

# Tolu Taiwo, Ph.D.

she/they ❖ tegg206@gmail.com ❖ 630-303-7774

## EDUCATION

### **Azusa Pacific University**

July 2017-Jan 2024

Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education

- *Dissertation: Loving a Country That Doesn't Love You Back: Exploring the Experiences of Black Womxn South African Activist-Educators*
  - *Committee Members: Dr. Tabatha Jones Jolivet (chair), Dr. Christopher Collins, Dr. Busayo Ige*

### **Colorado State University**

Aug 2013-May 2015

Master of Science in Student Affairs in Higher Education

### **University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign**

Aug 2009-May 2013

Bachelor of Science in News Editorial Journalism

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Published**

- **Taiwo, T.**, Dantzler, J. D. (2024). We all we got: Black Queer womxn's experiences at religiously affiliated institutions. *Journal of Trauma Studies In Education*, 3(3), 96-119. <http://doi.org/10.70085/jtse.v3i3.6852>
- Dantzler, J. D., **Taiwo, T.** (2024). If you know, you know: Black queer women's experiences at religiously affiliated and faith-based institutions. In H. Herridge & K. Prieto (Eds), *Perspectives on Transforming Higher Education and the LGBTQIA Student Experience*. IGI Global.
- Poon Ghaffari, G., **Taiwo, T.**, Thompson, A. (2023). Students of color survivors. In H. W. Wilson & C. Khan (Eds.), *Facing campus sexual assault and relationship violence head-on: A guide to prevention, healing, and recovery*. American Psychiatric Association Publishing.
- **Taiwo, T.** (2019). A letter of understanding. In L. L. Hoggan (Ed.) *This land is your land; this land is my land: Stories from America's immigrants* (pp. 29-31). Quincy Manor Publishing House (*Note: used pseudonym name "Lopet" for this chapter*).
- **Taiwo, T.** (2016, March 10). Finding strength through your sister circle. Women in Housing Series, Talking Stick. Retrieved from <https://www.acuho-i.org/resources/cid/5801>
- **Taiwo, T.** (2015). Recruiting for the next year. *Campus Activities Programming*, 48(1), 8-10.

### **In Preparation**

- **Taiwo, T.**, Hambrick, A., Hughes, C. (in preparation). It feels just like home: Understanding Black undergraduate womxn's study away experiences to predominantly Black countries
- **Hambrick, A.**, Taiwo, T. (in preparation). Sisterhood is powerful: Black women's experiences with white female allies and accomplices

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **Graduate Instruction**

Seattle University

- Spring Quarter 2025, SDAD 5700: "Diversity & Inclusion in Higher Education." Instructor
- Spring Quarter 2024, SDAD 5700: "Diversity & Inclusion in Higher Education." Instructor
- February 22, 2024, SDAD 5900: "Capstone Seminar and Freedom Dreaming Session." Guest Lecturer
- May 10, 2023, SDAD 5910 "Diversity & Inclusion in Higher Education." Guest Lecturer

### **Undergraduate Instruction**

Pacific Lutheran University

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- October 16, 2025, Gender, Sexuality, & Race Studies 287: “Black Joy and Blackness in the Black Imagination.” Guest Lecturer.
- Fall Semester 2023-present. Black Girl Research Semester Seminar. Co-Instructor
- Fall Semester 2018, PLUS 100: “Introduction to PLU,” Students of Color Section. Instructor.
- Fall Semester 2017, Women and Gender Studies 287: “Beyoncé and Black Feminist Theory.” Co-Instructor

## University of Puget Sound

- Fall Semester 2024, AFAM 305: “Black Fictions and Feminisms.” Instructor
- Spring Semester 2022, AFAM 305: “Black Fictions and Feminisms.” Instructor
- Fall Semester 2020, STAF 200: “Access Cohort Workshop.” Instructor

## Highline College

- Winter Quarter 2024, S SER 120: “TRiO Transfer Foundation Course.” Instructor
- Spring Quarter 2023, S SER 156: “Professionalism: Life After College Seminar.” Instructor
- Winter Quarter 2023, S SER 120: “TRiO Transfer Foundation Course.” Instructor

