

Scholar Profiles: LSAMP Trailblazers



Kentucky-West Virginia Louis Stokes
Alliance for Minority Participation
Funded by the National Science Foundation

March 2020





**Kentucky – West Virginia
Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation
In Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
(KY-WV LSAMP STEM)**

Principal Investigator:

Eli Capilouto, DMD, Sc.D.;
President, University of Kentucky

Co- Principal Investigators:

Kazi Javed, Ph.D.
Lynn Michaluk, Ph.D.
David Miller, Ph.D.
Johné Parker, Ph.D.

Project Director:

Fara Williams

Campus Partners:

Bluegrass Community & Technical College
Centre College
Jefferson Community & Technical College
Kentucky State University
Marshall University
University of Kentucky
University of Louisville
West Virginia State University
West Virginia University
Western Kentucky University

www.uky.edu/KYWV-LSAMP



Emanuel Abu, MBA

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (Marshall University) [OTH]



BS, public health, Marshall University
MBA, West Virginia Wesleyan College
Currently, Emanuel works as an academic mentor at Marshall University.

Diane Ayuninjam, PharmD Candidate

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (University of Kentucky) [BIO]

BS, biology, University of Kentucky
BA, international studies/international relations, University of Kentucky
MPH, University of Georgia, est. May 2020
PharmD, University of Georgia, est. May 2020

Diane will begin her residency at Orlando VA Medical Center June 2020.

Ieshawayne Bell, MS

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (West Virginia University) [OTH]

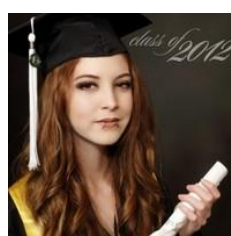


BS, forensics and investigative sciences, West Virginia University
MS, high technology crime, University of Baltimore
In addition to her degrees,

Ieshawayne earned certificates. These include Global Information Assurance Certification via SANS408, BlackBag Essential Forensic Techniques I & II, CompTIA A+ and Network+, and AccessData Certified Examiner. She is now Computer Forensic Examiner for the FBI in Washington, D.C.

Tiffany Bell, PhD

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (Marshall University) [BIO]



BS, biochemistry, Marshall University, 2012
BS, Japanese language and culture, Marshall University
MS, biochemistry, King's

College London, 2013
PhD, neurochemistry, University of Reading, 2017

Grayce Behnke, MS

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (Marshall University) [MPS]



BS, forensic chemistry, Marshall University, 2017
MS, forensic science, Marshall University, 2019

Now, Grayce is a forensic toxicologist in the Houston area.

Sherman Bennett, BS

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (West Virginia State University) [MPS]
BS, chemistry, West Virginia State University
BS, chemical engineering, Widener University

Sherman is now a design engineer at Merck.

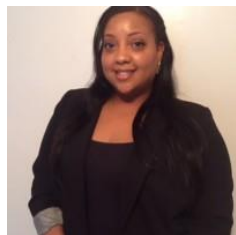
Suzan Bilgesu, DO

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (West Virginia University) [BIO]
BS, biology, West Virginia University
DO, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

As an undergraduate, Dr. Bilgesu participated in an International Research Experience for Students (IRES) through which she conducted nanotechnology research in China for eight weeks. In 2012, she received a fellowship through the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. Dr. Bilgesu is now a resident physician in Madison Heights, Michigan.

Marlita Cadogan, MS

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (Marshall University) [BIO]



BS, biological and biomedical sciences, Marshall University, 2011
MS, occupational safety and health, Marshall University

Marlita now works as a recruitment coordinator at Marshall.

Gabrielle Chapman, BS

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (West Virginia State University) [BIO]
BS, biology, West Virginia State University
Gabrielle is now a senior social justice analyst at the Humane Society of the United States.

Trevor Claiborn, BS

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (Bluegrass Community and Technical College) [A]
AS, agriculture, Bluegrass Community and Technical College
BS, agriculture, agriculture operations, and related sciences, Kentucky State University
Trevor is also known as “Farmer Brown Tha’ MC.” He has written and produced hip hop music videos on the subject of agriculture.



