

Physical Address: 19 Heritage Center  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

Permanent Residence: 23 Lent Street  
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

## WAZIR SUNI JEFFERSON

---

### EDUCATION

#### University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) - Educational Leadership & Policy (ELP) –2016

Emphasis in higher education; focus of research

*Our Path Unwinding: Conversations and Reflections on Diversity through Dialogue*

Published: <http://content.lib.utah.edu/cdm/ref/collection/etd3/id/3969>

#### George Washington University, Washington, DC

Master of Arts (M.A.Ed.) in Human Resource Development and Organizational Studies - 2005

Emphasis in acquire skills and knowledge of leadership, group processes, adult learning, organizational diagnosis, and consulting strategies.

#### Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Bachelor of Business Administration (B. B. A.) in Legal Studies and Human Resource Administration – 2003

### WORK EXPERIENCE

#### Office of Undergraduate Studies - University of Utah

##### Student Success Advocate - (2014 – Present)

- o Provide individualized advising to new, transfer and continuing students, linking them to campus opportunities to enhance their academic program
- o Develop working knowledge of university academic advising, financial aid, and career development services and procedures to utilize in student advising
- o Engage with departmental and program advisors to gain working knowledge of program requirements to consider when assisting students in connecting with University resources and opportunities
- o Utilize student success and persistence, student identity development, and learning theories to shape student interactions
- o Employ listening and advising practices to assist students from diverse, underrepresented, international and all backgrounds in accessing University resources and opportunities and developing graduation plans
- o Collaborate and develop resources (*web sites, social media, literature and more*) to assist students in exploring opportunities to enhance their academic program
- o Document advising sessions and develop practices and procedures for following up with students, colleagues, campus partners, and maintaining engagement.

## **Programs and Outreach Initiatives – Skidmore College (2012 – 2013)**

### **Higher Education/Academic Opportunity Program (HEOP/AOP)**

- o Provided one-on-one academic support across curriculum and supplemental academic advisement
- o Administered, designed, and implemented the six-week Summer Academic Institute under direction of Academic and Administrative, Co-Director
- o Assisted with the admissions, recruitment, reading of application of incoming first year students
- o Monitored the academic and personal progress of students
- o Designed and implemented social and academic programming for high academic achievement

## **Educational Leadership and Policy – University of Utah**

### ***Student Activities Co-Chairperson (2009-2010)***

- o Created reports towards the retention, promotion, and tenure processes of faculty
- o Organized events for students to gather and network outside of the University

### ***Research Assistant (8/2009-5/2012)***

- o Conduct independent research as assigned by various faculty members in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy

## **Associated Students of the University of Utah (ASUU) Student Government**

### ***Director of Special Projects (2011-2012)*** (one-year appointment)

- o Planned, Organized and Collaborated with various campus entities to invite guest speakers for campus-wide “Free Lunch and Learn Dialogue” programs
- o Moderated, implemented and facilitated Dialogues:
  - o You Mean There’s Race in My Movie?  
(*guest presenter: Mr. Frederick Gooding, the Minority Reporter*)
  - o Navigating With Purpose -  
(*partnered with Center for Ethnic Student Affairs*)
  - o Pride Week: Gender Expression & Sexual Orientation  
(*partnered with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center*)
  - o Islamophobia  
(*guest presenter: Mr. Amer Ahmed, formerly - University of Michigan*)
  - o Four Corners Student Leader Training – Student Government –Executive Cabinet
- o Developed resourceful partnerships with various campus-wide partners:
  - o Women’s Resource Center;
  - o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Resource Center;
  - o Center for Ethnic Student Affairs; Office of Equity and Diversity;
  - o Chartwells Food Services

## **Master of Social Work Program (MSW) - College of Social Work – University of Utah**

## **Master of Public Administration Program (MPA) – University of Utah**

### ***Adjunct Instructor***

#### ***Classes Taught (2009 – present)***

- Fall 2009, 2010, 2011: Dialogue and Diversity through Group Process
- Spring 2010 & 2011: Social Justice and Diversity
- Summer 2011 (independent-study) Self Reflection: Identities through Dialogue on Diversity
- Spring 2016: Social Justice and Leadership (MPA)
- Spring 2017: Social Justice Leadership (MPA and Political Science)

## **Antioch University – Guest and Visiting Lecturer –**

- Fall 2014: Guest-Visiting Adjunct Instructor (Psychology Program)

