

Clewiston D. Challenger, Ph.D., NCC

Montclair State University
College for Community Health
Counseling Department
School Counseling Program

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University Hall, Room 2161
Montclair, NJ 07043

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2017 Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA
Counselor Education and Supervision

*Dissertation: Perception of College Adjustment and Institutional Attachment
Among Student-Athletes of Color at Predominately White Institutions and its
Relation to Academic Motivation*

M.A. 2008 University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT
Educational Psychology, School Counseling focus

B.A. 2003 University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT
Psychology (major), Criminal Justice (minor)

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified School Counselor, (New Jersey)
License ID: 01826866

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ August 2023-present

Assistant Professor (tenure track), School Counseling Program

School of Community Health, Counseling Department

- Teach master's level courses in school counseling and other counseling related courses
- Assist in maintaining CACREP accreditation
- Advise master's students
- Support and advise doctoral students
- Conduct research, scholarship, and grant-seeking work
- Assist in the admissions process of prospective students

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

August 2021-June 2023

Associate Professor of Professional Practice, School Counseling and Counseling Psychology

CACREP Liaison (2021-2022)

Practicum Coordinator

Admissions Co-Coordinator

- Teach master's level courses in school counseling
- Maintain CACREP accreditation
- Coordinator of the school counseling program practicum experience
- Advise master's students
- Conduct research, scholarship, and grant-seeking work
- Assist in the coordination of the admissions process

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

August 2020-August 2021

Assistant Professor In-Residence, Counselor Education (Non-Tenure Track, Teaching Professor)

- Interim School Counseling program coordinator (2020-2021)
- Coordinate CACREP accreditation process, initiate CACREP data collection process
- Attend weekly program coordinator's meetings with department head with program coordinators from other disciplines (i.e., school psychology, special education, cognition departments)
- Teach master's level course in the Counselor Education –School Counseling program
- Teach students counseling theories and counseling skills with multicultural competency
- Undergo scholarly research, writing, and publication
- Seek grants to fund studies
- Practicum Coordinator

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

August 2017-August 2020

Assistant Professor Tenure-Track, Counselor Education

- Teach master's level course in the Counselor Education –School Counseling program
- Teach students counseling theories and counseling skills with multicultural competency

- Undergo scholarly research, writing, and publication
- Seek grants to fund studies
- Practicum Coordinator
- Admissions Coordinator

COURSES TAUGHT

Montclair State University

- COUN 577: Counseling Theories
- COUN 584: Group Counseling Theory and Practice
- COUN 586: Counseling in Schools II
- COUN 588: Counseling Techniques
- COUN 595: Multicultural Counseling and Development

Rutgers University

- 15:297:507:90: Multicultural Issues
- 15:297:501:90: Introduction to Counseling and Interviewing Skills
- 15:297:508:90: Family Systems Development
- 15:297:505:01: Group Counseling Theory and Practice
- 15:297:604:01: Professional Ethics
- 15:297:627:01: School Based Practicum

University of Connecticut

- EPSY 5301: Group Counseling Process
- EPSY 5307: Professional Orientation for School Counselors
- EPSY 5308: Theories and Practice
- EPSY 5315: Advanced Counseling Skills
- EPSY 5316: Cross Cultural Counseling Skills
- EPSY 5317: Fieldwork in School Counseling: Practicum

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- School Adjustment (High School/College)
- Sense of Belonging
- Student-Athletes, Student-Athletes of Color
- Self-Efficacy
- Academic Motivation and Buoyancy
- Boys and Males of Color
- School Attachment
- School Involvement
- Hazing Behavior and Hazing Culture
- Mental Health in Student-Athletes

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Varsity Football Coach, Defensive Line, Jersey City, NJ St. Peter's Prep	2024-2025
Assistant Head Counselor for Upper Academy Boys, Becket, MA Camp Greylock for Boys	2014-2017
Academic Advisor for Student-Athletes, University Park, PA The Morgan Academic Center for Student Athletes, Penn State University	2014-2017
School Counselor, Grades 6-9, Harlem The Opportunity Charter School, New York City	2012-2013
Upper Academy School Counselor, Grades 7-9, The Bronx The Bronx Lighthouse Charter School, New York City, NY	2010-2012
Personal/Sports Fitness Trainer, Manhattan, NY E3 Sports & Equinox Luxury Fitness Club, New York City, NY	2008-2010
School Counselor Intern, Grades 6-8, Hartford Batchelder Middle School, Connecticut	2007-2008
Student Assistance Center Intern, Grades 9-10, East Hartford East Hartford High School, Connecticut	2006-2007

