]: Writing, Publishing, and the Hidden Curriculum of Academic Norms and Expectations**

- [Dr. Cheryl Matias](#), Professor, University of San Diego Room, Mardi Gras Salon A

**[AM3]: Career Transitions and Uncertainty: Balancing Transitions in the Academy**

- [Dr. Diandra Prescod](#), Associate Professor, University of Connecticut Room, Mardi Gras Salon B

**[AM4]: Building Mentoring Networks & Constellations**

\*Recommended for Master's students

- [Dr. Raquel Wright-Mair](#), Associate Professor, Rowan University Room: Mardi Gras Salon C

**10:40 – 11:20 AM Roundtable & 3-Minute Thesis Presentations**

- [Uriah McClain](#), Rowan University, 2025-26 Holmes Scholar Council Research Coordinator

**TABLE 1 – Justice, Policy & Structural Repair**

Wiley Dawson, University of Connecticut

*Struggles for Structural Justice: Affirmative Action, Plantation Politics, and Reparative Possibilities in Higher Education*

Ronette Albert, University of Connecticut

*Indigenoicing Caribbean Higher Education: Indigenous Women's Access, Language, and Leadership in Guyana*

Jenny Chabriel-Amara, University of San Diego

*Trans Math Linguaging: Disrupting Whiteness Emotionality and Rebuilding Math Identity for Multilingual Students*

---

**TABLE 2 – AI, Technology & Academic Integrity**

Marcus Harris, University of Connecticut

*Competencies in an AI World*

Josh Sukumar, University of Connecticut  
*Detection of Ingenuine Academic Scholarship with Generative AI*

Justin Ruiz, Boston University  
*Bot or Not? Developing a Mixed-Methods Study to Evaluate a Play-Based AI Literacy Intervention in Classrooms*

David Ogundairo, University of Georgia  
*Exploring Video Game Design as a Strengths-Based Approach to Fostering Computational Thinking and Engagement among Neurodiverse Transition-Aged Learners*

---

**TABLE 3 – Decolonial, DisCrit & Epistemic Justice (High-Voltage)**

Kerwin Johnson, University of South Carolina  
*Transcending Boundaries: Enacting Decolonial Approaches Across Educational Spaces*

Claudia Chiang-Frost, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
*Fairytales Often Uphold Racist and Ableist Beliefs: Using DisCrit to Disrupt Racist Ableism in Early Childhood Classrooms*

Jaz Hasty, University of South Carolina  
*Psychological Safety First: Strategies for Strengthening Engagement in Experiential Learning*

---

**TABLE 4 – Teacher Preparation & Institutional Responsibility**

Emmanuel Dwamena, University of Connecticut  
*Different Problems, Different Solutions? A Systematic Review of Retention Antecedents Among Mathematics and Science Teachers in U.S. K–12 Schools*

Ayo Aborishade, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
*Teacher Preparedness to Assess Cultural Behavior Among Black Students*

Ha Thu Hoang, University of San Diego  
*Transformative Leadership in Teacher Education: Navigating Neoliberal Reforms and Equity Challenges*

---

**TABLE 5 – Mental Health, Belonging & Identity**

Sheiree Powell, Sacred Heart University  
*Addressing the Imposter Phenomenon and Promoting Engagement in Underrepresented Adolescents Through Culturally Responsive SEL*

Samuel King, Purdue University  
*Spiritual Capital as Cultural Wealth: Exploring Belonging, Persistence, and Resistance Among Latine Students at Predominantly White Institutions*

---

**TABLE 6 – Leadership & Systems Navigation**

Alexis Washington, Temple University  
*When Tier 3 Becomes the Norm: Reimagining MTSS Leadership and Preparation in Post-Pandemic Schools*

Thaheem (Ihsan) Thaheem, Ohio University  
*Educational Leadership for Access, School Integration, and Well-being of Crisis-Impacted Children*

