

# Excelling Through Challenges and Embracing New Horizons

20th Annual APACS Conference

June 9-11, 2021

**Virtual Webinar** 

**Hosted through Zoom** 

www.apacs.org

Zoom Room: 834 8319 6205

**Password: APACS21** 

#### SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

#### \_Wednesday, June 9

9:45am

10:00am - 11:30am

11:30am - 12:30pm

12:30pm - 1:30pm

1:30pm - 2:30pm

2:30pm - 3:30pm

Log On & Welcome

Keynote - Dr. David Stovall

Guest Speaker - Dr. Shirley Malcom

Lunch

Guest Speaker – Dr. Antar Tichavakunda

Roundtable - Enhancing Student Retention

#### Thursday, June 10\_

9:50am

10:00am - 11:30am

11:30am - 11:40am

11:40am - 1:00pm

1:00pm - 1:30pm

1:30pm - 2:30pm

2:30pm - 3:30pm

Log On & Announcements

Keynote – Dr. Terrell Strayhorn

**Break** 

Annual Meeting, Elections, and Awards

Lunch

Self Care & Wellness - Rachel Morrison

Roundtable - Creative Budgeting

#### Friday, June 11

9:50am

10:00am - 11:00am

11:00am - 12:00pm

12:00pm - 1:00pm

1:00pm – 2:00pm

2:00pm - 3:00pm

Log On & Announcements

Workshop Presenter - Dr. Nia Nunn

Roundtable - Leveraging Connections

**Networking Lunch** 

Guest Speaker – Dr. Yahaira Fortis Santiago

NY State Education Department

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June 9, 2021



#### Dear Colleague:

On behalf of the APACS Officers, Executive Committee, and the Conference Committee, I welcome you to the 2021 APACS Virtual Annual Meeting and Conference.

This past year has been a year for the ages, and certainly one that we will not soon forget. The COVID-19 pandemic, and the issues of systemic bias and racism, and police violence raised by the Gavin Floyd murder, have presented historic challenges for our nation and the world to address these urgent crises.

Within this backdrop, I am proud of the work that we have done collectively, in our institutions to try to meet the added burdens placed on our students and their families, and help fill educational gaps in a myriad of ways this past year. Along with our strong advocacy efforts, I have no doubt that the care and support we provided to the 20,000 CSTEP and STEP students in the 100 CSTEP and STEP programs played a critical role in earning a 20% increase in our funding for 2021-2022.

Many challenges lay ahead as we enter the third year of the current five-year funding cycle. Among them, the expansion of our programs and looking forward to the next Request for Proposals. We have redoubled our efforts to work with the NYSED to improve the RFP's for 2026.

The year ahead will also present the challenge and opportunity to continue to grow and develop our organization. During our conference, we will vote on the revision of our By-Laws that will better serve our organizational needs. We continue to make progress in attaining our 501© status, and have revamped our APACS and Step for Leaders websites. With your active participation and leadership, I know we can continue this growth and development.

I hope this virtual conference will provide you with the opportunity to learn new strategies, techniques, and model services and activities that you will be able to emulate on your campus. I encourage you to take this opportunity to network with your colleagues, our presenters and State Education program staff. All of them have much to offer, and I know we all have much to offer each other. I especially encourage our new members to take advantage of all our conference has to offer.

I want to gratefully acknowledge our Conference Committee and its co-chairs, for their outstanding work and effort in planning and implementing the 2021 Conference and Annual Meeting. I ask again, for your active participation in in APACS. We need your continued support.

On behalf of our officers, Executive Committee and the Conference Committee, I wish you continued success in the year ahead.

J. a. Molina

Very truly yours,

Michael A. Molina

President



#### 20th Annual APACS Conference

June 9, 2021 Virtual Webinar Conference

June 9, 2021

#### Dear Colleagues:

Greetings and Welcome to the 20th Annual APACS Conference and Meeting! It was our goal to provide a forum for professional development and dialogue for the STEP and CSTEP staff across the state. Despite the challenges we are all facing, we have proactively developed a robust program focusing on best practices and leadership. This year's theme is Excelling Through Challenges and Embracing New Horizons. The conference committee has invited dynamic keynote and guest speakers, workshop presenters, and roundtable panelists to share their expertise with us. We are confident that you will be inspired during this annual gathering.