MANUSCRIPT PUBLICATIONS

Challenger, C., Duquette, K., & DeJesus, J., (2025). Centralizing the counseling, community, academic, and medical supports (CCAMS) in post-pandemic school settings: A leadership role for school counselors. *Journal of School-Based Counseling*.
<https://doi.org/10.25774/jscpe.v7i1.338>

Challenger, C. D., Lombardi, A. R., Duquette, K., Esposito, C., & DeJesus, J. (2024). Strategies to Increase Collaboration Between School Counselors and Transition Specialists: A Multi-Tiered Approach to College and Career Readiness. *Journal of Education*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00220574241309103>

- Lombardi, A. R., Wu, R., Loken, E., Rifenbark, G. G., **Challenger, C.**, Taconet, A., Langdon, S., & Shogren, K. (2023). Revisiting Economic Hardship in a National Sample of Adolescents with and Without Disabilities: A Conceptual Replication. *Exceptional Children*, 90(1), 11-26. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00144029221141044>
- Duquette, K., **Challenger, C. D.**, & Eng, T. (2023). The Adolescent Cultural, Racial, and Ethnic Support (ACRES) Model: A Conceptual Framework for Guiding Adolescent Students of Color in Their Cultural, Racial, and Ethnic Identity Development. *Professional School Counseling*, 27(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/2156759X231161509>
- Lombardi, A. R., Rifenbark, G. G., Hicks, T. A., Taconet, A., & Challenger, C. (2022). College and career readiness support for youth with and without disabilities based on the National Longitudinal Transition Study 2012. *Exceptional Children*, 89, 5-21. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00144029221088940>
- Lombardi, A., Wu, R., Loken, E., Rifenbark, G., **Challenger, C.**, Taconet, A. V., ... Shogren, K. (2022, June 17). *Revisiting Economic Hardship in a National Sample of Adolescents with and without Disabilities: A Conceptual Replication*. <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/df65g>
- Challenger, C. D.**, Duquette, K., & Mason, I., (2022). School Counseling for College and Career Readiness Using Existential Theory model: A humanistic approach to counseling students of color in urban school settings. *The Journal of Humanistic Counseling*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/johc.12184>
- Challenger, C. D.**, & Duquette, K. (2021). College Transition Program for Student-Athletes (CTPSA): A Psychoeducational Group for Boys of Color. *Professional School Counseling*, 25. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2156759X211040038>
- Challenger, C. D.**, Duquette, K., & Pascascio, D. (2020). “Black Boys: Invisible to Visible”: A Psychoeducational Group Fostering Self-Efficacy, Empowerment, and Sense of Belonging for African American Boys. *The Journal for Specialists in Group Work*, 45(3), 257-271. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01933922.2020.1797444>
- O’Neil, J. M., **Challenger, C.**, Renzulli, S., Crapser, B., & Webster, E. (2013). The boy’s forum: An evaluation of a brief intervention to empower middle-school urban boys. *The Journal of Men’s Studies*, 21, 191-205. <https://doi.org/10.3149/jms.2102.191>

NEWSPAPER

- Challenger. C.**, (2020, December 17). College financial aid application down 16% this year. *The CT Mirror.org*. <https://ctmirror.org/2020/12/11/college-financial-aid-applications-down-16-this-school-year/>
- Challenger. C.**, (2018, October 9). UConn athletic department makes strides in mental health care; participating in mental health awareness week, *Hartford Courant*.

MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED

Challenger, C., Geckler, J., Duquette, K., Colon, L., & Cantrell, M. (2025, revise and resubmit). The SAFE Model: A conceptual model for school counselors who work with queer-identifying students. *Professional School Counselor*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

McCready, A., Dahl, L., & **Challenger, C.** (2025, in revision). Development and Validation of the College Student Organization New Member Hazing Experiences Scale. Measurement and Evaluation in Counseling and Development.

Challenger, C., Duquette, K., (2026, Under Review). The ACCESS Model: A college readiness approach for school counselors and college advisors who work with undocumented students in the college-going process. Submitted to *The Professional School Counselor*.

BOOK CHAPTERS IN PROGRESS

Challenger, C., Edwards, C., and Prince, S. (2025, In progress). *A call to heal: Motivating African American students to embrace counseling as a profession* (Chapter 4)

BOOK CHAPTERS

Vereen, L., **Challenger, C.,** Hill, N. (2020). I did my part. Textbook chapter in *Critical incidents in counselor education: Teaching, supervision, research, and leadership and advocacy*.

Challenger, C., Eng, T. (2020). Chapter 3: Challenges mostly unique to African Americans. Textbook chapter in *African Americans and mental health: Practical and strategic solutions to barriers, needs, and challenges*. Springer Nature. Switzerland

OPINION EDITORIAL

Challenger, C. (2019, October 23). Teaching soft skills or college readiness. *Education Week*, 20.