Lorena Valer, William Paterson University  
*From Hire to Inspire*

---

**TABLE 7 – Literacy, Language & Cultural Retention**

Ayana Bass, Boston University

*Student Experiences at the Center: The Development of a Literacy Joy Measure*

Yiwei Guo, University of San Diego

*In Between Worlds: Multicultural Learning and Cultural Retention Among Early Childhood Immigrants*

Damaris Cruz, Sacred Heart University

*Translanguaging: An Ethnographic Study of Language Practices and Social, Emotional, and Academic Learning*

---

**TABLE 8 – Race, Solidarity & Higher Education Climate**

Raven Kapayou, University of Northern Iowa

*Centering Indigenous Ways of Knowing in Special Education Identification Processes*

Nicole Ferguson-Sams, Clemson University

*#NerdOut Loud: Black Girls' Self-Directed Learning Practices on Social Media*

Rohan Arcot, Boston University

*Relative Racial and Ethnic Centrality and Interracial Solidarity Among Asian American Young Adults*

---

**TABLE 9 – STEM, Career & Workforce Futures**

Kiara Crawley, Virginia Commonwealth University

*Virtual Connections in Social Justice Education: Connectivity Among Holmes Scholars*

Pablo Gutierrez, California State University, San Bernardino

*Culture Shock Among International Students in U.S. Higher Education*

Toluwalase Salako, North Carolina State University

*Embedding STEM Careers in Lesson Plans: Educator Perceptions and Practices*

---

**TABLE 10 – Disability Justice & Liberation**

Carrie Romo, University of Northern Iowa

*Transformational Leadership at the Nexus of Liberatory Praxis and Disability Justice*

Tiyacca Simms-Jones, Virginia Commonwealth University

*Culture and Community in Doctoral Advising for Black Women*

Kris Miguel, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

*Pre-Service Teachers' Development of LGBTQ+ Self-Efficacy Beliefs*

---

**TABLE 11 – Climate, Global & Comparative Perspectives**

Srijana Katuwal, Ohio University

*Framing Climatic Disasters Through the Lens of Climate Justice*

Isatou Secka, Ohio University

*Teacher Moonlighting in The Gambia's Education System*

Simone Cunningham Heirs, University of San Diego

*Seafarers of Color: Lived Experiences in Maritime Education*

---

---

**TABLE 12 – Emerging & Cross-Cutting Themes**

Dallann Johnson, Purdue University

*Multicultural Education and Latrogenic Racism in Mental Healthcare*

Sydney Johnson, Ball State University

*Supporting Early Numeracy Through Symbolic Play*

Michael Vidal, University of Connecticut

*Institutional Isomorphism, Critical Theory, and Knowledge Circulation in U.S. Higher Education*

---

**TABLE 13 – Racialized Experiences and Mental Health in Education**

Kiana Bradford, Virginia Commonwealth University

*Working Twice as Hard, Getting Half as Far: The Black Woman Tax in Education*

Alcedos Vanterpool, North Carolina State University

*Undergraduate Black Men, Mental Health, and Academic Engagement*

---

**TABLE 14 – Equity, Disability, and Counseling Leadership**

Jessica Fort, Virginia Commonwealth University

*Training Pathways for Addressing Overrepresentation of Black Males in Special Education*

Stephanie Trusty, William Paterson University of New Jersey

*A Restorative Justice Lens on Leadership, Discipline, and Disability*

---

**TABLE 15 – Access, Retention, and Belonging**

D'Arion Johnston, University of South Carolina

*Increasing Retention Rates for Underrepresented Counselor Education Students*

Karabella Hernandez, Purdue University

*Transgender Clients' Perspectives on Mental Health Care*

---

**TABLE 17 – Language, Identity, and Resistance in Educational Contexts**

Natalia Dominguez, Texas Christian University

*Arteando & Platicando: Thriving Beyond the Starving Artist Myth*

Nallely Gecik, University of San Diego

*Transnational Code Refusal: Translanguaging as Resistance to Globalized Whiteness in English Language Education*

Nayomi Field, Ohio University

*Enacting and Contextualizing Intercultural Competence: Lesson Planning after Story Circles in Sri Lanka and the U.S. Midwest*