Through these videos (which are posted on his website as well as YouTube), he hopes to encourage the next generation to know more about food and pursue degrees and careers in agriculture. In

addition, he has written and published picture books for young children. Among Trevor’s presentations is one for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women event held in New York City in 2017. Trevor has been recognized by many organizations in the community and been featured on news programs. Currently, Trevor is the area small farm assistant as well as a 4-H Extension assistant at KSU.

Victoria Paige Cloud, EdD Candidate

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (Bluegrass Community and Technical College) [MPS]



AS, science, Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College
APS, civil engineering technology, BCTC
BS, mathematics, University of Kentucky

MA, education with a concentration on community college teaching, Western Kentucky University
EdD Candidate, education leadership and policy, Eastern Kentucky University
Victoria is currently an associate professor as well as the LSAMP campus coordinator at BCTC. By becoming a professor and a coordinator for LSAMP, Victoria comes full circle and continues the work of the LSAMP program.

Rebekah Dailey, DNP

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (University of Kentucky) [OTH]

*BN, nursing, University of Kentucky
Doctorate of Nursing Practice, population
and organizational systems leadership,
University of Kentucky*

Dr. Dailey has worked as an emergency room RN, an electrophysiology RN, and is now a nurse manager vascular surgery at Inova Health System in Washington, D. C.

Jordan Drew, PhD Student

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (West Virginia University) [ENG]



*BS, biometric systems, West Virginia University
Post-bac program, the*

National Institute for Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

PhD Student, biometrics, University of Washington

Jordan spent six months with Facebook AR/VR as a research intern for the audio team. He is now a third year PhD student in electrical and computer engineering studying audio signal processing and the neuroscience of hearing loss. He is a Graduate Opportunities and Minority Achievement Program (GO-MAP) Fellow and is a previous TA with the STARS in Engineering Program which prepares incoming freshmen from underserved communities across Washington to be competitive in UW’s engineering program. Other honors include the Auditory Neuroscience Training Grant Fellow, Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Scholar, and honorable mention for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program.

Jordan has a publication pending in *Ear and Hearing (American Auditory Society)*.

Brent Daniel Frederick, DO

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (Marshall University) [BIO]



*BS, microbiology, Marshall University, 2008
DO, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, 2013*

Dr. Frederick did his residency in internal

medicine at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. He is now a physician at Wake Forest Baptist Health.



Khyra Fullen, MS

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (Marshall University) [BIO]

BS, biotechnology, Marshall University, '12

MS, biotechnology, West Virginia State University, '16

Currently, Khyra is a research assistant at West Virginia State University with interests in population genetics.

Bryan Gantt, PharmD

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (University of Kentucky) [BIO]

*BS, biology, University of Kentucky
PharmD, South College School of Pharmacy*

Dr. Gantt is now a clinical pharmacist in Cincinnati, OH.

Jamar R. Grayson, DO

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (Marshall University) [BIO]



*BS, microbiology, Marshall University
DO, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, WV, 2015*

Dr. Grayson is now a resident physician at Heber Valley Clinic in Heber City, UT.

Marvyn Grayson, MD

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (Marshall University) [BIO]

*BS, microbiology, Marshall University
MD, Marshall University's School of Medicine*

Dr. Grayson is now a resident physician at Charleston Area Medical Center in West Virginia.

Reiya Hayden, PhD Candidate

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (University of Kentucky) [BIO]

*BS, biotechnology, University of Kentucky
PhD Candidate, pharmaceutical sciences, University of Kentucky, estimated graduation May 2020*

Eseosa Ighodaro, MD/PhD

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (University of Kentucky) [BIO]

*BS, biology, University of Kentucky
PhD, anatomy neurobiology, University of Kentucky
MD, University of Kentucky*

Dr. Ighodaro is now a neurology resident at the Mayo Clinic.

Ricky Mason, PhD

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (University of Kentucky) [ENG]

*BS, electrical and electronics engineering, University of Kentucky
MS, electrical and computer engineering, Johns Hopkins University
PhD, electrical and electronics engineering, University of Kentucky*

Dr. Mason is founder of KY AgriTech and BrainSTEM University. Kentucky AgriTech specializes in developing IOT, artificial intelligence, and blockchain technology for agriculture. BrainSTEM University provides STEAM education for students of all ages through classes, workshops, and summer camps. In addition, Dr. Mason is a board member of the Louisville MSD and chief technical officer of Bionic Innovations.