WEBINARS

- Challenger, C.**, (2024, March 15). *Black MENtorship in Counseling*. Counselors for Social Justice. Division of the American Counseling Association. <https://youtu.be/-LEq2jDqWXE?feature=shared>
- Lombardi, A., & **Challenger, C.**, (2023, December). *School counselor and special educator partnerships: improving college and career readiness for youth With Disabilities*. Radford University/Virginia Tech professional development webinar for postsecondary transition specialists (school counselors and transition coordinators-SPED). Virginia Training & Technical Assistance Center for Professional Development. Virginia
- Lombardi, A., & **Challenger, C.**, (2023, March 9). *School Counselor and Transition Specialist Partnerships to Support Youth*. 2023 National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: The Collaborative (NTACT: C). Portland State University
- Challenger, C.**, & Lombardi, A., (2022, July 26). *2022 ASCA Webinar: College and Career Support for Students with Disabilities*. American School Counselor Association (ASCA)
- Challenger, C.**, Brenick, A. (2021). *Making Voices Heard: Diversity, disadvantage, and discrimination in educational settings*. <https://chhd.uconn.edu/making-voices-heard/>

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

NATIONAL

- Challenger, C.**, Duquette, K., Hogan, J., Geckler, J., Colon, L., & Cantrell, M., (2026, March 13). *The SAFE Model: A Conceptual Model for School Counselors Working with Queer-Identifying Students Exploring their Identify Development*. Evidence-Based School Counseling Conference (EBSCC), Online
- Challenger, C.**, Geckler, J., Duquette, K., Colon, L., Cantrell, M., & Hogan, J. (2025, July 14). *The Safe Model: School Counselors Supporting Queer/LGBTQIA+ Youth Identity Development*. Innovative Schools Summit, Nashville, TN
- Williams, D., and **Challenger, C.**, (2025, January 30). *Navigating the Transition: Building Resilience and Connection for First-Year Student Athletes*. American College Counseling Association (ACCA) Conference, New Orleans, LA
- Esposito, C., Lombardi, A., **Challenger, C.** (2023, October 20). *School Counselor and Transition Specialist Partnerships to Support Youth*. Annual International Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) Conference. Reno, NV

Lombardi, A., **Challenger, C.**, (2023, March 03). *School Counselor and Transition Specialist Partnerships to Support Youth*. Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference. Louisville, KY

Lombardi, A., **Challenger, C.**, Taconet, A., & Langdon, S. (2022, November 02). *Exploring Relationships between College and Career Readiness, Self-Determination, and Transition Planning among Adolescents with and without Disabilities*. Annual International Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) Conference. Little Rock, AR

Challenger, C. (2020, March 20). *Easing the transition to college for boys of color who are student-athletes: A program and group design*. Evidence Based School Counseling Conference. University of Central Florida, Boca Raton, FL

Challenger, C. (2017, March 18). *The culturally competent career counselor: effective assessment strategies and skill development for work with minority populations*. American Counseling Association (ACA), San Francisco, CA

Challenger, C. (2015, October 11). *Counseling the minority athlete: Strategies for a successful transition from high school to college*. Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES), Philadelphia, PA.

REGIONAL

Challenger, C., Geckler, J., Duquette, K., Colon, L., Cantrell, M., & Hogan, L. (2025, July 8). *The Safe Model: School Counselors Supporting Queer/LGBTQIA+ Youth Identity Development*. 2025 UConn Training Institutes at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, National Harbor, MD

Challenger, C., Duquette, K., Lombardi, A., Esposito, C., DeJesus, J. (2025, April 17). *School Counselors Collaborating with Transition Specialists: A Multi-tiered Approach to College and Career Readiness for Students with Disabilities*. Connecticut Career Counseling Development Association (CCCCA), UConn virtual conference, Storrs, CT

Challenger, C., Duquette, K., Geckler, J., Colon, L., & Cantrell, M. (2025, April 7). *The Safe Model: School Counselors Supporting Queer/LGBTQIA+ Youth Identity Development*. Massachusetts School Counselor Conference (MASCA). Framingham, MA

Challenger, C., Lombardi, A., & Esposito, C. (2023, November). *School counselors and transition coordinators teaming up: Collaborative CCR planning for students with disabilities*. New York State School Counselor Association (NYSSCA) Conference. Albany, NY

Challenger, C., & Lombardi, A., (2022, April 5). *Exploring Relationships between College and Career Readiness, Self-Determination, and Transition Planning among Adolescents with and without Disabilities*. Connecticut School Counselors Association (CSCA), Hartford CT

