

## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

### Rebecca Atkins, M.Ed.



Rebecca Atkins is a nationally board-certified school counselor and a dedicated advocate for equity in education. Currently serving as the Director of School Counseling for Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools, she served as a school counselor for over 12 years before moving to a central services role. Rebecca is not only a frequent speaker and presenter at state and national conferences but, alongside Alicia Oglesby, also authored the book *Interrupting Racism: Equity and Social Justice in School Counseling* in 2018. They are currently collaborating on their second book. Rebecca's passion for doing right by students defines her commitment to crafting comprehensive school counseling programs, and enabling staff to make a lasting impact on student lives.

### Mike Hannon, PhD



Michael Hannon is a Black man, husband, and father who also happens to be a counselor, professor, and author. His personal and professional roles converge to inspire his community work to unapologetically advocate for the wellbeing of Black fathers and father figures, particularly fathers of autistic people. Dr. Hannon's expertise about the Black fathers' wellness has been featured by outlets including National Public Radio, New York Times, Autism Speaks, Thrive Global, Huffington Post, Waymaker Journal, and Black Enterprise Magazine. His research has been cited over 500 times. His edited book, *Black Fathering and Mental Health*, was published by Peter Lang Academic Publishers in March 2022 and his second book, *Protect, Provide, Prepare: Black Fatherhood Code in Family and Community*, will be published in December 2024. As an educator, Dr. Hannon is an Associate Professor at Montclair State University where he teaches in the counseling program where students are prepared to treat clients in educational and community settings. Dr. Hannon is counselor at The Center for MARCUS in Trenton, NJ where he works with children, adolescents, and adults, with a particular focus on father clients. With Dr. Robert Naseef, he co-leads the AJ Drexel Autism Institute's Fathers' Autism Support Group. And as a community member, Michael and his wife, Dr. LaChan Hannon are the co-founders of Greater Expectations Teaching and Advocacy Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to serving professionals that work to support autistic people and their families. Dr. Hannon is also a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Dr. Hannon earned his doctoral degree in Counselor Education and Supervision from The Pennsylvania State University, an educational specialist degree in Counseling Services from Rider University, and master's (Student Affairs Practice in Higher Education) and a bachelor's degrees from the University of Delaware.

### Erik Hines, PhD



Erik M. Hines, Ph.D., is a Professor of Counseling in the Division of Child, Family, and Community Engagement within the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University. Dr. Hines prepares graduate students to be counselors in a clinical or school setting. His research agenda focuses on: (a) postsecondary readiness for Black males; (b) academic and career outcomes of Black males; (c) parental involvement and its impact on academic achievement for students of color; and (d) career exploration for students of color in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). He has secured over \$2.8 million dollars in funding. Additionally, Dr. Hines has accumulated over 75 publications, including his co-edited book, *Equity-Based Career Development and Postsecondary Transitions: An American Imperative*. His research has appeared in peer-reviewed journals, such as the *Journal of Counseling and Development*, *Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development*, *Journal for Specialists in Group Work*, *Professional School Counseling*, *The High School Journal*, and *Urban Education*. Moreover, he has served as guest editor for six special issues in the following journals: *Journal of College Access*, *Journal for Multicultural Counseling and Development*, *Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering*, *Journal for Specialists in Group Work*, *Professional School Counseling*, and *Teaching and Supervision in Counseling*. Last, Dr. Hines is a proud American Counseling Association (ACA) Fellow and recipient of the AI Dye Award from the Association for Specialists in Group Work.

### Shekila Melchior, PhD



Dr. Melchior is a scholar-activist-practitioner and serves as the Director of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships for the Office for Diversity and Inclusion at George Mason University. She is a Nationally Board-Certified Counselor, an LPC-MHSP in TN, an LPC in VA and a Licensed Professional School Counselor in Virginia. She has over 10 years experience working with children, adolescents and adults in clinical and school settings. She is active in her local, state and national organizations and has delivered over 100 presentations. She holds a PhD in Counselor Education and a Master's of School Counseling. Dr. Melchior's research interests include social justice identity development, undocumented students/immigrants, the professional identity development of school counselors and wellness for front line activists as well as wellness for Black Women. Lastly, Dr. Melchior was the 2021 recipient of the Counselors for Social Justice Mary Smith Arnold Anti-Oppression award, which recognizes counselors and counselor educators who have an exemplary record of challenging multiple oppressions in the counseling profession.

### Ahmad Washington, PhD



Ahmad R. Washington Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at the university of Louisville, with dual appointments in the department of Pan-African Studies and the Department of Counseling and Human Development. He currently serves as the school counseling program coordinator, where he works with pre-service school counseling students as they prepare to transition into the profession. Dr. Washington received his B.S. in psychology from Francis Marion University, his M.A. in clinical counseling from webster university, and his Ph.D. in counselor education and supervision from the university of Iowa in 2013. Dr. Washington's primary research and pedagogical interests within school counseling explore how hip-hop culture, as texts, discourses and practices, represent salient and constructive sites of fugitivity (Givens, 2021) and refusal, particularly for black students confronting and negotiating structural anti-Blackness.

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