



NASPA[®]

Student Affairs Administrators
in Higher Education

2021-2022

Emerging Faculty Leader Academy Cohort

Ashley Carpenter

Assistant Professor of Higher Education
Appalachian State University
@AshJCarpenter

Hermen Díaz III

Assistant Professor
SUNY-Buffalo State College
@Hermdiaz

Laila McCloud

Assistant Professor, College Student
Personnel
Western Illinois University
@HeyDrMcCloud

Amanda L. Mollet

Assistant Professor
University of Kansas
@AmandaMollet

Ericka Roland

Assistant Professor of Educational
Leadership and Policy Studies
University of Texas at Arlington
@DrERoland

Berenice Sánchez

Assistant Professor
Idaho State University
@B_Sanchez06

Stephen Santa-Ramirez

Assistant Professor of Higher Education
University at Buffalo
@DrStephenSR

Jason K. Wallace

Assistant Professor of Higher Education
University of Southern Mississippi
@DrJKWallace

Gavin Weiser

Assistant Professor
Department of Educational
Administration and Foundations
Illinois State University

More information about this program can be found here:

https://www.naspa.org/images/uploads/main/Emerging_Leaders_Overview.pdf



Ashley Carpenter
Assistant Professor of Higher Education
Appalachian State University
@AshJCarpenter

Dr. Ashley Carpenter is an Assistant Professor in the Higher Education Program at Appalachian State University. She is an interdisciplinary scholar and practitioner working towards advancing equity and accessibility through K-12 and Higher Education pipeline programs. Dr. Carpenter's scholarly investments are in multicultural student development, institutional research, college access and equity, and diversity and inclusion. Her administrative roles serving historically underserved and underrepresented graduate students also informs her teaching and mentoring. Ultimately, Dr. Carpenter's mission is to pursue innovative, evidence-based practices to broaden participation and success in postsecondary education. Dr. Carpenter earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst, her M.A. in American Culture Studies from Washington University – St. Louis, and her B.A. in Psychology and Sociology from University of Missouri – Columbia.



Hermen Díaz III
Assistant Professor
SUNY-Bufferalo State College
@Hermdiaz

Hermen Díaz III, Ph.D. (he/him) is an assistant professor in the Higher Education Administration Department at SUNY-Bufferalo State College. Dr. Díaz has over a decade of experience as a practitioner-scholar in various functional areas of student affairs. His scholarly interest centers on the experiences of men of color at institutions of higher education. Dr. Díaz's research specifically concentrates on the transactional relationship between the campus environment and Latino men as it relates to belonging, equity and liberation. Dr. Díaz focuses on creating a collaborative and co-constructed learning environment that empowers aspiring/current student affairs and higher education administrators. Dr. Díaz received a B.A. in Psychology from Grand Valley State University, a M.S. in Student Personnel Administration from SUNY-Bufferalo State College and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership from Colorado State University.



Laila McCloud
Assistant Professor,
College Student Personnel
Western Illinois University
@HeyDrMcCloud

Laila McCloud is an Assistant Professor of College Student Personnel at Western Illinois University where she also serves as the Program Coordinator for the Student Affairs track. She completed her Ph.D. in Higher Education and Student Affairs at the University of Iowa. Prior to pursuing a faculty career, Dr. McCloud served as a student affairs educator focused on issues of equity and access. Her research uses critical theories and methods to broadly explore relationships between anti-blackness and the professional and academic socialization of students within U.S. higher education. She serves on the Editorial Board for the Journal of College Student Development. She is also an active member of several higher education associations including ACPA, ASHE, and NASPA. Her research has been published in the Journal of College Student Development and the Journal of Higher Education.



Amanda L. Mollet
Assistant Professor
University of Kansas
@AmandaMollet

Dr. Amanda L. Mollet is an Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in the Higher Education Administration program at the University of Kansas. She also serves as the coordinator for the master's program. Dr. Mollet received her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa where she also spent a year in a visiting assistant professor position before transitioning to KU. Her research explores questions of equity and inclusion from individual, organizational, and ecological perspectives. Dr. Mollet primarily focuses on experiences of students, faculty, and staff with historically minoritized sexual and gender identities; extending her dissertation work her research on asexuality and asexual students' experiences continues challenging existing norms and understandings of sexuality. Her scholarship includes several book chapters and articles in journals including: *Teachers College Record*, *Journal of College Student Development*, and *Equity & Excellence in Education*. With nearly a decade of experience in residence life and housing before receiving her doctorate, Amanda merges her professional experience with her research knowledge serving on the editorial board for the *Journal of College and University Student Housing*. She also served on the editorial board for the *Journal of College Student Development's Research in Brief*. With her commitment to professional service Amanda served in many leadership roles with ACPA including as a Governing Board Member-at-large, Chair of Graduate Students and New Professionals, Convention Planning Team, and currently as the Scholar-in-Residence for the Coalition for Sexual and Gender Identities. She has also contributed to ASHE as a discussant, chair, and program reviewer.