Challenger, C., Cooper, J., Dougherty, S., & Newton, A. (2020, March 27). *A Mixed Methods Exploratory Study of American Athletic Conference (AAC) Student-Athletes' Adjustment to College, Sense of Belonging, and Mental Health*. American Athletic Conference Symposium. University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Challenger, C. (2018, April 12). *Is this school a fit? The importance of college adjustment, institutional attachment, self-efficacy, and academic buoyancy in young men of color and how it influences their motivation towards academics and degree attainment*. Men of Color Summit. Clemson University, Greenville, SC

Challenger, C. (2019, November 7). *Thriving or surviving: The importance of meeting our client's non-cognitive needs so they can find their sense of meaning and purpose*. Illinois Counselor Association 71st Conference. Skokie, IL

Carnevale, K. & **Challenger, C.** (2016, March). *Career counseling black college students at predominantly white institutions*. Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education (PBCOHE), Harrisburg, PA

Carnevale, K. & **Challenger, C.** (2016, February). *Predominantly white institutions and career counseling with black college students*. University of Maryland, Maryland Student Affairs Conference (MSAC), College Park, MD

Carnevale, K. & **Challenger, C.** (2015, December). *Mistrust and misunderstanding: Career counseling with black college students at predominantly white institutions*. Mid-Atlantic Career Counseling Association (MACCA), Lancaster, PA

Carnevale, K. & **Challenger, C.** (2015, November). *Mistrust and misunderstanding: Career counseling with black college students at predominantly white institutions*. Pennsylvania Counselor Association (PCA), State College, PA

Challenger, C. (2015, March). *Black gladiator: Strategies to successfully transition the male athlete from high school into college*. The Pennsylvania Black Conference of Higher Education (PBCOHE), Harrisburg, PA.

Challenger, C., & Clarke, E. S. (2014, November). *Counseling the minority athlete: Strategies for a successful transition from high school to college*. Pennsylvania Counselors Association (PCA) Conference, State College, PA.

Challenger, C., & Clarke, E. S. (2014, November). *Counseling the minority athlete: Strategies for a successful transition from high school to college*. Michigan School Counselors

Association (NSCA) Conference, All Michigan Counselors Conference (AMCC), Pontiac, MI.

Challenger, C., & Clarke, E. S. (2014, November). *Counseling the minority athlete: Strategies for a successful transition from high school to college*. New York State School Counselors Association (NYSSCA) Conference, Albany, NY.

Challenger, C., & Clarke, E. S. (2014, October). *Counseling the minority athlete: Strategies for a successful transition from high school to college*. North Central Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (NCACES) Conference, St. Louis, MO.

Challenger, C., & Clarke, E. S. (2014, October—Accepted). *Counseling the minority athlete: Strategies for a successful transition from high school to college*. Sponsored by Florida School Counselors Association (FSCA) Conference, Orlando, FL.

Challenger, C., & Clarke, E. S. (2014, April). *Counseling the minority athlete: Strategies for a successful transition from high school to college*. Sponsored by Chi Sigma Iota (Penn State Chapter) Pennsylvania Statewide Conference, University Park, PA.

STATE

Challenger, C., Duquette, K., & DeJesus, J. (2025, April 17). *School Counselors and Special Educator Partnerships: Improving College and Career Readiness for Youth with Disabilities*. Connecticut Career Counseling and Development Association (CCCCA) Conference. (Virtual)

Challenger, C., Geckler, J., Duquette, K., Colon, L., Cantrell, M., & Hogan, J. (2025, April 11). *The Safe Model: School Counselors Supporting Queer/LGBTQIA+ Youth Identity Development*. New Jersey School Counselor Association (NJSCA) Spring Conference at Kean University, Union, NJ

Challenger, C., & Cantrell, M. (2025, January 10). *The Safe Model: School Counselors Supporting Queer/LGBTQIA+ Youth Identity Development*. 2025 Winter Inclusion Leadership Conference by the New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education. Galloway, NJ

Challenger, C., Esposito, C., & Lombardi, A. (2024, January). *School Counselors Collaborating with Transition Specialists: A Multi-tiered Approach to College and Career Readiness for Students with Disabilities*. Frist Annual New Jersey School Counselor Association Winter Conference at Rowan University. Glassboro, NJ

KEYNOTE SPEAKERSHIP

Challenger, C. (2019, November 7). *Letting the light back in: Connecting personal development to effective client care*. Illinois Counselor Association 71st Conference. Skokie, IL

JOURNAL REVIEW BOARD

- Journal of Education, Reviewer (2025-present)
- The Professional School Counselor, Reviewer (2025-present)
- The Journal of Men's Studies, Reviewer, (2025-present)
- Urban Education Journal, Reviewer (2025-present)