We appreciate all that you have provided to the STEP and CSTEP students and are delighted that you are participating in this opportunity to support each other and our programs as we embark on new horizons. It is our hope that you enjoy the conference and embrace new ideas during our time together. Thank you for attending.

Sincerely,

The 2021 APACS Conference Co-Chairs:

Risa Stein Farmingdale State College Shanna Crump-Owens SUNY Buffalo

Kristin Dade

Cornell University

## 2021 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

## **Conference Committee Co-Chairs**



**Risa Stein**Farmingdale State College



**Shanna Crump-Owens**University at Buffalo



Kristin Dade Cornell University

## **Conference Committee Members**



Matthew G. DiGiovanni Nassau Community College



Renee Mapp University at Buffalo



Melanie M. Martinez
CUNY School of Labor & Urban Studies



Parisa L. Saghati Farmingdale State College



**Gabrielle Christina Smith** Cornell University



**Kenya Townsend** Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



**Tyana Velazquez-Smith** St. John Fisher College

## **The Committee Especially Thanks**



JR Beckford
Binghamton University



**Randell Keiler** Medgar Evers College



**Edgardo Sanabria-Valentin**John Jay College of Criminal Justice

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

#### Dr. David Stovall

"Moment or Movement?: Retooling Our Work Beyond Crisis and Towards Justice for the Unserved"

Wednesday, June 9 at 10:00 AM



David Stovall, Ph.D. is Professor of Black Studies and Criminology, Law & Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). His scholarship investigates three areas 1) Critical Race Theory, 2) the relationship between housing and education, and 3) the intersection of race, place and school. In the attempt to bring theory to action, he works with community organizations and schools to address issues of equity, justice and abolishing the school/prison nexus. His work led him to become a member of the design team for the Greater Lawndale/Little Village School for Social Justice (SOJO), which

opened in the Fall of 2005. Furthering his work with communities, students, and teachers, his work manifests itself in his involvement with the Peoples Education Movement, a collection of classroom teachers, community members, students and university professors in Chicago, Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area who engage in collaborative community projects centered in creating relevant curriculum. In addition to his duties and responsibilities as a professor at UIC, he also served as a volunteer social studies teacher at the Greater Lawndale/Little Village School for Social Justice from 2005-2018.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

#### Dr. Terrell Strayhorn

"Key Insights from Sense of Belonging Research for Equity & Success in STEM & Beyond"

Thursday, June 10 at 10:00 AM



Dr. Terrell Strayhorn is Professor and Founder/CEO of Do Good Work Educational Consulting LLC. Most recently, he was on the faculty at The Ohio State University, where he also served as Director of the Center for Higher Education Enterprise (CHEE) and Founding Director of the Center for IDEAS within the College of Education and Human Ecology. An internationally-recognized student success scholar, highly acclaimed public speaker, and award-winning writer, Strayhorn is author of 10 books and over 200 book chapters and journal articles and other scholarly publications. He has given hundreds of invited keynotes and lectures at more

than 500 universities and conferences across the globe. Dr. Strayhorn maintains an active and highly visible research agenda focusing on major policy issues in education: student access and achievement; issues of race, equity and diversity; impact of college on students, and student learning and development. His most popular book, College Students' Sense of Belonging: A Key to Educational Success, has won a book award and sold record copies nationally. Known for using the hashtag #DoGoodWork on social media, Strayhorn was named one of the country's top diversity scholars by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education in 2011, one of Business First's "Top 40 under 40," one of the "Top 20 to Know in Education," and became the youngest full professor in Ohio State's history in 2014. He has been quoted in major news outlets including the Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside HigherEd, Huffington Post, and newspapers across the nation. Prior to Ohio State, Strayhorn was Special Assistant to the Provost at the University of Tennessee Knoxville and Research Associate at the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) in Washington, DC. Strayhorn received a bachelor's degree (BA) from the University of Virginia (UVA), a masters degree (MEd) in educational policy from the Curry School of Education at UVA, and doctorate (PhD) in higher education from Virginia Tech. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated and a native of Virginia Beach, Virginia. Dr. Strayhorn is the 2021 recipient of the APACS Dr. David Ferguson Educational Visionary Award.

