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

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Philosophy in Education with an emphasis in Educational Leadership & Policy Studies

Benard Diggs

M.A in Adult and Higher Education, December 2007, University of Missouri-St. Louis
B.A. in General Studies, May 1995, University of Missouri-St. Louis

The Aftermath of the First Children of Brown: Stories of Housing and Education Disparities in St. Louis, Missouri 1950-1970

Date: November 17, 2023
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Place: Remote

Abstract
This study explores residential segregation in two prominently African-American neighborhoods in St. Louis. It is based on past and current scholarship and examines the impact of historical and current housing and educational policies, consequently creating persistent racial disparities. According to Rothstein (2017) past governmental influence played a significant role in creating what he calls government-sponsored urban ghettos in cities across the United States today. St. Louis has been a residentially segregated city for many years. This study looks at St. Louis-specific research about housing, patterns, educational outcomes, and neighborhood experiences of the interview participants. The responses given by the participants provided the raw data for evaluation. Data analysis involved aspects of Critical Race Theory (CRT) and an emerging Theory of Place. CRT seeks to understand racism within a historical context and how it impacts social and economic outcomes (Matsuda et al., 1993). Place identifies a population within an environmental context characterized by social, cultural, and economic influences and organized by economic and socially systemic forces (Johnson, 2012). In other words, where you live can impact a group's social, educational, and economic outcomes. The study uses a qualitative research approach and narrative analysis for interview data. Narratives give form to the experience by giving the participants a physical dimension to make sense of what has or has not happened (Bamberg, 2010).

Defense of Dissertation Committee
Thomasina, Hassler, Ph.D. Chair
Good, Robert Faculty Member, Ph.D.
Balcerzak, Phyllis Faculty Member, Ph.D.
Mershon, Kenton Faculty Member, Ph.D.