INVITED TALKS

REGIONAL

Challenger, C. (2025, December 6). *Dissertating while Black*. Dissertating While Black Pop-Up Event. Harlem, New York City

Challenger, C. (2019, May 1). *Coaching the millennial student-athlete workshop: Tips, strategies, and techniques*. UConn Men's Soccer Coaching Staff. University of Connecticut. Storrs, CT

Challenger, C. (July, 2016). *Broadening our perspectives for understanding and respecting the needs of african american/black students*. New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), Department of School Counseling, New York City, NY

Challenger, C. (June, 2016). *The culturally competent career counselor: effective assessment strategies and skill development for work with minority populations*. Middle Atlantic Career Counseling Association (MACCA), Lancaster, PA

Challenger, C. (July, 2017). *Broadening our perspectives for understanding and respecting the needs of african american/black students*. New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), Department of School Counseling, New York City, NY

Challenger, C. (July, 2015). *Broadening our perspectives for understanding and respecting the needs of african american/black students*. New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), Department of School Counseling, New York City, NY.

Challenger, C. (June, 2015—Accepted). *Strategies to successfully transition the male athlete from high school into college*. American School Counselor Association (ASCA), Phoenix, AZ.

Challenger, C. (April, 2015—Accepted). *Strategies to successfully transition the male athlete from high school into college*. The University of Akron, Black Male Summit, Akron, OH.

Challenger, C. (June, 2013). *Broadening our perspectives for understanding and respecting the needs of african american/black students*. Sponsored by New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), Department of School Counseling, New York City, NY.

Challenger, C. (June, 2012). *Broadening our perspectives for understanding and respecting the needs of african american/black students*. Sponsored by New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), Department of School Counseling, New York City, NY.

STATE

Challenger, C. (2018, July 9). *BMT: Breathe. move. talk, mindfulness meditation*. Young Scholars Senior Summit Program, Jack Kent Cook Grant, Storrs, CT

Challenger, C. (2018, February 20). *Retaining students of color: How college adjustment, self-efficacy, buoyancy, and institutional attachment play important roles in student academic motivation and degree commitment*. African American Faculty and Staff Organization, Storrs, CT

Challenger, C. (2017, November 1). *The importance of college adjustment and institutional attachment in the retention of millennial students*. Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CT

CAMPUS

Challenger, C. (2020, August 27). *“Will I fit in?”*. Student Support Services GRIT Retreat. University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Challenger, C. (2020, February 22). *College to Career Transition, “What’s Next?”: Navigating the job hunt process and understanding your role as a black male in the workplace*. Black Male Enterprise Summit. University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Challenger, C. (2019, November 20). *The Un-Masking: Discussion on masculinity, mental health, & sense of belonging*. El Camino Club. Puerto Rican and Latin American Cultural Center. University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

PODCAST

Wilkinson, B. (Producer, Host). (2025, February 20). [The Humanistic Counselor](https://thehumanisticcounselor.podbean.com/). Interview based off my 2023 article in the Journal of Humanistic Counseling (JHC), *TheS3CRET Model: School counseling for college and career readiness using Existential Theory model: A humanistic approach to counseling students of color in urban school settings* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <https://thehumanisticcounselor.podbean.com/>

Singleton II, P., & Lester III, L. (Producers/ Hosts). (2020, March 1). Thoughts from a counselor. Episode 5: Grief, love and reflection: How do we cope with losing someone [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <https://open.spotify.com/episode/35II4BtVVx3UHZpGdWIEWs?si=Hx0ymRYiQxuwK-w5qt39Bg>

Challenger, C (Producer, Host). (2020). The Submarine Way presents *Frankly Speaking with Curtis Challenger*. Episode 4.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Montclair State University

University level

- University Senate, Senator for the College for Community Health (CCHL) (2025-present)
 - University Senate, Academic Affairs Council (2025-present)
- Human Flourishing Committee (Summer 2024)

College (CCHL) level

- College for Community Health Curricular Actions and Resources, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (2024-present)
- Coordinator of Course Coordinators (2023-2024)

Department level

- CACREP Co-Liaison, Counseling Department, CCHL (2025-present)
- Online Master's Program Task Force, CCHL Counseling Department (2025-present)
- Community Engagement Committee (Counseling Department; 2024-present)

Rutgers University

- Rules of Procedure Committee (2023)
- GSE Resources Committee (2021-2023)

University of Connecticut

- University Senate Diversity Committee (2020-2021)
- Social and Behavioral Workgroup Committee (UConn COVID response and re-opening subcommittee)- (Summer 2020)
- Neag School of Education Assessment Committee- (2018-2019)