Whitely Mayo, MS

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (Marshall University) [MPS]



*BS, forensic chemistry, Marshall University, 2012
MS, forensic science, Stevenson University, 2015*

Whitely is currently a forensic scientist for the Maryland State Police.

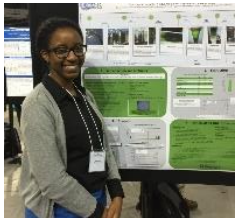
Maya Christine McFrazier, DMD Student
(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (University of Louisville) [BIO]



BA, public health, University of Louisville (UofL), 2017
MS, physiology, UofL
2nd Year Dental Student, UofL School of Dentistry
Inspired by her dentist,

Maya decided to pursue a career in dentistry. During her undergraduate studies, she participated in esophageal cancer research. Maya is a Health and Social Justice Scholar at UofL, where scholars participate in research focused on health and social justice. Maya hopes to combine her love for public health and dentistry to enable her to assist underserved populations through community dentistry.

Courtney McKelphin, PMP
(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (University of Kentucky) [ENG]



BS, chemical engineering, University of Kentucky
Certified, Project Management Professional, Project

Management Institute
MBA Student, Missouri State University
As an undergraduate, Courtney conducted research at the UK Center for Applied Energy Research. Courtney made dozens of local, state, and national presentations. She was featured in a KY EPSCoR video.

Asare Nkansah, MS Student
(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (University of Kentucky) [CS]



BS, computer science, University of Kentucky
MS student, computer science, University of Kentucky

Asare conducted research at Argonne National Laboratory. He participated in the Louisiana State University international Research Experience for Undergraduates in France, where he visited 12 European countries and took full advantage of the opportunity. Asare made dozens of local, state, national, and international presentations including one to the University of Kentucky Board of Regents and one in Germany. During his first year of graduate school, Asare worked on creating iPad applications for students. In Fall 2019, every UK freshman received an iPad. Asare was a key part of that initiative. He is now a Salesforce CRM Integration Engineer for UK's Strategic Communication Department and a MS student.

Chinwe Okoro, DPT
(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (University of Louisville) [BIO]



BA, biology, University of Louisville
Doctor of Physical Therapy, Bellarmine University, 2016
Dr. Okoro represented Nigeria in the discus throw at the 2016

Olympic Games in Rio. She was inducted into the Kentucky Track and Field Hall of Fame, and received numerous scholarships and honors. Currently, she is an outpatient physical therapist in Maryland.

Ime Okpokho, MEd

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (University of Louisville) [OTH]



*BS, human development concentration in public health, University of Louisville (UofL)
MEd, community health, UofL*

Ime received the Outstanding Graduate Student in Public Health

Award, and is a Certified Health Education Specialist. Ime is a professor, internship coordinator, and community engagement coordinator in the Exercise Physiology program in the Department of Health and Sport Sciences at UofL. Prior to this role, she served as the Director of Community Integrated Health at the YMCA of Greater Louisville.

Spencer Overstreet, Pharm D Student

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (Centre College) [BIO]

*BS, biochemistry and molecular biology, Centre College
PharmD Student, Belmont University*

Ephraim Pittore, MS

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (West Virginia University) [ENG]



*BS, mechanical engineering, West Virginia University (WVU), magna cum laude
MS, design and merchandising, WVU*

While working on his Master's, Ephraim was selected to be a Young Innovators Scholar through WVU's Davis College where he competed in business plan and business pitch competitions. He is now owner and

operator of GG Products, a medical and consumer design firm that has served companies such as WVU Medicine and Disney. In addition, he owns and operates Lizard Tail Belts, an accessories brand that manufactures and sells outdoor products. His company has secured a patent and is venture capital funded.