---

**TABLE 18 – Equity, Justice, and Structural Narratives in Education**

Syreeta Wright, Virginia Commonwealth University

*Reimagining Assessment: Exploring Ungrading and Equitable Learning for Marginalized Students in Graduate Counseling Programs*

Reyan Warren, University of San Diego

*Problematic or Successful: How Deficit Labels Fuel Black Girls' Educational Resilience*

---

**TABLE 19 – Well-Being, Engagement, and Trauma-Informed Educational Practice**

Damaris Cruz, Sacred Heart University

*Translanguaging: An Ethnographic Study of Language Practices and Social, Emotional, and Academic Learning*

Sharon Hutchinson, Ball State University

*The Impact of Trauma-Informed Parenting on Stress and Resilience Among Parents of Children with Developmental Disabilities*

Rose Chumba, Texas Tech University

*Mental Wellness: Self-Care as Foundational Leadership Competencies for Black African Women Leaders in Higher Education*

- 11:30 – 12:00 PM Introduction of New 2026-27 Holmes Scholar Council**
- *Reyan Warren, University of San Diego, 2025-2027 Holmes Scholar Council President &*
  - *Isatou Aisha Secka, Ohio University, 2025-2027 Holmes Scholar Council Vice President*

**12:00 – 1:00 PM Lunch**

**Council Transition Working Lunch**

- *Dr. Amanda Wilkerson, AACTE National Program Coordinator*  
Room: Salon A

**1:10 – 2:05 PM Concurrent Sessions: Block 2**  
**From Idea to Impact: Writing, Research, and Scholarly Voice That Travels**

**[PM1]: Navigating Authorship, Collaboration & Equity in Academic Publishing**

[\*Dr. Ashley Patterson\*](#), Associate Professor, Penn State University

[\*Dr. Monique Matute-Chavarria\*](#), Assistant Professor, New Mexico State University

[\*Dr. Pricella Brown\*](#), Assistant Professor, University of Nevada Las Vegas  
Room, Salon A

**[PM2]: Sustaining the Scholar to Strengthen the Scholarship: Mentoring, Wellness, and Intellectual Longevity**

\*Recommended for Masters

*Dr. Sherika Dacres, Seminole State College*

*Dr. Shalander Samuels, Assistant Professor, Kean University*  
Room, Salon B

**[PM3]: Writing for Mainstream Media & Public Audiences**

\*Recommended for Masters

*Dr. Malcom Glover, University of Arkansas Clinton School*  
Room, Salon C

**[PM4]: From Idea to Impact: Writing, Research, and Scholarly Voice That Travels**

[\*Dr. Lora Bailey\*](#), Provost & Vice President- Academic Affairs, University of the Virgin Islands

[\*Dr. aretha marbley\*](#), Professor, Texas Tech University  
Room, Salon D

**2:20 – 3:30 PM New Scholar Pinning & Pledge Ceremony**

[2025-26 Holmes Scholar Council](#)

Salon D

- 3:30 – 4:00 PM Cohort Photos/Book Raffle**
- 4:00 – 5:00 PM Mentor Matching**  
*List of mentors in the [Precon Speakers Doc](#)*  
Salon D/E
- 6:00 – 7:30 PM Holmes 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Alumni Reunion Reception**  
*Link to separate program*  
Grand Ballroom, Carondelet

## **Friday, February 20**

*New Orleans Marriott, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor*

- 8:00 – 9:45 AM AACTE 2026 Opening Keynote**  
*Grand Ballroom*
- 10:00 – 12:30 PM Dissertation Funding Competition**  
*Mardi Gras Ballroom Salon D*
- 1. Marcus Harris, University of Connecticut**  
*Dissertation Title: Inclusive Reproducibility: Building Usable Rubric for Social Scientists*
  - 2. Claudia Chiang-Frost, University of Nevada, Las Vegas**  
*Dissertation Title: Understanding the Experiences of Disabled Graduate Latine Students through Written, Spoken, and Visual Testimonios*
  - 3. Latesha Watson, Temple University**  
*Dissertation Title: Exploring Equity and Access in Special Education Teacher Perceptions of Technology and Culture*
  - 4. Ihsan Thaheem, Ohio University**  
*Dissertation Title: Educational Leadership for Educational Access, School Integration, and Well-being of Crisis Impacted Children: Narratives from the United States and Pakistan*
- 10:15 – 11:15 AM Learning Lab suggested for doctoral students:  
Mentoring, Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure as an  
Emerging Higher Education Professional**  
*Marriot, Galerie 3 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)*

