

The Alliance

#BlackLivesMatter #YouAreWelcomeHere

“The mission of The Alliance is to **support** all faculty, staff and students of color at IWU through **mentorship, networking, and fostering a sense of community**. We strive to hold Illinois Wesleyan and each other accountable to our mission that **values diversity, equity, and inclusion** through programming and open dialogue at all levels. We will support our students of color as they pursue their **academic and career goals** by creating **networking and funding opportunities** that traditionally have not been accessible to all.”



Co-Chair

SHARLA BROWN-AJAYI (SHE/HER)



- **Title: Director**
- **Department: Office of Diversity & Inclusion**
- **Phone: 309-556-3967**
- **Email: sbrownaj@iwu.edu**
- **Location: Hansen Student Center Suite 200**
- **B.S. in History**
- **Certificate in Diversity from Cornell**

Fun Fact

- **Semi-finalist in a nationwide Rock Paper Scissors Tournament**
- **Is a big music lover**
 - **Her favorite genres are 90's R&B, Reggae, and gospel**



Co-Chair

Christopher Schumacher

Title: Head Men's and Women's Track Coach and
Professor of Physical Education & Inclusion
Designee

Department: Athletics

Phone: 309-556-2985

Email: cshumac@iwu.edu

Location: Shirk Center

"My ultimate goal is to foster an atmosphere where the student-athlete can gain confidence and maturity to attain success on the track and more importantly, far beyond their years as a Titan athlete."



Co-Chair

PRINCE ROBERTSON (HE/HIM)



- Title: Dean of Students for Inclusion and Advocacy
- Department: Dean of Students
- Phone: 309-556-3111
- Email: probert1@iwu.edu
- Location: Holmes Hall

B.A. Communications

M.S. Ed College Student Personnel

Ed.D. in Educational Policy, ABD

Fun Facts:

- Originally from Harlem, NY
- Played basketball at his Alma Mater

RAYLENE GOMEZ-HERNANDEZ (SHE/HER)

Assistant Director

Title: Assistant Director

Department: Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Phone: 309-556-3357

Email: rgomez@iwu.edu

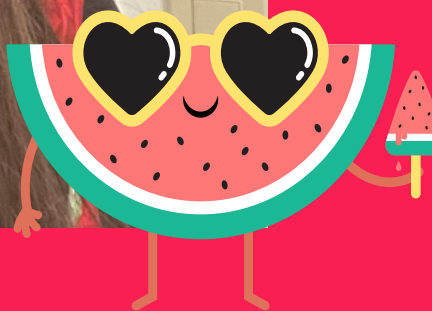
Location: Hansen Student Center Suite 200

B.A. in Spanish, French, and Japanese linguistics

M.A. in Cultural, Historical, And sociological linguistics

Fun Facts:

- Can speak 4 languages
- Won a National Yu-Gi-Oh! tournament in Mexico City at the age of 12





**Assistant Director of
Admissions for
EDI Programming**

Assistant Football Coach



Anfernee Roberts

(He/Him/His)

- **B.A. Mathematics**

Fun Facts:

1. I have Bungee Jumped in New Zealand (Pictured Above)
2. I was born with 6 fingers on my left hand (A Trait passed down all the way from my Great-Grandfather on my dad's side)
3. I both Played, and now Coach Football for IWU.



Jessie D. Dixon-Montgomery

Title: Associate Professor of Spanish

Department: Chair, World Languages,
Literatures, and Cultures

Phone: 309-556-3081

Email: Jdixonmo@iwu.edu

Location: Center for Liberal Arts

I earned my Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literatures. My research and areas of interest include Afro-Hispanic literature and Latino/a Identity. My current research projects focus on music as a form of revolution and resistance in the underground Hip Hop of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, and Venezuelan Parrandas. Fun fact: I am a gospel choir director and I love cooking international cuisine.



Marcellus Polk

Title: Admissions Counselor

Department: Admissions

Recruiting Territory: Illinois (Quad Cities,
Southwest Suburbs)

Email: mpolk1@iwu.edu

Fun Fact:

Marcellus started at IWU this summer.



Jasmyn Taylor

Title: Admissions Counselor

Department: Admissions

Email: jtaylor6@iwu.edu

Fun Fact:

Jasmyn is a 2022 IWU graduate!



Lex Epps

Title: Graduate Assistant

Department: Office of Student Involvement

Location: Hansen Student Center 201

Email: aepps@iwu.edu

Fun Fact:

Lex is a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.