## WORKSHOP PRESENTER

# **Dr. Nia Nunn**"Radical Vulnerability Part III"

Friday, June 11 at 10:00 AM



Doctor Nia is a legend in her hometown community. She is a champion and protector for the Southside Community Center (started in 1934), which works to affirm, empower, and foster the development of self-pride among the African American citizens of the greater Ithaca area in upstate NY. She is also the director of programs designed to empower and uplift the voices of young Black women and girls, a mother to 3 boys, and an artist, yogi, and embodier of radiance, empowerment, and permission. Her work is rooted in the African American oral

tradition-story-sharing, poetics, self-expression, and soulfulness—to create spaces that allow participants to get in touch with their own stories, heal from childhood traumas, and experience firsthand the power of collectivism. Her spaces are inclusive, expansive, and contain the right kind of alchemy of intensity and grace that challenges and invites people to become even more anti-racist, even more pro-Black, even more rooted in empathy and compassion, even freer in self-expression, and even more connected to others, especially across difference.

#### Dr. Shirley Malcom

"When Our Students Are Ready for College, Will College Be Ready for Them?"

Wednesday, June 9 at 11:30 AM



Doctor Shirley Malcom is senior advisor and director of SEA Change at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). In her more than 40-year tenure at the Association she has worked to improve the quality and increase access to education and careers in STEM as well as to enhance public science literacy. Dr. Malcom is a trustee of Caltech and regent of Morgan State University. She is a former member of the National Science Board, the policymaking body of the U.S. National Science Foundation, and served on President Clinton's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology. Malcom, a native of

Birmingham, Alabama, received her PhD in ecology from the Pennsylvania State University, masters in zoology from UCLA, and bachelor's with distinction in zoology from the University of Washington. In addition, she holds 17 honorary degrees. Malcom is a former high school science teacher and university faculty member. She serves on the boards of the Heinz Endowments, Public Agenda, National Math-Science Initiative and Digital Promise Global. In 2003, Dr. Malcom received the Public Welfare Medal of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the highest award given by the Academy.

## Dr. Antar Tichavakunda

"Is STEM Interest Enough? Lessons from a Year with Black Engineering Majors"

Wednesday, June 9 at 1:30 PM



Doctor Antar A. Tichavakunda is an assistant professor in the School of Education at the University of Cincinnati. He received his Ph.D. in Urban Education Policy from the University of Southern California. Born and raised in Washington, DC, Tichavakunda is a product of DC Public School and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies from Brown University. Prior to his doctoral studies, Tichavakunda worked as an 11th grade English teacher in DC Public Schools. Using qualitative inquiry, Tichavakunda has engaged in research on college readiness, Black students' experiences at predominantly White institutions, and more broadly

the sociology of race and higher education. His published work can be found in journals such as The Review of Higher Education, Urban Education, and Educational Studies. His first book, Black Campus Life, which is under contract with SUNY Press, will be released in November 2021. Tichavakunda enjoys military pressing, incline bench pressing, and avoiding leg-day at all costs.