## **Housing and Residential Education—University of Utah**

### ***Assistant Residential Education Coordinator/Coordinator of Diversity Education (2005—2008)***

#### ***“Training the Trainer” for Diversity Dialogues and Programs***

- Strengthened relationships with staff members to provide educational co-curricular initiatives and implement community curriculum through diversity dialogues
  - Collaborated with staff selection processes to ensure applications from candidates who will share and explore interactions among individuals with varying traditions, cultures, orientation, religious beliefs, economic backgrounds, and racial/ethnic origins
  - Expanded relationships with students in the residence halls varying in difference of race, gender, ethnicity, ability, and social class
  - Generated a collaborative network with Diversity offices on campus and in the Greater Salt Lake City
  - Supervised, trained, interviewed and selected undergraduate student staff leaders of Peer Diversity Dialogue Facilitators (PDDF)
  - Developed information for weekly meetings, tracking fulfillment of expectations, development of positive working relationships, assist in their skill and professional development.
    - Implemented University and Departmental policies
      - Provided explanations to assure proper interpretation of policies to residents
      - Coordinated and assisted with administrative processes and collateral projects: advising, in- services, marketing training, selection, departmental programming, and interviews
- *Multicultural Committee Organizational Assessment, Chairperson*
    - Streamlined the Analysis of current assessment data of underrepresented students
    - Evaluated research, planning and development of departmental wide diversity training initiatives
    - Consolidated information on best practices in diversity programming and coordinated diversity education efforts

## **George Washington University (2003-2005)**

### **Community Living and Learning Center**

**(CLLC) Community Facilitator (2004 – 2005)**

- Provided explanations to assure proper interpretation of policies to residents
- Facilitated self-governing community of residence hall comprised of 80 sophomore students.
- Applied Community Standards Initiative to foster individual responsibility and community accountability
- Worked with residents to provide educational co-curricular initiatives and implement community curriculum.
- Served as a role model, provided guidance and support; promoted community through large-scale special activities.

**Summer Assistant (2004)**

- Performed routine inspections and rounds of conference rooms and reported problems/concerns.
- Communicated and enforced university policies and procedures among residents and conference participants.
- Oversaw transaction records, revenue collection, and registration of conference participants.
- Handled housekeeping, staffing, and security matters; logged calls and complaints, and filed reports.

**Office of Student Financial Aid****Student Counselor (2003 - 2005)**

- Organized, directed, and maintained the day to day operations of the Student Financial Aid Office
- Served as a parent-student liaison on a case by case basis
- Provided information regarding various types of financial aid available to students

**Temple University (2000-2003) Office of University Housing  
Off Campus Housing/Summer Conference Programs****Summer Conference Manager (2003)**

- Oversaw and supervised five office assistants;
- Arranged schedules and duty rotations;
- Coordinated building schedules for TMARC program

**Summer Assistant (2001, 2002)**

- Served as liaison between conference assistants, main office, and conference guests
- Ensured maintenance of meeting rooms; performed inspections and rounds and reported problems/concerns.
- Communicated and enforced policies and procedures among residents and conference participants.
- Handled all housekeeping, staffing, and security matters; logged calls and complaints; filed reports.

**Office of Assignments and Billing****Office Assistant**

- Maintained confidential student records and arrangements; assisted with distribution of housing information.
- Utilized Residential Management System Access (RMS) and Integrated Student Information System (ISIS) databases
- Provided support to the Assistant Director of Assignments and Billing

- Provided telephone support; answered and directed calls.
- Analyzed issues to route students to correct staff member

## MEMBERSHIPS AFFILIATIONS

### University of Utah

#### College of Education (2005- 2009)

- Student Committee for faculty Retention, Promotion, & Tenure (RPT)
- Student representative for Student Diversity Action Task Force (SDATF)
- Co-facilitate workshops with Men of Color Testimonial Group
- Attended workshops, information sessions and events on increasing diversity awareness
- Participated in one-on-one discussions toward understanding equity with faculty, staff, and students
- Designed workshops to deconstruct colorblindness, examine definitions of multiculturalism in higher education

#### Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA)

- Founding Member (2009)
- President (2010-2011)
- Moderator and Facilitator- National Western Regional Conference – (2011)

### George Washington University (2003-2005)

#### *Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA) Vice President*

- Organized closely with president to promote student community of African Americans

#### *Graduate School of Education and Human Development (GSEHD)*

- *President, Human & Organizational Studies (HOS)*
- Solicited the collaboration of Vice Presidents of Membership, Communication, and Marketing
- Organized hospitality events to welcome prospective students.