## DOCTORAL AND PORTFOLIO ADVISING

- Portfolio Committee Chair for Destiny Ledesma, M.Ed., Student Development Administration, Seattle University
- Committee member for Jasmine Dantzler, Ph.D., Higher Education, Azusa Pacific University. (Dissertation Title: Living, Breathing Mixtape)
- Committee member for Nadia Ewing, Ph.D., Higher Education, Azusa Pacific University. (Dissertation Title: Kinks, Coils, And Twists: Reclaiming Black Women’s Hair as Method, Memory, And Meaning)

## EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

- *Journal of Critical Scholarship on Higher Education and Student Affairs (JCSHESA)*, Co-Editor (June 2021-June 2022)
- *Journal of Critical Scholarship on Higher Education and Student Affairs (JCSHESA)*, Editorial Assistant (October 2020-June 2021)
- *Race & Pedagogy Journal*, Issue Reviewer (2020)

## RESEARCH GRANTS

- Dantzler, J. D., **Taiwo, T.** (2023). “If you know, you know: Black queer women’s experiences at religiously affiliated and faith-based institutions.” NASPA Region VI Research Grant. (\$1,500)
- Jun, A., Hambrick, A., **Taiwo, T.** (2021). “Sisterhood is powerful: Black women’s experiences with white female allies and accomplices.” Azusa Pacific Research Grant. (\$10,000)
- **Taiwo, T.**, Poon Ghaffari, G. Jones Jolivet, T., Myrick, J. J., Coefield, B. (2019). “It is Our Duty to Fight for Our Freedom”: Black Womxnist Liberation Narratives in Higher Education. NASPA Region VI Research Grant. (\$2,000)

## CONFERENCE AND UNIVERSITY PRESENTATIONS

# Tolu Taiwo, Ph.D.

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- Taiwo, T., Hambrick, A., Watson, T., Spivey, N. (Nov. 2024). *Not By Choice: Mothering, Caretaking, and Black Womxn's Labor in Higher Education*. Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) National Conference, Roundtable Presentation, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Dantzler, J. D., Taiwo, T. (Nov. 2023). *If You Know, You Know: Black Queer Women's Experiences at Religiously Affiliated and Faith-Based Institutions*. Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) National Conference, Roundtable Presentation, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Taiwo, T., Taylor, A. (June 2022). *African Americans, African/Black Immigrants, and First Generation African/Black Immigrants: How white Supremacist Structures, Myths, and Stereotypes Divide the African Diaspora*. National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE), Black Diaspora Feature, Portland, Oregon
- Hambrick, A., Taiwo, T. (Nov. 2021). *Sisterhood is Powerful: Black Women's Experiences with White Female Allies and Accomplices*. Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) National Conference, Roundtable Presentation, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- Taiwo, T. (Nov. 2021). *Wathint' Abafazi, Wathint' Imbokodo: Exploring the Experiences of Black Womxn South African Organizers and Educators*. Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) National Conference, Council for Ethnic Participant Pre-Conference Roundtable Presentation, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- Taiwo, T. (Feb. 2021). All Things Black: Black History Month Session, Panel, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington.
- Taiwo, T. (Nov. 2019). *Gender, Race, and Sexuality in Trinidad and Tobago*. Pacific Lutheran University Study Away Orientation, Presentation, Tacoma, Washington.
- Taiwo, T., Hambrick, A. (Nov. 2018). *Roots: Navigating the Natural Hair Journey in White-Dominated Spaces*. Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) National Conference, Paper Presentation, Tampa, Florida.
- Taiwo, T. (Nov. 2018). *We Refuse to be Silent: 'Sista Circles' at Predominately White Institutions*. National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) National Conference, Women's Center Pre-Conference Presentation, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Taiwo, T. (Sept. 2018). *Between the World and Me and the Black Body*. Pacific Lutheran University Lutheran Studies Conference, Panel Presentation, Tacoma, Washington.
- Taiwo, T. (Sept. 2018). *Get Me Bodied: Beyoncé, Bodies, and Blackness*. Pacific Lutheran University Lutheran Studies Conference, Panel Presentation, Tacoma, Washington.
- Taiwo, T. (Nov. 2017). *That Girl is Magic: Using Black Girl Magic as a Framework of Inclusion*. National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) National Conference, Women's Center Pre-Conference Presentation, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Taiwo, T., Hambrick, A. (Nov. 2017). *Navigating the Natural Hair Journey in White-Dominated Spaces*. Association for the Study of Higher Education National Conference (ASHE), Roundtable, Houston, Texas.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- 2025 Clover Park Technical College Student Advocate of the Year, Staff Award
- 2025 Dr. Rhonda Quash Coats Award for Excellence in Multicultural Student Services
- 2022-2023 The Center for Black, Brown and Queer (BBQ+ Academic Fellowship Awardee (\$5,000 fellowship stipend)
- 2022 (Spring) Azusa Pacific University Higher Education Dissertation Fellowship Awardee (\$2,000 fellowship stipend)
- 2021 Pacific Lutheran University Center for Gender Equity Community Award

