The Black Faculty & Staff Association (BFSA) would like to welcome everyone to the University of Missouri-St. Louis for the 2021-2022 school year! Last year was like no other we have ever faced, and while we know there are still challenges, we are excited to continue our mission as the premier voice for Black faculty and staff on campus.

Similar to Black faculty and staff organizations across the country, the purpose of BFSA is to address the concerns and issues identified by Black faculty, staff and students and to work toward a greater participation of Black people in key decision-making processes which affect their well-being.

We are committed to serving as a unified voice that fosters community and that empowers Black people to effect positive change within and beyond UMSL.
**President - Harry Harris**

Harry is in his 17th year of service to the UMSL community. With a background in College Student Personnel, Harry started in the campus Academic Advising office in 2004. As part of his position, he began working with the student athletes on their registration and compliance forms. He soon became the first Coordinator of Academics for the Athletics department, overseeing all aspects of the academic experience for student athletes. During his tenure in the position, the Athletics department set new records in academic achievements, including the highest department GPAs recorded up to that point and numerous recognitions from the NCAA and GLVC. Harry began working as an advisor in the College of Nursing in August of 2018 and currently serves as a Senior Advisor in the College. Harry has served on various committees and campus organizations including the Black Faculty & Staff Association, as a Campus Hearing Officer, Staff Association, Staff Book Club, Student Services and Advising Council, and the Chancellor’s Cultural Diversity Committee. Harry was recognized in 2020 with the Chancellor’s Award for Staff Excellence in the administrative/professional category.

**Vice President for Staff - Antoinette Williams**

Dr. Antionette Sterling is a native of Beaumont, Texas. She is a graduate of Missouri State University and graduate of the University of Missouri St. Louis. With degrees in French, Communications, and a Doctorate in Education, she describes herself as a professional educator providing new ideas, coaching, and mentorship to students. She is committed to social justice and the empowerment of underserved student populations; she is well versed in current retention and recruitment practices. In her spare time, she loves to read, research and visit museums. With an avid interest in art, classical movies and history, she enjoys musical theater and participating in 5K Runs. Ultimately, she aspires to empower her students to dream big and achieve their academic goals while embracing a growth mindset that will propel them to a lifetime of success.

**Vice President for Faculty - Sha-Lai Williams**

Sha-Lai Williams received her PhD from The Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis in 2013. Her research interest focuses on issues related to race/ethnicity and mental health and utilization of mental health services, particularly among African Americans and emerging adults. She is also interested in factors associated with cultural awareness/sensitivity among social work and helping professionals. Prior to pursuing her doctoral degree, Dr. Williams gained over 12 years of practice experience in residential care facilities, non-profit agencies, and private practice, providing direct clinical practice to individuals, families, and groups affected by mental illness. She is a licensed clinical social worker and has previously served as a supervisor to provisionally licensed clinical social workers in North Carolina. Dr. Williams received her MSW from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her BSW from North Carolina State University. As an associate professor in the School of Social Work at University of Missouri – St. Louis, Dr. Williams teaches Social Work Practice and Human Behavior courses, utilizing her expertise as an accomplished facilitator of several nationally recognized training curricula and her experience teaching masters-level courses at The Brown School. She enjoys interacting with undergraduate students, serving as an advisor for master’s level students and those involved with the BHWET program. In addition, Dr. Williams is an active participant in the School of Social Work, as well as the UMSL and surrounding community.

“Be Passionate and move forward with gusto every single day until you reach your goal” - Ava Duvernay
INTRODUCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Treasurer - Sherry Hieken
Sherry Hieken has been with UMSL for 24 years. For the past three years, she has been the Administrative Consultant for the Finance and Administration Division, where she is responsible for advising seven Departments within the Division. Previously, for five years, Sherry was the Business and Fiscal Operations Specialist for the Budget Services Department. In that position, she was responsible for training the fiscal officers, reviewing budget planning, and reconciling budget accounts. For the other sixteen years of her employment at UMSL, she served as the Senior Fiscal Officer for KWMU-FM | St. Louis Public Radio, where she performed many facets of budgetary and employee operations.

Sherry currently serves on the Black Faculty & Staff Executive Committee as the Treasurer. Sherry Hieken holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Business Administration from Fontbonne University - both in Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance).

Secretary - Alexandria Bratcher
Alex is the Academic Program Coordinator for the College of Nursing. Alex has been in this role at UMSL for 3 years where she handles the class schedule and data reporting to various accrediting bodies. She has served on the UMSL Staff Association as a representative. As Secretary of the BFSA she assists with the recording of minutes, scheduling, and all other responsibilities necessary in the role. She is excited to serve the BFSA and looks forward to an awesome academic year.

Communications & Media Chair - E. Paulette Isaac-Savage
Dr. Isaac-Savage is a Professor of Adult Education in the College of Education (COE). She has taught in the COE since 1999. Her primary line of research is adult religious education with a focus on the Black Church. Other research has included African American adult learners, adult health education, and assessment. Current research projects include Christian educators’ instructional perspectives and adult education careers.

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” - Martin Luther King Jr.
NEW ADMINISTRATORS

Reggie Hill - Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Enrollment

As UMSL’s chief enrollment officer, he will be leading the Office of Admissions and the Office of the Registrar while overseeing the implementation of UMSL’s first-ever strategic enrollment plan to ensure the university’s long-term sustainability through enrollment and retention growth.

He brings 15 years of experience working in enrollment management in higher education, and he has a proven track record of developing and implementing innovative plans and initiatives to meet the enrollment goals of each institution at which he has worked. Reggie has had success not only in increasing the number of students but attracting students from different communities and increasing the diversity of the campuses he’s served.

Ariana Smith - LGBTQ & Diversity Coordinator

Originally from northwest Iowa, where she attended Cherokee Washington High School and received bachelor’s degrees in entrepreneurial management and marketing from the University of Iowa. It was there that she got involved in LGBTQ+ programming as an undergrad student and as a program coordinator. “We did DEI initiatives, so a lot of it was geared towards racial minority groups, LGBTQ, first-generation students, women, people who fall outside of the gender nonbinary spectrum,” she said. Smith, who identifies as a “nonbinary, queer, female-bodied human,” said she was impacted personally by the program because it was her first opportunity to meet someone who she could relate to. Smith is looking to the future. She is already making plans for National Coming Out Day in October and next year’s PrideFest. Smith is hoping that UMSL will have a float in the parade or a booth during the annual event, which celebrates the LGBTQ+ community.
**BFSA General Meeting Dates** -
Meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 12 noon to 1:00 pm. All General Assembly meetings will be virtual.

- September 16, 2021
- October 21, 2021
- November 18, 2021
- December 16, 2021
- *January 20, 2022*
- February 17, 2022
- March 17, 2022
- April 21, 2022
- May 19, 2022

* = not a physical meeting, just an update.

**Zoom Details**
**Meeting ID:** 928 2436 8205  
**Passcode:** 459236  
**Meeting link:**  
https://umsystem.zoom.us/j/92824368205?pwd=RGltdHJaSGcrczdmR2hBaEpNYzh3QT09

**Fall 2021 Event Dates**
- Dr. Jerome E. Morris Public Lecturer - November 2021
- Holiday Mingle - December 16, 2021, at 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm

[Click here to pay Membership Dues](https://www.umsl.edu/bfsa/index.html)