**11:45 – 1:00 PM      Lunch (AACTE 2026, attend at your availability)**

**2:30 – 1:00 PM      Holmes Posters**  
*Grand Ballroom*

***Posters Friday, February 20 (12:30 – 1:00 PM)***

Ibrahim Osumanu, University of Connecticut; Bianca Montrosse-Moorhead, University of Connecticut; Kylie Anglin, University of Connecticut; Christopher Rhoads, University of Connecticut

*A Scoping Review of Machine Learning and Natural Language Processing Applications in Evaluation Studies, Grnd Blrm Board 19*

Alexis Washington, Temple University

*Advancing Leadership Diversity for Black Women: Removing Systemic Barriers in the Educational Leader Pipeline (108), Grnd Blrm Board 3*

Eric E. Barnes, Texas Christian University

*An Examination of Factors That Influence Black Principals' Post COVID-19 Attrition In PK-12 Public Schools, Grnd Blrm Board 25*

Pooja Aradhya, Boston University; Grace S. Kim, Boston University; Tina M. Durand, Boston University

*Between Culture and Collective Action: Understanding Second-Generation Indian Americans' Justice Engagement, Grnd Blrm Board 21*

Jennifer Chabriel-Amara, University of San Diego

*Boxed In by White Borders: Whiteness, Direct Instruction, and the Suppression of Mathematical Identity and Creativity, Grnd Blrm Board 27*

Jacqueline Little, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

*Bridging Perception and Proficiency: IRIS Impact on IEP Goal Writing, Grnd Blrm Board 17*

Ronnie Cravens, University of San Diego; Danielle Silvaggio, University of Southern California

*Empowering Future Leaders: The Impact of the BiGI Summer Academy on 6th Grade Students, Grnd Blrm Board 20*

Simonie Moore, University of Central Florida

*Examining Teacher Responses to Vignette-Based Scenarios on Student Behavior (JTE), Grnd Blrm Board 9*

Chike Elue, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

*Exploring Middle School Teachers' Instructional Routines within Scripted Curriculum (224), Grnd Blrm Board 1*

Camile Matthews, Clark Atlanta University

*From Program to Presidency: An Exploratory Qualitative Study of Self-Efficacy and Professional Learning Support in the Career Readiness of Aspiring HBCU Presidents, Grnd Blrm Board 26*

Yiwei Guo, University of San Diego

*In Between Worlds: Multicultural Learning and Cultural Retention among Early Childhood Immigrants*

*(Ages 5–7) with Non-English Backgrounds and the Roundtable session titled Supporting Non-English-Speaking Children in Early Childhood Classrooms , Grnd Blrm Board 15*

Toluwalase Salako, North Carolina State University

*Mentorship and Career Exploration: A Mid-Analysis of Community College Students' Career Intentions in STEM, Grnd Blrm Board 13*

Alexander Gariba, Kent State University

*Pre-Service Teacher Preparation in Universal Design for Learning Across Contexts, Grnd Blrm Board 16*

Kenya Lawrence, North Carolina State University; Tierra Fender, University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
*Reimagining Math Curriculum for Belonging and Rigor, Grnd Blrm Board 23*

Oktaviani Hidayah, Kent State University

*Social Withdrawal and Social Isolation in Adolescents with and at risk for EBD, Grnd Blrm Board 14*

Amelia Q. Rivera, North Carolina State University

*Towards Global Linguistic Justice in Teacher Education through an Immersive Racial, Cultural, and Linguistic Experience Abroad: A Critical Ethnographic Case Study, Grnd Blrm Board 24*