DOCTORAL ADVISORY ROLE

Rutgers University

Committee member-

- Kyra Clemmons, doctoral candidate in the Design for Learning Environments (EdD; DLE) program (2021-2022)
- Kevin Ewell, doctoral candidate in the Education, Culture and Society (EdD; ECS) program (2021-2022)

University of Connecticut

Dissertation Committee Chair

- Paul Singleton II; Current PhD student in Educational Psychology with a focus in Counselor Education (Chair 2018-2021) (Graduated 2023)
 - Dissertation title: *A Qualitative Approach to a Psychoeducational Group on College and Career Readiness for African American Males*

Dissertation Committee Member

- Christopher Esposito, UConn Special Education PhD Candidate (2024-present)
- Paul Singleton, II (graduated May 2023)
- Charles McCauly (graduated May 2021)
- Kimberly Traverso (2017-2021)
- Bobbi-Jo Whaten (2017-2021)
- Polly Marston, (graduated December 2019)
 - Dissertation title: *The Experience of Gender Role Conflict in School Shooters: A Qualitative Study*
- Emmanuel Ihemedu (graduated May 2018)

- Dissertation title: *Parenting Style, Adolescent Suicidal Behavior and Self-disclosure in a Sample of Saint Lucian Adolescents*

SERVICE

Service to College

- Montclair State University, Intercollegiate Athletics Department, “*Hawks Helping Hawks*” (3H) Student-Athlete Transition and Support Group, Montclair, NJ (September 2025-present)
 - A talk and support group for student-athletes to voluntarily attend to discuss what it means to be a student, athlete, friend, and other intersecting identities.
 - The 3H group offers a space for these individuals to process their athletic, academic, and personal-social lives and to fellowship with other student-athletes from other sports.
 - The aims of this group is to foster community, student adjustment to college life, make new friends, support student mental health, and offer academic and athletic support for all student-athletes.
 - The 3H program is supported and endorsed by the Athletic Director and the Dean of Student Affairs.

Service to the Community

- Montclair State University, College for Community Health (CCHL) High School Community Outreach Event, *Lacordaire Academy*, Montclair, NJ (March 31, 2025)
 - Presentation to 12 grade students on “What is a School Counselor and What Do They Do?” along with a discussion on college and career readiness and the postsecondary transition
- Assistant Football Coach, Varsity Football Team, *St. Peter’s Prep School*, Jersey City, NJ (2024-present)
- Collaboration with and consultation for the *Boys and Girls Club* of Clifton, NJ (2024-present)

Mentorship

- **Micheal Packer, MA**, School Counselor at Henry C. Beck Middle School, Cherry Hill, NJ
- **Daniel Coco, MA**, Supervisor of School Counseling Services at Springfield Public Schools, Springfield, NJ
- **Davin Williams, MA, LPC**, Assistant Counselor, Counseling and Student Development at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), New Britain, CT
- **William Loop, MA**, School Counselor, Plainfield School District, Plainfield, NJ
- **Joanna DeJesus**, School Counselor (Meriden Public Schools, Platt High School, Meriden, CT) and Doctoral Student (Central Connecticut State University, 2024-present),

Montclair State University

- Human Flourishing Course Development Committee (June 2024)
- African American Caucus (2023-present)
- African American Studies Advisory Board (2023-present)

Rutgers University

- GSE Educational Psychology Department Faculty Union Representative (October 2022-2023)
- GSE Educational Psychology, NTT-Faculty Union Representative (April 2022-October 2022)
- Faculty Mentor, Faculty Mentoring Program for Student Athletes (2022-present)

University of Connecticut

- UConn Mentor for First-Gen Underrepresented PhD students (August 2020-present)
- Guest Speaker for Westfield State University counseling program, (2020, July 20). Presentation titled, "*Counseling the Culturally Diverse*". Presentation made to counseling master's students at Westfield State University in Westfield, MA
- Assistant football coach, New Britain High School, New Britain, CT (2017-present), Coach the defensive line for the varsity football program. Coordinate the college readiness and postsecondary planning for the boys/players
- Student Support Services *GRIT Retreat* (2020, August 27), presentation to students of color and transfer students on college adjustment and college involvement titled "*Will I fit in?*" University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
- Career Day (2020, February 14). Unity Prep School, Williamsburg, Brooklyn NYC
- Career Day (March 2019). East Hartford Middle School, grades 7 & 8, East Hartford, CT
- Mentor (2018-2019). HuskyLeads, Student Development Mentorship Program. Student Athlete Success Program (SASP). UConn Athletic Department, Storrs, CT

