Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Education with an emphasis in Educational Practice

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BA Tougaloo College, 1994
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Using African Cultural and Liberating Concepts

Date: April 4, 2019
Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Place: TLC Boeing Auditorium

Abstract
The purpose of this autoethnography is to explore the impact on learning for a delineated cultural and ethnographic student population when the instructional process is interwoven with a plethora of student-reflective cultural and ethnic information and knowledge gained through the process of in plethora of knowledge and valuable information of retelling rich stories of students, parents, teachers, and stakeholders conveyed from an emancipatory perspective. I believe that these stories can assist in improving the educational conditions of children of African descent in the United States and the diaspora. Throughout my life, I have wondered about the absence of my history and culture in textbooks, media, economics, the medical industry, the military, and the educational system. As a young male child of African descent growing up in the state of Mississippi, I can recall my mother telling me that I would always ask questions about society because the educational system never seemed right to me. In this autoethnographic journey, I explored my life experience by becoming conscious about my history and culture, which changed my entire vision as a college graduate and motivated me to become an educational liberator teaching African people about their history and culture.
This autoethnography integrates Africology and the culturally responsive pedagogical framework to capture the rich cultural experiences of parents, students, teachers, and community from my personal viewpoint. These exciting stories intend to support the powerful benefits of sending children of African descent to an African-centered institution.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
Matthew Davis, Ph.D., Chairperson
Thomasina Hassler, Ph.D., Committee Member
Timothy Makubuya, Ph.D., Committee Member
Carl Hoagland Ph.D., Committee Member