#### *Member, Faculty Search Committee, David Schwandt, Ph.D., Chairman*

- Served as student representative with responsibility for screen candidates files and judgment score cards.
- Participated in meetings to select candidates for campus interviews

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Temple University. *Ronald E. McNair* Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program; Research Assistant to Dr. James Earl Davis', Faculty Mentor, *Black Masculinity: Stereotypes, Perceptions, and Assumptions in Higher Education.*” findings indicated that the more studious and involved an African-American male was in his schoolwork and extra-curricular activities (non-sports related), the more he was perceived to be less masculine.

## PRESENTATIONS

- Expect the Great: Build. Invest. Connect.
  - ✓ Presenter: Everything You Need to Know to Succeed - November 5, 2016
- National Black Graduate Student Association
  - ✓ Presenter: Dialogue & Diversity through Group Process: Toward Engaging Others in a Self Reflection Process – March 2010

- ✓ Presenter: Safety versus Discomfort: Creating Dialogue with Diversity on Campus – March 2011
- National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)
  - ✓ Co-Presenter: Purpose and Diversity: Engaging in Critical Dialogue on Campus – March 2011 – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
  - ✓ Attendee – March 2012 – Phoenix, Arizona
  - ✓ Attendee – March 2015 – New Orleans, Louisiana
- National Roundtable on Dialogue on Difficult Conversations – Washington, District of Columbia
  - ✓ Attendee/Participant in Brainstorming how to advance the expansion of innovative approaches to teaching about cultural pluralism at the college level, with an emphasis on informed, respectful dialogue within a context of academic freedom
- High School Conference- University of Utah
  - ✓ Co-Presenter and Dialogue/Workshop: *Am I My Brother's Keeper?* 150+ males of color – February 2011
- Graduate Student Research Fair – “*Challenging the Dominate Discourse of Organizational Leadership & Tinto's Model: Toward Understanding how students of Color Navigate through historically white serving institutions*”. University of Utah.  
Salt Lake City, UT – 2008
- National Institute on Intergroup Relations (IGR) “*Peer Diversity Dialogue Facilitator Program Housing and Residential Education at the University of Utah*”  
University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI -2006, 2007
- National Conference on Race & Ethnicity (NCORE): Attendee/Participant  
San Francisco, California – 2007 ; Orlando, Florida – 2008; San Francisco, California – 2011; New Orleans, Louisiana – 2013; Indianapolis, Indiana – 2014; Washington, District of Columbia – 2015; San Francisco, California – 2016;
- Summer Conference Student Leader Training *Understanding Your Identity and Impact as a Summer Conference Staff Member on Guests*; University of Utah Guest House  
Salt Lake City, UT – 2007
- Latinas StoryTelling Presents to U: Norma E. Cantu, La Fuerza De Las Mujeres. Attendee  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT –2007, 2008
- Black Student Union (BSU) High School Conference: *Student for a better Tomorrow: Utah's African Americans in Higher Education Presenter on campus resources* – University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT-2006
- Center for Ethnic Student Affairs (CESA) Asian American Student Association High School Senior Day: *Opportunities for Living on Campus* – Presenter - University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT- 2006

- Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Research Program: *Experiences as Minority & First Generation Graduate Students*. Speaker Westminster College  
Salt Lake City, UT- 2006, 2007, 2010
- Latina/o Educational Resource Day Parents & Students: *Live the Life, Live on Campus* Presenter  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT – 2006
- *State of Black Students at the University of Utah: Black Men & The College Experience*  
Presenter/Facilitator - University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT - 2005
- College, Career, & Financial Aid Seminar: *Establishing Priorities & facing Challenges*;  
Co-Facilitated with Dr. Kurt A. Brown - Calvary Baptist Church  
Salt Lake City, UT – 2005