XAVIER ISAIAS (HE/HIM)

Title: Graduate Assistant

Department: Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Email: xisaias@iwu.edu

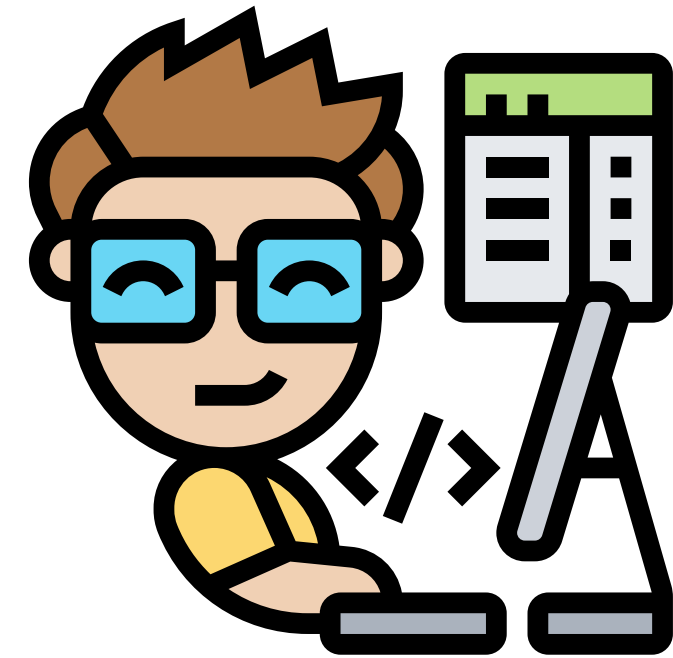
Location: Hansen Student Center 201

B.S. in cybersecurity

In the College Student Personnel Administration
(CSPA) Masters Program

Fun Facts:

- I Know 3 Different Programming languages (Java, Python, & HTML) and can count binary on my fingers
- I am a Brother of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc.



Zahia Drici

Title: Professor and Chair of Mathematics

Department: Mathematics

Phone: 309-556-3669

Email: zdrici@iwu.edu

Location: Center for Natural Sciences
C209B

Fun Fact:

Zahia has been at IWU for over 20 years!



Malik Whitfield

Title: Area Director (Blackstock Hall, Gulick Hall,
Kemp Hall, Pfeiffer Hall)

Department: Office of Residential Life

Phone: 309-556-3113

Email: mwhitfie@iwu.edu

Fun Fact:

Malik started at IWU in August.



Michelle Gibbs

Title: Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts

Department: School of Theatre Arts

Phone: 309-556-3195

Email: mgibbs@iwu.edu

Location: McPherson Hall

“I'm Dr. Michelle Cowin Gibbs. I am an assistant professor in the School of Theatre Arts. I have a B.A. in Theatre Performance, an MFA in Drama, and a Ph.D. in Theatre with a certificate in Performance Studies. My area of research is in early 20th century Black modernist theatre and African diasporic dance criticism. Some fun eclectic facts about me are that I'm a novice gamer; I love a 90s pop group from Sweden called "Ace of Base"; and I'm a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated.”



Krasondra Brooks

Title: Project Coordinator

Department: Physical Plant

Phone: 309-556-3066

Email: kbrooks1@iwu.edu

Location: Physical Plant





Harri Horsley

Education:

BFA in Design/Technology, Kent State University

MFA in Costume Design, University of Texas, Austin

Fun facts:

From Chicago, graduated from Dwight D. Eisenhower High School in Blue Island, IL

I'm 2nd Generation Afro Costa Rican-American

I have a Giant Schnoodle puppy named Harper

Anna Corvera (She/Her)

Title: Dance Instructional Staff

Department: School of Theatre Arts

Email: acorvera@iwu.edu

Location: CNS E018

B.F.A. in Dance

M.F.A. in Dance Performance and
Choreography

Fun Facts:

- Started dancing at age 3 in St. Louis, MO
- Loves exploring the outdoors with rescue dog Dakota



Leon Lewis

Title: Chief Information Officer

Department: Information Technology Services

Email: llewis@iwu.edu

Location: Ames Library

Fun Fact:

Mr. Lewis is always looking for great student workers in ITS!



Eda Flores-Miranda

Title: Staff Counselor - PT

Department: Counseling Services

Email: efloresm@iwu.edu



Gabriela Sanchez

Title: Event Coordinator - Conference Services

Department: CONFERENCE SERVICES

Email: gsanchez@iwu.edu

Phone Number: 309 556 3035

Location: Memorial Center 167



Katie Gonzales

Title: Director of Athletic Communications
Department: Physical Education and Varsity
Athletics

Phone: 309-556-3640

Email: kgonzal1@iwu.edu

Location: Shirk

Fun Fact:

Everyone who knows Katie thinks she's
awesome.