Ericka Roland
Assistant Professor of Educational
Leadership and Policy Studies
University of Texas at Arlington
@DrERoland

Dr. Ericka Roland (she/her/hers) is an assistant professor in the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Department at The University of Texas at Arlington. Ericka's research primarily investigates critical leadership development in postsecondary educational settings. She leverages critical frameworks and qualitative methodologies to centers questions through the problems and possibilities for leading to enact equity and justice. Prior to entering academia, she worked as a student affairs professional in residential life and Greek life. Ericka completed a PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of South Florida.



Berenice Sánchez
Assistant Professor
Idaho State University
@B_Sanchez06

Dr. Berenice Sanchez (she/her/hers/ella) is an Assistant Professor in the department of School Psychology and Educational Leadership at Idaho State University. Dr. Berenice Sánchez is a scholar and a practitioner in higher education and student affairs. She received her Ph.D. from Indiana University Bloomington. Her primary research is focused on examining the experiences of faculty of color, with a focus on Latina faculty, and exploring the ways that race, racism, and white supremacy in higher education. Prior to joining IU Bloomington, she served as the Assistant Director of La Casa Cultural Latina at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While at Indiana University, she worked as a project associate with the National Survey on Student Engagement (NSSE), the Assessment Coordinator for the Division of Student Affairs, as well as the Managing Editor of the International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education. When not working, she enjoys traveling out of the country, mostly to enjoy being on the beach, going salsa dancing, and working out.



Stephen Santa-Ramirez
Assistant Professor of Higher Education
University at Buffalo
@DrStephenSR

Dr. Stephen Santa-Ramirez (he, him, his) is an Assistant Professor of Higher Education within the Graduate School of Education at the University at Buffalo. His vast experiences in higher education and student affairs include work in Multicultural and LGBT+ Affairs, Residential Life and Housing Services, and Migrant Student Services.

Dr. Santa Ramirez's personal and professional experiences in higher education – and identity as a scholar-practitioner-activist – have played formative roles in the development of his research agenda, which centers the lives and knowledge of historically marginalized and economically neglected students. By employing critical and asset-based frameworks, his scholarship investigates campus racial climate, first-generation students' sense of belonging, and the various ways race, ethnicity, and im/migration inform Latinx collegians' educational experiences.

In 2019, Dr. Santa Ramirez received the Legacy of Leadership honor from West Chester University of PA, was selected as a Fellow for the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) and New York University's Faculty First-Look, and in 2018 he received the ACPA - College Student Educators International Latinx Network Community Advancement & Service Award.



Jason K. Wallace
Assistant Professor of Higher Education
University of Southern Mississippi
@DrJKWallace

Jason K. Wallace (he/him) is an assistant professor of higher education in the Higher Education Administration and Student Affairs program at The University of Southern Mississippi. Originally from Fort Worth, Texas, Jason is a proud first-generation college graduate - an accomplishment he owes primarily to his mother, Shellice M. Wallace-Vaughn. Prior to joining the faculty at Southern Miss, Jason worked for nearly a decade in student affairs primarily in multicultural services. He is passionate about equity and justice in higher education and works to remove barriers impeding minoritized students.

His experience as a practitioner, passion for equity and justice, and lived experiences inform his teaching and research. Jason's scholarship centers on the experiences of Black people in higher education and the experiences of first-generation graduate students using critical theories and culturally relevant qualitative methods. One of his proudest accomplishments is co-founding @FirstGenDocs, a virtual platform that seeks to affirm the experiences, amplify the voices, and celebrate the brilliance of first-generation doctoral students.

Jason holds a Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis in College Student Affairs Administration and a graduate certificate in Interdisciplinary Qualitative Studies from the Mary Frances Early College of Education at The University of Georgia. He received an M.Ed. in Educational Administration and a B.S. in Advertising and Public Relations from Texas Christian University.



Gavin Weiser
Assistant Professor
Department of Educational Administration
and Foundations
Illinois State University

S. Gavin Weiser (ze/hir or they/them) is an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Administration and Foundations and co-coordinator of the College Student Personnel Administration master's program. Gavin holds affiliate faculty status at ISU in both Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies as well as with Latin American/Latino/a Studies. Gavin's research is on student activists, queer theory in education, and leveraging critical theories to better understand the role of power in educational administration. Gavin earned hir Ph.D. in Foundations of Education & Inquiry from the University of South Carolina's College of Education. Beyond this, ze also completed a graduate certificate in Women's and Gender Studies at the University of South Carolina. Gavin worked for several years as a university administrator in the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs at Carolina focusing on social justice and diversity work. Prior to this Gavin was an outdoor educator for Princeton University, leading urban youth on backpacking and other outdoor adventure activities.