## **SCHOLARSHIP- AWARDS-RECOGNITION**

### **University of Utah**

- Master of Public Administration - Wendy Rice Memorial Faculty Award (2016)
- Office of Equity and Diversity Award for Contributions in the Past Year (2012)
- College of Social Work - Senator Pete Suazo “Paying It Forward” Award for Education and Training (2011)
- Residence Hall Association (RHA) Distinguished Advisor of the Year (nominated) (2007)
- Advisor/Spotlight (2006)
- Advisor/Spotlight (2005)

### **George Washington University**

- Walter R. McCollum Memorial Scholarship (2004)
- Vest Family Fellowship (2004)

### **Temple University**

- Ronald McNair Distinguished Speaker Award (2003)
- People First Human Resource Certificate (2003)

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

### Utah Education Policy Center

- Graduate Volunteer. Aided in the organization of materials, educated participants concerning program events and assisted vendors for Policy Forum.-University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT - 2007, 2008

## **THE IMPACT MOVEMENT CONFERENCE**

- Seminars in Spirituality, Leadership, to develop leaders of African descent to become more spiritually focused, financially responsible and morally fit. Volunteer.  
Washington, District of Columbia – 2004  
Atlanta, Georgia – 2006  
New Orleans, Louisiana – 2011  
Atlanta, Georgia – 2012

Stir Fry Seminars and Consulting – Lee Mun Wah

- Developed the art of creating safe and dynamic working environments
- Created work situations that encouraged relaxed sharing and curiosity about issues of diversity
- Maintained environments and relationships that are proactive rather than reactive
- Explored how past experiences impact our good intentions toward creating facilitated dialogue

**CONSULTING**

**Social Justice and Diversity Educator - Inclusion Trainer - Workshop Facilitator – Special Assistant to the Vice President for Diversity and Equity:**

**The University of Utah & Greater Salt Lake City**

- Spring 2015:
  - o *Cultural Pluralism and Leadership* – Master of Public Administration – 23 Policy Makers
- Fall 2015:
  - o Marriott Honors College – *Identity Development* - 20 Student participants
  - o Student Success Television Interview - [www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=36319404](http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=36319404)
  - o Marriott Honors College – *Diversity & Leadership* - 25 student participants
  - o *Social Work and Ethics* – College of Social Work - 15 Practitioners
  - o *Social Work and Groups* – College of Social Work - 20 Social Workers
  - o *Race, Gender, and Politics* – Master of Public Administration – 15 practitioners
  - o *Gender Inequity, Race, and Inclusion* – Master of Public Administration – 19 practitioners
  - o *Privilege, Social Justice, and Policy* – Master of Public Administration – 23 administrators
  - o *Social Identity and Inclusive Leadership* - Associated Students of the University of Utah (ASUU) – Student Government – 41 student leaders
- Spring 2016:
  - o Public Administration, Privilege, and Awareness – 30 Policy Makers
  - o 2016 Camp Merveilles Conference: Opening and Closing Keynote Workshop Dialogue Facilitator (*African Drum, Dance, and Song: Privilege, Appropriation, and Identity*)
  - o “Furthering the Conversation: An Interactive Workshop on Race” – Mestizo’s Institute of Culture and Arts (*Interview with News Anchor Nadia Crow available on ABC Utah News*)  
<http://www.good4utah.com/news/local-news/non-profit-to-host-interactive-workshop-on-race/378268980>
- Summer 2016:
  - o <http://www.sltrib.com/csp/mediapool/sites/sltrib/pages/gallery.csp?cid=4137886&pid=3558207>
- Fall 2016
  - o Department of Theatre – Social Awareness & Inclusion Town Hall - 119 participants
    - Authored workshop materials and trained five dialogue facilitators
  - o Marriott Honors College – *Identity Development* - 20 Student participants
  - o Marriott Honors College – *Diversity & Leadership* - 25 student participants
- Spring 2017:
  - o V(i)llage Living and Learning Community (LLC) – 20 student participants



- o Panel Moderator: Cultural Appropriation – *Coming March 2017*
- o Arts and Advocacy Living and Learning Community (LLC) – *Coming March 2017*

**California Lutheran University** – Thousand Oaks, California

*Culture and Social Justice Leadership - Annual Retreat – September 2014 and 2015*

**Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)** – South Central, Los Angeles, California

*Immigration, Privilege, and Gender - 33 Middle and High School Student – Spring 2014*

**Kinship Center – A Member of Seneca Family Agencies** – Tustin, California – Spring 2014

*Cross Cultural Communication and Transracial Adoption*