## **Rachel Morrison**Self-Care and Wellness

Thursday, June 10 at 1:30 PM



Rachel S. Morrison is Owner of The Power In We, Life Coach, Consultant, and Individual and Family Private Practice. Ms. Morrison specializes in Mental Health and Wellness, Trauma, Homicide, Grief and loss, Anger Management, and Self-Empowerment. She is co-CEO of Renewed Me, an organization that focuses on self-empowerment, motivation and guiding others toward self-healing. Ms. Morrison has extensive experience working with At-risk youth, Individual and Intensive Family Therapy, Suicide and Homicide support, and Trauma. Ms. Morrison has facilitated workshops for the APACS 2019 conference in Albany, NY, at the Annual STEP

Conference in Albany 2016, at the University at Buffalo Biomedical STEP Program, as well as University at Buffalo Upward Bound Program. Ms. Morrison has facilitated conferences and symposiums on topics including Mental Health Wellness, Cultural Diversity, Building Communication Skills, Career Evaluation, and more. Prior to the pandemic, she co-facilitated Grief and Mental Wellness sessions in conjunction with Ephesus Ministries. She extended these sessions to various churches throughout the Western New York (WNY) region. During the pandemic, having switched to a virtual platform, she has served as guest speaker at the AME Women's Missionary Society annual conferences on both local and national levels through her Mental Health and Wellness Ministry and The Power In We. Rachel has experience in higher education as an Adjunct Professor at Medaille College instructing graduate level students on Cultural Diversity and Mental Health Counseling. She has served on the panel as a judge for the WNY region Boys and Girls Club of the Year Scholarship Program, served on the Board of The PEACE Organization, served on the Board for Homeless Youth, has helped to develop community initiatives to serve the Homeless Population, and Homicide Support Initiatives. Ms. Morrison has worked tirelessly to help others work on their life skills and coping mechanisms to overcome life's barriers.

#### Dr. Yaihara Fortis Santiago

"Supporting and Developing Latinx Students & Women for Entry into Biomedical Fields"

Friday, June 11 at 1:00 PM



Doctor Fortis Santiago holds a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Puerto Rico in Río Piedras and a PhD in Neuroscience from Brandeis University. Upon graduating from her PhD, she joined the National Science Foundation as an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow. During her time in the NSF's International Office, she worked on workforce development programs that supported skill development of early career scientists and international collaborations in the Americas. At the culmination of her fellowship, she joined the New York Academy of Sciences, where she led the workforce development portfolio for

early career scientists in the Tri-State area, and where she created the first leadership program for STEM graduate students: The Science Alliance Leadership Training. Currently she is the Associate Director for Postdoctoral Affairs and Trainee Diversity Initiatives at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. In this dual role, she leads activities related to the mission of the Scientific Education and Training branch of MSK, identifies mentors to facilitate growth in research and leadership areas, serves as an advocate for the postdocs, and liaise with the MSK leadership on topics related to trainees; she also spearheads the implementation of strategic goals on recruitment, retention, and training of traditionally disadvantaged and minoritized scientists at the undergraduate (through our summer programs), graduate and postdoctoral stages. She is a doctoral scholar of the Leadership Alliance, an alumna of the Society for Advancing Chicano/Hispanic and Native Americans in Science's leadership programs, and recently completed the 92Y Women inPower program. Hence, her experience as a Latina scientist in multiple enterprises gives her a unique perspective on developing scientists for the workforce needs of the future at the intersection of science, policy, inclusion, communication and leadership.

## ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

## **Enhancing Student Retention and Engagement**

Ray Hage

STEP Program Advisor | Cornell University

Lorena Harris

CSTEP & LSAMP Director | SUNY Schenectady County Community College

Martha Giraldo-Riordan

STEP Assistant Director | Adelphi University

Millicent Roth

CSTEP Director | City College

## **Creative Budgeting**

**Barbara Jones-Jones** 

STEP & CSTEP Director | Mercy College

**Lucas Prime** 

STEP Coordinator | Fulton-Montgomery Community College

**Kurt Sarsfield** 

STEP Director | Cornell University

**Christopher Williams** 

STEP Associate Director | New York Institute of Technology, Manhattan

## **Leveraging Campus & Community Connections**

John Ossowski

CSTEP Director | Utica College

Darshini Roopnarine

STEP & CSTEP Director | LeMoyne College

Anna Rosenboym

STEP Director | Kingsborough Community College

**Diane Williams** 

STEP Director | NY Institute of Technology

## **2021 APACS AWARDS**

#### Dr. David Ferguson Educational Visionary Award



Dr. David Ferguson was a Distinguished Service Professor of Technology and Society and Applied Mathematics and Statistics at Stony Brook University. Previously, he was chair of the Department of Technology and Society. His research and teaching were intertwined and focus on issues of Quantitative reasoning; Problem solving; Use and assessment of educational technologies; Technology in mathematics, science and engineering education; and Decision Making.