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- 2018 Pacific Lutheran University Spirit of Diversity Staff Award
- 2017 Pacific Lutheran University Distinguished Staff Award
- 2016 NASPA Region V NUFP Champion Award

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Associate Director of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Campus Climate, *Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion***

Clover Park Technical College (Lakewood, WA)

September 2025-present

- Supervise and coordinate the daily operations of the O-EDI department and staff, including two Program Managers and six peer mentorship student employees
- Collaborate with campus partners to support the seamless alignment of EDI strategic priorities aimed at eliminating opportunity gaps that are embedded in the 2023-2028 college strategic plan
- Develop, implement, monitor, evaluate, and maintain continuous improvement for peer mentorship offerings from O-EDI within a student identity development framework in accordance with RCW 28B.50.920
- Provide oversight to the implementation and maintenance of a comprehensive EDI-focused professional development program for degree-seeking students, staff, and faculty audiences in accordance with RCW 28B.10.149 Diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism— Program for students and RCW 28B.10.145 Diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism— Professional development
- Guide O-EDI Program Managers and peer mentors in utilizing a data-tracking system to monitor student progress and track benchmark and outcome data
- Use HEDS to conduct a campus climate survey every three years and follow up student listening sessions in the alternating years
- Serve as the acting Associate Vice President (AVP) of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in the absence of the AVP of EDI.

### **Director of TRiO Student Support Services, *Student Services Division***

Highline College (Des Moines, WA)

July 2022-present

- Collected and reviewed required data on a consistent basis, and submitted Department of Education Performance Reports and Highline College Institutional Effectiveness Reports
- Interpreted and implemented US Department of Education grant regulations applicable to ensure internal accountability, federal, state, and college policies and procedures
- Prepared, oversaw, and maintained multiple grants and budgets, including \$280,000 Department of Education grant, a \$150,000 Washington Student Achievement Council-approved grant, a \$45,000 Student Activities Fund budget, and \$6,000 emergency fund budget.
- Supervised, trained, evaluated, and provided leadership to a staff of three full-time professional staff members, five student office staff, and six student volunteers
- Managed and supervised all SSS, Passport, and Achievers activities and services, including TRiO student orientations, academic tutoring, academic advising, financial and economic advising, transfer Assistance, and other quarterly and annual activities
- Supported the academic, socio-emotional, and professional development needs of 50 TRiO student advisees
- Led the Undocumented Student Task Force to build capacity for services and support Highline College's undocumented students

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- Instruct TRiO Courses: “TRiO Transfer Foundation” and “Professionalism: Life After College Seminar”

## **Assistant Director for Access Programs, *Office of Diversity and Inclusion***

University of Puget Sound (Tacoma, WA)