Community Service

- Pony Box Dance Theatre, Advisory Board Member, (2025-present)
- Unity Preparatory Charter School of Brooklyn, Advisory Committee Member (2024-present)
- Unity Preparatory Charter School of Brooklyn, Career Fair (2022, March), Guest speaker

FACULTY AFFILIATIONS

University of Connecticut

- Center for the Study of Culture, Health, and Human Development (CHHD)—Faculty Affiliate (since 2020)

- Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy (InCHIP)- Faculty Affiliate (since 2017)
- UConn Collaboratory on School and Child Health (CSCH)—Faculty Affiliate (2018-present)

REVIEW AND EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

- The Professional School Counselor (PSC), Review Board, (2025-present)
- Journal of Education (JoE), Review Board (2024-present)
- **Guest Reviewer:** The Journal of Men's Studies (2025-present); Psychology of Men and Masculinities (2017)

GRANTS AWARDED

- (2024). Athletic Trainers Society of New Jersey (ATSNJ) (\$3,000). Correlation Between Mental Health and Rehabilitation Adherence in Adolescent Athletes. Principal Investigator, Luis Torres (Assistant Professor, Department of Exercise Science and Physical Education, Montclair State University), with Co-Principal Investigators, Fredrick Gardin (Associate Professor, Department of Exercise Science and Physical Education, Montclair State University), Marsha-Grant Ford (Associate Professor, Department of Exercise Science and Physical Education, Montclair State University), **Clewiston Challenger** (Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling Montclair State University), and Christopher Lastella (Athletic Trainer, Department of Athletics Oratory Preparatory School. (\$2,700) (Awarded).
- (2023). University of Connecticut, College of Language Arts and Sciences, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives Grant (10,000). *Educators' Perceptions of Challenges and Competence in Working with Students of Color: A Research Proposal for the UConn CLAS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives*. Principal Investigator, Sara Harkness (Professor of Human Development and Family Studies; HDFS, and the Director of the Center for the Study of Culture, Healthy, and Human Development; CHHD) with Co-Principal Investigators Charles Super (Professor of Human Development and Family Studies and Co-Director of the CHHD), Caroline Mavridis (Assistant Research Professor and Assistant Director of the CHHD), and **Clewiston Challenger** (Assistant Professor of School Counseling, Montclair State University). (\$7,940) (Awarded).
- (2023). National Associate for Campus Activities (NACA) Research Grant (\$2,500). *New Member Hazing Experience Scale (NMHES): Design, Development, and Pilot of a Hazing Scale*. Principal Investigator, Adam McCready (Assistant Professor in Residence, University of Connection, Neag School of Education, Educational Psychology Department, Higher Education and Student Affairs program) along with Co-Principal Investigators **Clewiston Challenger** (Assistant Professor, Montclair State University, College of Community Health, Counseling Department), and Laura Dahl (Research

Professor, The Ohio State University). Grant submission through Dr. Adam McCready at UConn. (\$2,000) (Awarded).

- (2022). Deans Research Incentive Award Grant (DRIA) (\$10,000) in the Neag School of Education at the University of Connecticut. *Student Organization Newcomer Experiences Scale (SONES)*. Principal Investigator, Adam McCready (Assistant Professor in Residence, University of Connecticut, Neag School of Education, Educational Psychology Department, Higher Education and Student Affairs program) along with Co-Principal Investigators **Clewiston Challenger** (Associate Professor of Practice, Rutgers Graduate School of Education, Educational Psychology Department, School Counseling Program), (\$10,000) (Awarded)
- (2021). Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, through GrantR324A210245 (\$300,000). College and Career Readiness Support for Youth with and without Disabilities based on the National Longitudinal Transition Study 2012. Principal investigator, Allison Lombardi (University of Connecticut), with Co-Principal Investigators Graham G. Rifenbark, Ashley Taconet, Eric Loken, Rongxiu Wu, Shannon Langdon from the University of Connecticut, Tyler Hicks and Kerrie Shogren from the University of Kansas, and **Clewiston Challenger** from Rutgers University. (Awarded)
- (2020). University of Connecticut President's Commitment to Community Initiative Award (\$5,000). [*Making voices heard: Diversity, disadvantage, and discrimination in educational settings*](#). Principal Investigator, Sara Harkness with Co-Principal Investigators **Clewiston Challenger**, Alaina Brenick, Charles Super, Caroline Mavridis from UConn, and Saskia van Schaik from the Radboud University in the Netherlands. (Awarded).
- (2019). American Athletic Conference (AAC) Research Grant Program (\$10,000). *A mixed methods exploratory study of American athletic conference (AAC) student-athletes' adjustment to college, sense of belonging, and mental health*. Principal Investigator, **Clewiston Challenger** with Co-Principal Investigators Joseph Cooper (UConn Assistant Professor in Education Leadership, Sports Management), Ajhanai Newton (UConn doctoral student, Sports Management). (Awarded).
- (2019). Deans Research Incentive Award Grant (DRIA) (\$10,000). *Dr. Challenger's Transition to College Program for Student-Athletes (CTCPSA)*. Principal Investigator, **Clewiston Challenger** along with Co-Principal Investigators Joseph Cooper (Assistant Professor in Education Leadership, Sports Management), Erik Hines (Associate Professor in Education, Counseling Education and Counseling Psychology). (\$10,000) (Awarded)
- (2018). Office for Vice President for Research Scholarship Facilitation Fund (SSF). *Dr. Challenger's College Transition Program for Student-Athletes (CTCPSA)*. Principal Investigator, **Clewiston Challenger**. (\$2,000) (Awarded).