#### The 2021 Awardee is:

**Dr. Terrell Strayhorn,** Professor and CEO of Do Good Work Educational Consulting LLC

## Dr. John Staley Award for Outstanding Service



Dr. John Staley served as Assistant Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Associate Vice President for Public Service and Urban Affairs, and Headmaster of the Cora P. Maloney College, among other professional responsibilities, at the University at Buffalo until his retirement in 2008. He co-chaired the President's Task Force on the Status of UB Women, which helped establish the Institute for Research and Education on Women and Gender, and a North Campus site for the UB Child Care Center. Dr. Staley was a tireless advocate for policies that addressed the inequalities of underrepresented students in higher ed, as well as improving women's salary disparities through career advancement.

#### The 2021 Awardees are:

- JR Beckford, Project Assistant for LSAMP, STEP & Upward Bound Math & Science at Binghamton University
- **Dr. Nancy Campos,** Director of CSTEP at SUNY New Paltz
- Patricia Cella, Assistant Director STEP at SUNY Farmingdale State College
- Jessica Doeman, Director of CSTEP at CUNY New York City College of Technology
- Randell Keiler, Assistant Director of STEP at CUNY Medgar Evers College
- Dr. Jean Leandre, Director of Student Engagement & Leadership at SUNY Mohawk Valley

#### 2021 APACS MILESTONE AWARDS

#### **5+ YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDEES**

**Shirley Barrera**, Program Coordinator at SUNY Old Westbury **JR Beckford**, Project Assistant at SUNY Binghamton **Jermaine Bolton**, STEP Coordinator at Iona College **Andy Burns**, CSTEP Director Of Opportunity Programs at Manhattan College **Patrick Cadet**, Co-Director/Co-PI at SUNY Old Westbury Patricia Cella-Foley, STEP Assistant Director at SUNY Farmingdale State College **Andrew Cotronea**, CSTEP Coordinator at SUNY Polytechnic Institute **Ivonne Cummings**, C/STEP Professional Assistant at Suffolk County Community College **Kristin Dade**, CSTEP Director at Cornell University Lizsaura Gonzalez, C/STEP Program Coordinator at SUNY Stony Brook University **Lorena Harris**, CSTEP Director at SUNY Schenectady County Community College Marvin Hernandez, Coordinator at New York City College Of Technology **Tiffany House**, CSTEP Assistant Director at Fordham University **Alana Kim**, Director at New York City College Of Technology **Meagan Lasky**, Coordinator at University At Albany **Deanna Lothrop**, CSTEP Coordinator at Jefferson Community College **Inocencia Nieves**, Parent Coordinator at Hostos Community College **Morris Pearson**, STEP Director at Mohawk Valley Community College Ryan Ransom, Senior Education Specialist at SUNY Potsdam **Patricia Roccanova**, Associate Director at SUNY Old Westbury **Katherine Rojas**, STEP Program Coordinator at Columbia University **Anna Rozenboym**, STEP Director at Kingsborough Community College Manny Sabillon, STEP Advisor at Mohawk Valley Community College Patricia Samperi, Executive Assistant & Grant Support Specialist at John Jay College Edgardo Sanabria-Valentin, Director at John Jay College Gabriella Sanguineti, CSTEP Program & Outreach Coordinator at John Jay College **Linda Scoville**, CSTEP Senior Academic Counselor at Russell Sage College **Sakir Siddiqui**, C/STEP Project Coordinator at Adelphi University Katie Smith, CSTEP Associate Director at Russell Sage College **Tammy Snell**, Director at SUNY Potsdam Derek Sokolowski, Assistant Coordinator at John Jay College **Heather Storti**, Assistant Director at Rochester Institute Of Technology **Diane Williams**, Program Manager at NYIT College Of Osteopathic Medicine **Christopher Williams**, STEP Associate Director at New York Institute Of Technology **Silvia Wong**, C/STEP Project Coordinator at Adelphi University