Jordan Potts, MS

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (University of Louisville) [ENG]



*BS, civil engineering, University of Louisville (UofL)
MS, engineering management, UofL*

Jordan is a first

generation college student and an initiate of the Alpha Pi Chapter within the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and now a brother of the Alpha Lambda graduate chapter. He is currently employed by one of the top 50 fastest growing companies in Louisville as an estimating engineer. Through world traveling, Jordan was able to discuss engineering techniques with students overseas and be immersed into their culture. He has managed and started a Homeless Care drive from which over 250 hygiene products were donated to the homeless in Louisville. Through philanthropy, community outreach, life coaching and entrepreneurship, Jordan plans on creating a traveling abroad program for minority students in urban areas who are far less fortunate, yet seek scholastic excellence. *"When you feel like quitting, remember why you got started. If you are going to quit anything, quit making excuses!"*

Raven Price, MD

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (University of Kentucky) [BIO]

*BS, biology, University of Kentucky
MD, University of Medicine and Health Sciences*

Dr. Price is now a resident at the University of Louisville School of Medicine.

Dominique Razeeq, MD

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (University of Louisville) [BIO]



*BA, biology, University of Louisville (UofL)
MD, UofL*

Dr. Razeeq is currently an Anesthesiology Resident at the UofL Hospital. During medical school, he led the Pre-matriculation Program

for incoming minority and underrepresented students and helped form and teach curriculum for point of care ultrasound to 2nd year medical students. He served as SDA for the Summer Medical Dental Education Program and tutored gross anatomy. He was awarded the CODRE research grant while working on a basic sciences research project during his undergraduate experience.

Robert Rivers, PhD

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (Kentucky State University) [MPS]

*BS, chemistry, Kentucky State University
PhD, chemistry, University of Cambridge*

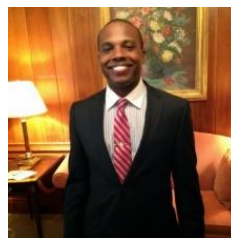


Dr. Rivers served as a peer mentor for the LSAMP program. He worked as a medical writer, served as a volunteer community organizer in Peru,

received an American Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology Fellowship, and was a program officer at the National Cancer Institute focusing on proteomics research. He is now program director for the Office of Minority Health Research Coordination at the National Institutes of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. There, he leads the Short-term Research Experience Program for Underrepresented Persons (STEP-UP), Diversity F31s, Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health Related Research and Supplemental Funding to Promote Re-Entry into Biomedical and Behavioral Research.

Larry Rush, PhD Student

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (West Virginia University) [MPS]



*BS, physics, West Virginia University
MS, physics, Wake Forest University
PhD Student, physics, University of Virginia, Charlottesville*

Larry has been inducted into the Sigma Pi Sigma National Honor Society in Physics. He published a paper in the *Physics Review Material Journal* and one in the *Solid State Ionics: Diffusion and Reactions*.

Lori A. Rush, MPS

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (West Virginia University) [MPS]



*BS, statistics, West Virginia University
MPS, applied statistics, West Virginia University*
Currently, Lori is a CS-13 Operations Research Analyst with the Air

Force Air Combat Command at Langley AFB, Virginia. She is the first African-American female to graduate with a Masters of Professional Studies in applied statistics from WVU. She was an Honors College Scholar Graduate and on the Dean’s list from 2006-2010. Lori conducted research at Jilin University State Key Laboratory through the LSAMP/ WVUNano SURE program. She won Letter of Appreciation for Professional Development from Captain David Kindley during her time working for the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR).

Alexander J. Salazar, MD (West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (Marshall University) [MPS]



*BS, biology, Marshall University
MD, Marshall University School of Medicine*

Dr. Salazar was accepted to medical school while he was still an undergraduate. He successfully completed his residency in general medicine at the US Navy Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. He now practices emergency medicine in Portsmouth, VA.