GRANTS SUBMITTED

- (2025). The NATA Research & Education Foundation, Professional Research Grant Program. Pre-Proposal Grant Application. Principal Investigator, Luis Torres (Assistant Professor, Department of Exercise Science and Physical Education, Montclair State University), with Co-Principal Investigator **Clewiston Challenger** (Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling Montclair State University). (Submitted September 1, 2025, Approval Pending)
- (2024). Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers Society, Inc. (PATs) (\$5,000). Correlation Between Mental Health and Rehabilitation Adherence in Adolescent Athletes. Principal Investigator, Luis Torres (Assistant Professor, Department of Exercise Science and Physical Education, Montclair State University), with Co-Principal Investigators, Fredrick Gardin (Associate Professor, Department of Exercise Science and Physical Education, Montclair State University), Marsha-Grant Ford (Associate Professor, Department of Exercise Science and Physical Education, Montclair State University), **Clewiston Challenger** (Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling Montclair State University), and Christopher Lastella (Athletic Trainer, Department of Athletics Oratory Preparatory School. (\$4,300) (Not Awarded).
- (2022). Clinical Research and Innovation Seed Program (CRISP). Office of the Vice President for Research, University of Connecticut (UConn) (\$60,000). *An Examination of the Relationship of Hazing in High School Athletics and Performing Arts and the Behavioral Health of High School Students*. Principal Investigator, Adam McCready (Assistant Professor in Residence, University of Connecticut, Neag School of Education, Educational Psychology Department, Higher Education and Student Affairs program) along with Co-Principal Investigators **Clewiston Challenger** (Associate Professor of Practice, Rutgers Graduate School of Education, Educational Psychology Department, School Counseling Program), Julian D. Ford (Professor of Psychiatry and Law, UConn), Rocio Chang (Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, UConn) . (\$60,000) (Not Awarded).
- (2022). National Federation of State High School Associations; NFHS Foundation Grants (\$191,436). *A Longitudinal Examination of Hazing in High School Athletics and Performing Arts: Understanding Hazing to Inform Prevention and Save Lives*. Principal investigator, Adam McCready and **Clewiston D. Challenger** as the Co-Principal Investigator. (Not Awarded).
- (2018). Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy (InCHIP) Faculty Seed Grant (\$11,000). *A study of the relation of demographic factors, psychological assessment, self-efficacy, academic buoyancy, adjustment to college, and academic motivation among student-athletes who seek mental health services*. Principal

Investigator along with Co-Principal Investigator Dawn Shadron (Director of Student-Athlete Counseling and Mental Health Services, UConn). (Not Awarded).

- (2018). Deans Research Incentive Award Grant (DRIA) (\$10,000). *Dr. Challenger's Transition to College Program for Student-Athletes (CTCPSA)*. Principal Investigator along with Co- Principal Investigators Joseph Cooper (Assistant Professor in Education Leadership, Sports Management), Frank Staples (Director of Guidance, East Hartford Public School System), Trisha-Anne Hawthorne-Noble (Director of Student-Athlete Development, UConn Athletics). (Not Awarded).
- (2018). Aetna Foundation Grant (\$100,000). *Hartford Health-lete Ambassadors*. Principal Investigator and consultants. (Not Awarded).
- (2017). American Athletic Conference (AAC) Research Grant Program (\$10,000). Principal Investigator. *Self-Efficacy and academic buoyancy: influential factors in college adjustment and academic motivation in student-athletes*. (Not Awarded).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- New Jersey School Counselor Association (NJSCA; 2023-present)
- American School Counseling Association (ASCA; 2008-present)
- North Atlantic Region Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (NARACES; 2017-present)
- Connecticut School Counseling Association (CSCA; 2008, 2017-2024)
- American Counseling Association (ACA; 2013-present)
- Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES; 2013-present)
- National Board of Certified Counselors (2008-2022)