#### 10+ YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDEES

Marie-Francesca Berrouet, Director at Queensborough Community College
Reginald Dorcely, C/STEP Research Coordinator at Hostos Community College
Dennis Gibbons, STEP Director at Mohawk Valley Community College
Martha Giraldo Riordan, Assistant Director at Adelphi University
Lana James, Program Coordinator at Buffalo State College
Randell Keiler, Assistant Director at Medgar Evers College
Ricardo King, Senior Outreach Specialist at Rochester Institute of Technology
Renee Mapp, Senior Education Specialist/Coordinator at University at Buffalo
Sabita Nayak, Director at Adelphi University
Anna Ortega Chavolla, STEP Director at New York University
Marsha Sawyer, CSTEP Director at St. Lawrence University
Lawanda Seaman, Administrative Assistant at Medgar Evers College
Melissa Solis, STEP Director Iona College
Risa Stein, C/STEP Director, SUNY Farmingdale State College

#### 15+ YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDEES

Renaldo Alba, Associate Director at Fordham University
Norma Archer, Assistant Director at City College Of New York
Monique Clark-Ciceron, CSTEP Co Director/PI at SUNY Old Westbury
Felicia Collins, CSTEP Director at Russell Sage College
Diandra Jugmohan, Co-Director at Hostos Community College
Brian Kane, STEP Director at Baruch College
Moise Koffi, Director at Hostos Community College
Fernando Nieto, STEP Program Director at SUNY Old Westbury
Kim Overrocker, C/STEP NYSED Liaison
Darshini Roopnarine, Director at Le Moyne College
Mayra Santiago, Office of Access & Academic Enrichment Director at University at Albany
Cynthia Smith, Director at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Christine Veloso, C/STEP Co-Director at Stony Brook University
Simone Webb, Assistant Director at Baruch College

#### 20+ YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDEES

Robert Bell, Math Instructor at Buffalo State College
Darryl Carter, Program Director at Buffalo State College
Shanna Crump-Owens, Project Director at University Of Buffalo
Tanya Johnson, Science Instructor at Buffalo State College
Joann Santos, C/STEP Director at Monroe Community College
Nkem Stanley-Mbamelu, Associate Director at City College Of New York
Heather West, Counselor at SUNY Potsdam

#### 25+ YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDEES

John Brown, Director
Barbara Jones Jones, Director at Mercy College
Millicent Roth, Director/PI at City College Of New York
Mary Stickney, Director at SUNY Potsdam
Barbara Thompson, Director at SUNY Brockport

#### **30+ YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDEES**

Constance Harper, CSTEP Academic Advisor at the City College Of New York Arlene Jackson, College Assistant Dean/PI at Suffolk County Community College Nilda I. Soto, STEP Director at Albert Einstein College Of Medicine

#### 35+ YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDEES

Michael Molina, C/STEP Director at Fordham University



# APACS Virtual Leadership Training Institute for STEP and CSTEP Students

Saturday, June 26, 2021



# led by DR. DAMON A. WILLIAMS Chief Catalyst, NIXLA

Author of Strategic Diversity Leadership: Activating Change and Transformation In Higher Education Coauthor of The Chief Diversity Officer: Strategy, Structure, and Change Management

The cost to participate in this special student training event is a flat rate of \$250 per program (e.g., STEP - \$250, CSTEP - \$250).

Register at https://forms.gle/SDCMFWxFNXk2ppSM6 by Friday, June 18!

After registering, program directors will receive a customized APACS invoice to process. Once payment is received, a link to the separate sessions will be shared for staff to share with their students.

10:00 - 11:00 am EST

Session A: 7th- 10th Graders

11:30 am - 1:00 pm EST

Session B: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade – College

Zoom Room: 834 8319 6205

**Password: APACS21** 