May 2020-June 2022

- Coordinated University of Puget Sound’s summer academic programming (Summer Academic Challenge) for over 50 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade Tacoma Public School low-income students, first-generation students, and students of color
- Created year-round college access opportunities for Tacoma Public Middle and High Schools.
- Supported the academic, socio-emotional, and professional development needs of 30 University of Puget Sound Access Scholars
- Supervised, trained, evaluated, and provided leadership for a staff of two direct-service AmeriCorps Volunteers and four student office staff
- Evaluated University of Puget Sound’s partnership and access to college efforts with Tacoma Public Schools and the Tacoma community
- Appointed by cabinet members to serve on the University of Puget Sound’s committees dedicated to holistic student success and enrollment efforts (Student Success Task Force; Strategic Enrollment Planning Steering Committee)

## **GirlsFirst2STEM Manager, *YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish***

YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish (Seattle, WA)

March 2019-May 2020

- Created and evaluated GirlsFirst2STEM, an inclusive social and educational space for 20 Black women, Black non-binary youth, and Black girls ages 17-22 who are devoted to STEM fields
- Recruited and provided academic and career readiness support for the GirlsFirst2STEM cohort
- Created intersectional and career-specific workshops that supported the needs of Black students in STEM fields
- Developed relationships with King County non-profits, businesses, and academic institutions to create internships for GirlsFirst2STEM participants
- Supervised, trained, and evaluated a staff of two direct-service, full-time Coordinators, and one direct-service, full-time Renton Technical College Student Success Coach
- Managed and provided direct oversight over the Femme2STEM and GirlsFirst budget in the Economic Department of over \$100,000

## **Assistant Director, Outreach and Prevention, *Center for Gender Equity***

Pacific Lutheran University (Tacoma, WA)

Aug 2016-March 2019

- Organized Sista Circle, an inclusive social and educational space for student women of color and non-binary students of color to discuss experiences at a dominantly white institution
- Create a year-long classroom and extracurricular curriculum related to gender education and gender-based violence prevention from an anti--oppression and intersectional framework that reaches multiple communities at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU)
- Developed race, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation country-specific bystander and identity trainings for study away students
- Supervised, trained, and evaluated a student Sexuality Awareness and Personal Empowerment Team (SAPET) student intern, who leads SAPET’s peer education program focused on sexual assault, healthy relationships, consent, and gender identity and justice

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- Assessed and reported PLU's sexual violence prevention and advocacy initiatives through NASPA's Culture of Respect assessment and data tracking program
- Managed and provided direct oversight over the prevention budget of \$6,000 and the bystander grant budget of \$5000

## **Residence Director, Hong and Hinderlie Halls, *Residential Life***

Pacific Lutheran University (Tacoma, WA)

July 2015- July 2016

- Supervised 12 Residential Assistants (RAs) and 14 residential student leaders in efforts to solve conflict situations, and create inclusive and intentional programming and conversations
- Managed and provided direct oversight over the budgets and facility operations of Hong and Hinderlie Halls
- Served as the Emergency Building Coordinator and conducted educator for confidential crises
- Served on an on-call duty rotation as a primary responder for emergency situations
- Managed and assessed the day-to-day operations of training sessions for residential life student leaders (Residential Life Institute, Mid-Year Renewal, and All-Staff trainings)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

- Black Women's Studies Association member, 2023-present
- Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) member, 2013-present
- National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, member, 2012-present

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- 2024 Black Women's Studies Association Cheryl A. Wall Graduate Student Paper Committee
- 2023-2024 Fred Hutch-SciEd 2-year College Advisory Committee
- 2023 NASPA First-Generation Celebration Grant Reviewer
- 2022 Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Conference Proposal Reviewer
- 2021-2022 Tacoma College Success Network Persistence to College member
- 2021 ASHE Council on Ethnic Participation Pre-Conference-Poster Sessions Committee Member
- 2020 Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Conference Proposal Reviewer
- 2018-present Black Girls Research and Rock for Pacific Lutheran University
- 2017 NASPA's NUFPP Dugy Leadership Institute On-Site Coordinator
- 2015-2017 NASPA NUFPP Mentor
- 2015-2017 NUFPP Program Coordinator for Pacific Lutheran University