Alfred Holland

Title: Custodian

Department: Physical Plant

Email: aholland@iwu.edu



Angelica Patino

Title: Custodian

Department: Physical Plant

Email: ahollan@iwu.edu



Monica Hall

Title: Assistant Professor of Nursing

Department: School of Nursing

Phone: 309-556-3271

Email: mhall2@iwu.edu

Location: Stevenson 221

BSN: Illinois Wesleyan University

PhD: University of Illinois at Chicago

Fun Facts:

- Love to ride my motorcycle.
- Favorite color is red (both car and motorcycle are red).
- May not recognize me because I like to change my hair often. :) See collage



Assistant Professor - Nursing

Elaine Hardy

Title: Assistant Professor of Nursing

Department: School of Nursing

Email: ehardy@iwu.edu

Location: Stevenson Hall



CRISTINA ALMEIDA

(She, her)

Coordinator of the Basic Language Sequence and Language Resource Center

French and Spanish Instructor

- MA Languages, Literatures and Cultures - Theoretical and Applied Linguistics
 - BA Ecotourism and National Tourism Guide
- Loves nature and exploring remote areas, dancing, and learning about other languages and cultures



Katrina Harper

Title: Custodian II

Department: Physical Plant

Phone: 309-556-3066

Email: kharper@iwu.edu

Location: Physical Plant



Chisato Kojima

Title: Assistant Professor of
Japanese

Department: World
Languages, Literatures, and
Cultures

Email: ckojima@iwu.edu

Location: Buck Memorial
Library



Franklin Larey

Title: Professor and Director of the
School of Music

Department: School of Music

Phone: 309-556-3015

Email: flarey@iwu.edu

Location: Presser Hall 110



Brian Law

Title: Assistant Professor of Computer
Science

Department: Computer Science

Phone: 309-556-3535

Email: blaw@iwu.edu

Location: Center for Natural Sciences
C207A



Leah Nillas

Title: Associate Professor of
Educational Studies
Department: Education Studies
Department
Phone: 309-556-3437
Email: lnillas@iwu.edu
Location: CLA 314



Tameka Myers

Title: Administrative Specialist
Department: Office of the Associate
Provost
Email: tmyers1@iwu.edu
Location: Holmes Hall



Hieu Nguyen

Title: Instructor

Department: Economics

Email: hnguyen6@iwu.edu

Location: State Farm Hall



Adriana Ponce

Title: Associate Professor of Music

Department: School of Music

Phone: 309-556-3115

Email: aponce@iwu.edu

Location: Presser 155



Indea Powe

Title: Counselor

Department: Counseling & Consultation Services

Phone: 309-556-3031

Email: ipowe@iwu.edu

Location: CCS

Bachelor of Science: focus in Sociology

Masters: Social Work, Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)

Former Child & Family Therapist

Chicago Native

Fun Facts:

- I originally pursued a college degree to become an Accountant!
- My middle name is Queen!
- Two-time graduate from Illinois State University



Nixa Robles

Title: Site manager

Department: Titan Print & Mail Services

Location: Titan Print & Mail Center



Michelle Wu

Title: Director of Conference Services

Department: Conference Services

Phone: 309-556-3591

Email: mwu@iwu.edu

Location: Memorial Center 167

B.A. in American Studies

M.Ed in Higher Education Administration

Certified Collegiate Conference and Events Professional (CCEP)

President-Elect for the Association of Collegiate Conference and Events Directors- International (ACCED-I)

“I am a well-traveled New Englander with an undergraduate degree in American Studies from Emory University (Atlanta, GA) and a Master’s in Education from Vanderbilt University.

Fun Facts:

- *I love to hike wherever I can find hills*
- *Former Competitive ballroom dancer*



David Hernandez Ceballos

Title: IT Support Specialist

Department: Information Technology

Email: dhernan1@iwu.edu





Dyrell Ashley (He/Him)



- Bachelor's in Psychology/ Pre-Nursing
- M.S. College Student Personnel Administration
- Previous Graduate Assistant for ODI
- Fun Facts:
 - He has an art business:
@phrostbite_designs
 - Is a Bill and Melinda Gates Scholar



**Members of
The Alliance
celebrating
Kooken and
Brown-Ajayi**

**Members of The
Alliance
pictured with
students and
featured poet**





**From left to right:
Monica Hall '90, Jessie Dixon-
Montgomery, and Sharla
Brown-Ajayi**



**ODI staff at the
Annual Pride Fruit
Mixer**

**Alliance members
at the IMPACT '22
closing ceremony**





Dr. Brandon Common and Dr. Amanda Hopkins pictured with 19th President Eric Jensen after been awarded the Inclusive Excellence Award in 2019



Unity Gala 2023
March 4, 2023

The Alliance

#BlackLivesMatter #YouAreWelcomeHere