Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conference
August 23, 2021
Featured Presenters

Dr. Susan V. Iverson
Professor of Higher Education Leadership, and Director of the Doctoral Program
Manhattanville College

Iverson's interests as a scholar-practitioner center equity and social action. She's published work related to diversity & equity, status of women, leadership in higher education, scholarship of teaching and learning, and the role of policy in shaping problem representations. Prior to becoming faculty (in 2006), Iverson worked in student affairs administration for nearly 15 years.

Dr. Nicole Joseph

Dr. Joseph is an educator with over 20 years of experience in higher education administration and teaching in community colleges and non-profit organizations. She is currently the Director of the Ossining Extension Center of Westchester Community College. Dr. Joseph’s dissertation, “Feelin’ Some Kind of Way”: The Lived Professional Experiences of Midlevel Black Women Administrators in Community Colleges Through the Lens of Black Feminist Thought uncovers how race shapes the leadership experiences of midlevel administrators in community colleges.
Anthony Wilder  
Director, Center for Inclusion  
Manhattanville College

Anthony previously served as the Program Coordinator in the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion at Northeastern University in Boston, MA. In this role, he worked closely with faculty and staff in providing DEI development opportunities and workshops, as well as supporting social engagement through the university’s seven active affinity groups. He also supported professional development opportunities for historically excluded populations through various initiatives and programs, geared towards providing increased access to mentorship and career advancement.

Dr. Christine Farrugia  
Director, Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment  
Manhattanville College

Christine’s previous research roles include Columbia University School of Professional Studies where she conducted research on the future of work, lifelong learning, and educational access. Prior to that, she was research director at the Institute of International Education (IIE) where she led Open Doors, a large-scale annual survey of international educational exchange in the United States, and other research on international academic mobility. Dr. Farrugia holds a Ph.D. from SUNY-Albany and M.A. and Ed.M. degrees from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Usama Shaikh  
Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Title IX Officer  
SUNY Old Westbury

In his role, Usama is responsible for coordinating efforts to establish “Diversity” and “Inclusive Excellence” as core values at SUNY Old Westbury. His Office is responsible for educating and training the campus community to fully understand the compliance requirements and our overall expectations regarding diversity and Title IX.
Kahlil Koromantee
*Program Coordinator, Center for Inclusion*
*Manhattanville College*

Kahlil has a Master’s in Applied Counseling from New York University and a Bachelor’s in English Instruction from City College of CUNY. His professional background includes working with marginalized students and teaching cultural and inter-cultural awareness. His philosophy on DEI is that we are witnessing a cultural shift on and off campus presenting a great opportunity for us to address inequities in our departmental programs and the classroom experience.

Alex Barkley
*Director, Center for Student Involvement & Leadership*
*Manhattanville College*

Alex (He/him/his) serves as the Director of the Center for Student Involvement & Leadership (CSIL) at Manhattanville College. In his role, Alex has focused on understanding student engagement on campus through data collection and analysis to better understand student needs and wants. In addition to student engagement, Alex has supported the New Student and Family/Supporter Orientation program, Student Government, and the Senior Class.

Flecia Thomas
*Associate Vice President of Student Affairs*
*College of Southern Nevada*

Dr. Flecia Thomas has over 15 years of direct leadership in diversity and inclusion work. Her social justice/community service work has expanded across a variety of organizations and platforms for over 30 years. Dr. Thomas has facilitated numerous presentations on cultural competencies and identity development. She is currently a member of the anti-black racism committee at her college.
Carleigh Brower
Director of the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship, the Academic Resource Center, and the Writing Center
Manhattanville College.

Carleigh holds an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College and is a doctoral candidate in the Composition and Applied Linguistics Program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Her research interests include transfer of learning, translingual pedagogy, digital rhetoric, multimodal composition, and writing center research and administration. She has been published in The Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy and The Writing Lab Newsletter and has presented at the annual conventions of the Conference on College Composition and Communication, the International Writing Centers Association, the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing, the Northeast Writing Centers Association, the National Resource Center for the First Year Experience, and the Literacy Research Association.

Latisha Clarke
Manhattanville College, Class of 2022.

From Poughkeepsie, NY, Latisha is a Business Major with a minor in Sports Studies. Latisha has been an active member of the DEI committee since its inception and more recently has served as a DEI intern since Spring 2021. Latisha will be graduating this upcoming January!
Edwin Bowman
Adjunct Faculty, Finance, Economics, and Management
Manhattanville College

After a long chemical research and development experience in a global chemical company (Dow Corning and Dow Chemical Co. (Midland, MI), Bowman joined a large New York Human Resources Management Consulting firm that focused on labor and human resources relations including diversity management, Glass Ceiling Initiatives for Women and Minorities, and Federal contract compliance.

Bowman served as President of the Westchester Human Resource Management Association (WRMA) before joining Mville in 2011.

Bowman is Founding Partner of BowmanBecker Consulting, LLC that focuses on Talent Management, Organization Development, and Workforce Diversity.

Dr. Cindy Porter
Vice President for Student Affairs &
Chief Diversity Officer
Manhattanville College

Cindy joined Manhattanville College as the vice president of student affairs in 2017 after a career spanning over 25 years in student life, diversity and inclusion, and co-curricular assessment. She has served as an adjunct faculty member at both Manhattanville College and the University of Bridgeport where she taught in the Counseling program. Cindy has presented regionally and nationally in the areas of assessment, learning through the co-curricular experience, and creating an inclusive campus communities. Her doctoral research focused on high impact practices and her particular interest in understanding impact on persistence for students from underserved populations. Cindy currently serves the dual role of VP for student affairs and Chief Diversity Officer. Her conviction on the need to intentionally create inclusive environments reflects throughout her work. When not at work, her interests include cooking, science fiction, and “a great game of spades”.

Loren McDermott Ciardullo
Special Assistant to the President &
Title IX Coordinator
Manhattanville College

Loren (she/her/hers) is a native of Bronx, NY and has experience in Student Success, Residence Life, Career Services and College Preparation. She has served as an adjunct professor for the ATLAS and First Year Program and Communications & Media. She also serves as the Chair of the Council for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the College. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the College of the Holy Cross and holds a Masters of Science in Education and Counseling and Personnel Services from Fordham University.