Chau Duong, University of San Diego

*Travel Broadens the Mind in Digital Age: Vietnamese Graduate Students Embed AI into Cross-Border Transitions, Grnd Blrm Board 22*

Clarence K. Bumpas, Old Dominion University; Christine Marie Turner, Old Dominion University; Deondre Johnson, Old Dominion University; Hilda Adu Gyamfi, Old Dominion University

*Utilizing Strengths and Assets: The Lived Experiences of BIPOC Education Doctoral Students at PWIs, Grnd Blrm Board 12*

Crystal Scarborough, North Carolina State University

*What About Her? Considering Pregnant and Postpartum Women in Counselor Education Program and Training on How to Address Their Mental Health Needs, Grnd Blrm Board 18*

Myrna Martin, Ball State University

*Balancing Academics and Single Parenthood: Exploring the Challenges and Support Mechanisms of African American Mothers of Young Children in Adult and Continuing Education Programs, Grnd Blrm Board 29*

### **Posters Saturday, February 21 (12:30 – 1:00 PM)**

Lissa Pilar Love, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

*Black Families' Experiences Transitioning from IDEA Part C to Part B, Grnd Blrm Board 19*

Latesha Watson, Temple University

*Disrupting Silos: Integrating Sped, Tech and Culture into Educator Prep, Grnd Blrm Board 8*

Chike Elue, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Tina Vo, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

*Exploring Preservice Elementary Science Teachers' Perception of Inclusive Instruction and Science Identity Formation, Grnd Blrm Board 17*

Nazanin Asadi, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Kendall Hartley, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
*Exploring the Role of Prompt-Supported ChatGPT Practice in Improving Speaking Skills and Willingness to Communicate of All Adult Learners, Grnd Blrm Board 12*

Srijana Katuwal, Ohio University  
*Framing Climatic Disasters Through the Lens of Climate Justice, Grnd Blrm Board 14*

Anel Rojas Villavicencio, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
*Mapping Pathways: A Literature Review on the Underrepresentation of Latina/o/x Student Affairs Professionals, Grnd Blrm Board 11*

Isatou B. Secka, Ohio University  
*Observing Digital Communication in Education: WhatsApp Usage Among Grade 12 Students in The Gambia, Grnd Blrm Board 15*

Patricia Ambrosio, North Carolina State University  
*Reimagining Collaborative Teacher Professional Learning as a Humanizing and Transformative Practice, Grnd Blrm Board 18*

Syreeta Wright, Virginia Commonwealth University  
*Turning Points: Using the Critical Incident Technique to Understand Recovery Among Black Women Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence, Grnd Blrm Board 16*

Karly Van Holten, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
*Unseen Labor, Unspoken Costs: A Mandate for Rest as a Form of Resistance for Black Women in Higher Education, Grnd Blrm Board 10*

**1:00 – 2:20 PM      Holmes Academic Job Talk**  
*Mardi Gras Ballroom Salon A*

- 1. Natalia Margaria Dominguez, Texas Christian University:** Weaving Cultural Wealth: Arteando & Platicando and the Future of Art Entrepreneurship
- 2. Elba Llantín-Cruz, Sacred Heart University:** Renew, Inspire, Strengthen, and Engage (RISE): A Healing Centered Affinity Group
- 3. Matthew Nyaaba, University of Georgia:** Human- AI Co-Designing Culturally Responsive Assessment

**1:15 – 2:15 PM**

**AACTE 2026 Featured Session**

Choose from one of the following. *Full AACTE 2026 program* [here](#)

**Transformational Family and Student Centered Research in Teacher Preparation**

*MARRIOTT, Grand Ballroom*

**From Compliance to Capacity: Redesigning Fieldwork and Competency Assessment for the Next Era of Accreditation**

*MARRIOTT, Mardi Gras Ballroom Salon D*

**It's Time for a Hard Reset": Reimagining Teacher Preparation in the United States by Elevating Residencies**

*MARRIOTT, Mardi Gras Ballroom Salon E*

**3:00 – 4:30 PM**

**AACTE 2026 Career Connect**

*MARRIOTT, Mardi Gras Ballroom Salon E*