

President

Ansley Lamar

Raised in The Soundview Class-Point projects in what is now considered the south Bronx, Dr. Ansley W. LaMar has been associated with New Jersey City University for over 40 years. He is a professor of psychology. Dr. LaMar has also served as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Director of the Educational Opportunity Fund Program, and the Chairman of the Psychology Department. In 1995, Dr. LaMar founded LaMar Educational Enterprises, LLC.

An award-winning public speaker, Dr. LaMar has presented workshops on motivating students, conflict resolution, leadership, time and stress management, minorities in management, promoting racial harmony in academic institutions, creating authentic happiness, and finding the love of your life. His clients have included UBS Financial Services; The Newark Boys' Chorus; The United Way of New York; The New School for Social Research; Rutgers University, Newark; Rider University, Bloomfield College, Ocean County Community College, Atlantic Cape Community College, Elmwood United Presbyterian Church; and owners of small and mid-sized businesses.

In addition to having a doctorate in Social Psychology, Dr. LaMar is a certified Life Coach, a certified Master Practitioner in Neurolinguistic Programming, a certified Chronic Disease Self-Management Peer Leader and specializes in applying social psychological theories, principles and research to enhance individual and group effectiveness.

Dr. LaMar also founded and directs SuperKidz Kamp, www.superkidzkamp.com, a 7-day, fun-filled, residential camping experience that uses challenging activities, cooperative games, and opportunities for reflection to develop the leadership capabilities of 10 to 17 year olds. As part of its outreach program, SuperKidz Kamp sponsored the Contributions of Martin Luther King, Jr. essay contest.

As President of BAFSSO, Dr. LaMar, in addition to attempting to increase the level of engagement of people of African descent, as reflected in the numbers who attend meetings and special events, he would attempt to achieve three specific long-term goals 1) expand the BAFSSO community by building awareness and reengaging the alum, 2) increase the number of professional of African descent in "mainstream departments by developing an on-going campaign, , and 3) increase the retention and graduation rate of students of African descent by implementing an evidence-based initiatives.

Venida C. Rodman Jenkins, M.Div.

Venida Cheryl Rodman Jenkins is committed to providing visibility, encouragement, love, and brave spaces to the victimized, marginalized and those who have been cast aside because of their race, class, gender, nationality, ability, sexual orientation, and other identities – whether it's on campus or throughout other spheres of influence. She has carried out this work for many years as a minister and a higher education professional which includes her current leadership of the Speicher-Rubin Women's Center for Equity and Diversity at New Jersey City University for the past seven years. Venida has been an Adjunct Professor at New York Theological Seminary since 2002.

She plans to bring this same level of enthusiasm, organizing, engagement and visibility to BAAFSSO as she prioritizes the needs and concerns of those individuals of African descent from an intersectional

framework. As the University continues to build and grow, Venida will ensure that the Black Administrators, Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Student Organization continues to maintain its relevancy and grow with the changing times.

Her campus involvements include creating the Gothic Knight Ally Safe Zone Program and the Afro-Latinx Collective, chairing a subcommittee for the President's Diversity and Inclusion Council, as well as the Executive Committee of the American Federation of Teachers, Local 1839. Venida's professional affiliations include the National Women's Studies Association, where she recently served as Logistics Chair for the Women's Center Committee's inaugural Summit, and the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Her community involvements include membership in the Harlem Writers' Guild, and board member of Leaders of the Free World and Thinking In Full Color.

Venida is the recipient of the 2018 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award as well as the Black Girl Magic Award 2019 from Campus Life. She was also inducted into the National Society of Leadership and Success as an Honorary Member.

Venida earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Syracuse University, and the Master of Divinity degree from New York Theological Seminary.

Venida enjoys singing, writing, public speaking, and traveling.

Vice President

Dominique Smith

Dominique Smith is a proud native, and resident of Jersey City. She is an alumna of Montclair State University, and Rider University where she acquired her Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership with a concentration in Higher Education; although she did not attend NJCU for her undergraduate career, her family's educational legacy began here at NJCU.

Dominique is an accomplished student development professional with over 10 years of experience guiding individuals through college readiness, admissions, and academic success programming. She is passionate about leadership theory and practice and enjoys serving as a coach, instructor, trainer, program developer, and manager to drive student growth and retention.

Overtime she has served as an adjunct instructor at Montclair State, teaching the Psychology of Leadership, and first year success, a co-coordinator of the dual enrollment program at Hudson County Community College, enabling high school students access to early college credits, as a Chapter Support Manager for the National Society of Leadership & Success serving a six year tenure traveling across the country speaking, coaching, and training chapter leaders and campus officials, a Residence Hall Director at Rider University, and as a Team Advisor for the National Student Leadership Conference, where she developed and taught sessions on goal setting and effective decision making for high school juniors & seniors.

Currently she serves as an admissions counselor and coordinator of the Gothic Knight Experience for New Jersey City University, and as a speaker and facilitator partnering with organizations such as Rotary,

the Urban League of Hudson County, YMCA, I love Greenville, and anyone who is for developing the leaders of our next generation.

Cynthia Waiters

I, Cynthia Waiters of Library Services, Cataloging & Processing Department will devote and embellish BAAFSSO programs and activities within the organization. Work together with Officers in continued representation of those of African descent on our New Jersey City University campus. Never forgetting the cause of BAAFSSO implementing strategy to improve what BAAFSSO serves and stands. Working continuously with our Committees to keep them going strong. To name a few Political Action Committee, Financial/Fundraising Committee, Affirmative Action Committee, Grievance Committee, Student Recruitment/Retention Committee. Also let our voice be heard for Professionals and Staffs or any employees just stuck in a position with no growth of promotions yet they are so worthy of it!

Cynthia Waiters/Advocate for Action striving for the Advancement of BAAFSSO and Student Retention.

Corresponding Secretary

Allison Thornton

I am Allison Thornton and I am seeking election to the position of Corresponding Secretary for BAAFSSO.

I have been employed at NJCU since 1994. Currently, I design web graphics, update webpages, and maintain the NJCU website and front-end technology for the Marketing Department, in the division of University Advancement. I am also currently the Corresponding Secretary for AFT Local 1839 at NJCU.

Right now, social/digital media interaction is key. With organizations it's about sharing and discussing, not broadcasting. We can deliver quality information via our social profiles. We can encourage employees to include our social media information in email signatures. We can as an organization inspire people at NJCU through our connections.

Some things I'd like to implement for the future:

- More photos and event notices of members on our social media
- 'Hot Topic' events/issues promoted in social media and in handouts to members
- Feature member highlights on social media, work to know and target our audiences, send email, create a social strategy, and keep measuring that strategy to engage our members young and old, on our main and other campuses.

Melissa Gutzmore

My name is Melissa Gutzmore and I am running for the corresponding secretary position. I am an alumna of NJCU and currently work in the office of Campus Life as the Leadership Coordinator and also in Residence Life as the Hall Director of Co-Op & Vodra Halls. As corresponding secretary of BAAFSSO, it is my goal to expand the visibility of this amazing organization to our NJCU community. I want to take

what those before me have done well, and make it even better with transparent communication and dedication. With my current and past experience in similar roles, I believe I am more than capable of achieving this with the help of the E-board and active members.

Treasurer

Carla Denny Johnson

I am Carla Denny-Johnson and I have accepted the nomination for treasurer. I have working knowledge of the NJCU procurement system rules and regulations. I feel I can assist the organization by implementing procedures to provide more accurate record keeping and remain within our budget. I would like to help establish protocol in the best interest of BAAFSSO and work with committee chairs and officers.