Jasmine Shadding, MS

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (University of Louisville) [OTH]



*BS, psychology, University of Louisville, 2013
MS, industrial organizational psychology, University of East London*
Jasmine’s participation in the International Service

Learning Program at UofL sparked a passion for international travel. She discovered her moral fervor for education and diversity matters. Currently, Jasmine is the Diversity & Inclusion Specialist at Harris County Public Health in Houston. She created the organization’s D&I Podcast. Prior to this, Jasmine served as Chief Diversity & Training Officer for Montgomery County, TN, providing strategic direction for the County Mayor and facilitating training initiatives. Jasmine’s vision is to implement and improve diversity, equity, and inclusion education through state-of-the-art training by promoting self-awareness and identifying institutional barriers. Jasmine provides service to all, in the Mu Kappa Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Matthew Shropshire, MS

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (Marshall University) [ENG]



*BS, engineering/civil engineering, Marshall University, 2012
MS, environmental engineering, Marshall University, 2015*

Matthew is now a civil engineer for the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Astrid Suarez, PhD

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (Western Kentucky University) [GEO]

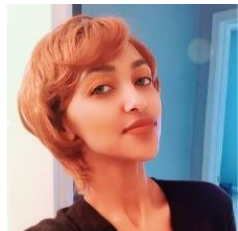


BS, meteorology, Western Kentucky University
MS, meteorology, Penn State University
PhD, meteorology, Penn State University
Dr. Suarez serves as

Analysis Branch Chief for the Meteorological Modeling and Analysis Mission at the Air Force Technical Applications Center, Patrick AFB, FL. She currently leads a team of meteorologists in support of a national security mission that monitor's worldwide nuclear treaty compliance and nuclear surprises. Her work primarily focuses on improving numerical weather prediction and atmospheric transport and dispersion applications for nuclear monitoring efforts. Dr. Suarez regularly serves as a national-level expert for work with major universities, national laboratories, and other U.S. government agencies. Dr. Suarez has also served as a U.S. representative to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization Young Scientist Network. She has been the recipient of various institutional awards for her undergraduate and graduate work as well as professional achievements.

Seble Tarko, BS

(West Virginia) KY-WV LSAMP (West Virginia State University) [BIO]



BS, biology, West Virginia State University
Degree, information technology, Cisco Network Security,

Westwood College, Arlington

Seble is now a senior network engineer at ManTech International Corporation. Her team builds a private cloud for the marine corp, providing Software as a Service (SaaS), and Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) cloud service.

Segan Tella, DC Student

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (University of Louisville) [MPS]



BS, chemistry, University of Louisville, 2017
Doctor of Chiropractor student, Life University
Segan followed her BS with travelling and became a certified Pilates instructor. She

leaned into learning more about spinal health and the nervous system. In January of 2019, she began her journey to becoming a chiropractor at Life University in Marietta, Georgia. Chiropractic opened up another sense of understanding about how the body can run more efficiently as long as there is no interference within the nervous system. Her mission is to educate more people, especially with underrepresented minority groups about chiropractic care and help make differences by facilitating healing of the nervous system.

Karen Udoh, MD Student

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (University of Louisville) [BIO]



BS, biology, University of Louisville, 2018
MD Student, University of Louisville
Karen graduated as a University Honors

Scholar. She completed a senior honors thesis titled, "Targeting Cancer Stem Cells in Recurrent Lung Cancer." Her cancer research was published in 2019 in *Stem Cell Reviews and Reports*. Karen was awarded a Fulbright Research grant in 2018 and conducted research in Alexandroupoli, Greece. This research focused on the role of xenobiotics and pollutants in gut bacteria. Currently, Karen is in her first year of medical school and is pursuing her degree at UofL School of Medicine.

scientist at the US Environmental Protection Agency. Dr. Wilkins's published articles can be found in journals including the *International Journal of Wildland Fire*, *Remote Sensing*, *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters* and *Atmospheric Environment*.

Jordan Wells, MS

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (Kentucky State University) [MPS]



BS, chemistry, Kentucky State University
MS, medical sciences, University of Kentucky
While at the Kentucky State University, Jordan

was selected as a NASA Scholar. She is now a sample lab technician at Sure Tech Laboratories.

Joseph Wilkins, PhD

(Kentucky) KY-WV LSAMP (University of Louisville) [GEO]



BS, atmospheric sciences and meteorology, University of Louisville
MS, meteorology,

Saint Louis University

PhD, meteorology, Saint Louis University

Dr. Wilkins was the first student to graduate from the University of Louisville's undergraduate program in atmospheric science. He currently works as a physical