



## Speaker Profiles



Dr. Kellie Byrd-Danso is the President of the NCBA Northeast Region. She is a higher education professional with 20 years of experience in both two-year and four-year college settings. In her role as Vice President for Student Affairs, she leads a high performing team that creates engaging experiences and enhances student retention. She is an innovative leader with expertise in student development theories, administration, and leadership.

Dr. Danso has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Connecticut, a master's in counseling/Student Development Higher Education from North Carolina State University, and a Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Northeastern University.



Dr. Mordecai Ian Brownlee proudly serves as the sixth President of the Community College of Aurora in Colorado. In addition, Dr. Mordecai publishes frequently, including serving as a columnist for EdSurge. He also teaches for Lamar University within the College of Education & Human Development and serves as an international keynote speaker.

Dr. Mordecai has been featured on several local, state, and national platforms including the American Association of Community Colleges Community College Journal, *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*, NASPA Leadership Exchange, EdUp Experience, EdTech Magazine, Voyage Denver, Colorado Sentinel, and many others.

This year, Dr. Mordecai was honored with the prestigious 40 Under 40 Award from the Denver Business Journal and in April is slated to receive the Community Leader of the Year Award from the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. In 2022, Dr. Mordecai was featured by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education Magazine* as a "New School" leader representing the next generation of college presidents.



David Baime serves as senior vice president for government relations for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). In this role, he directs the national advocacy efforts for the nation's close to 1,200 community colleges and their students. Prior to joining AACC, he served as director of education funding for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. He has also worked as assistant director of government relations for the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Baime has made a number of radio, television, and Web appearances, including on CNN, MSNBC, C-SPAN, and National Public Radio, and is frequently quoted in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Inside Higher Ed*, and other education publications.

Baime holds a bachelor's degree from Haverford College and a master's degree in economics from the London School of Economics.



Dr. G. Duncan Harris has over 25 years of experience in higher education and serves as the chief executive officer of Capital Community College (CCC) in Hartford, CT where he is responsible for strategic direction and daily operations of the college. He is recognized as an expert in student success and retention, has served as a NECHE evaluator, is invited to lecture on the field to graduate students, and takes pride in his role as mentor/coach to many community college professionals. In 2014, he launched the CCSU Student Success Center as the founding executive director.

He is affiliated with several state and national organizations and serves on the board of Windsor Federal Savings, the Wadsworth Museum, American Association of Community College Commission on Workforce Development and the National Council on Black American Affairs. Dr. Harris has received a number of awards for his leadership and contributions to the community including the CCSU Distinguished Alumni Counseling Professional Award, the NAACP CT 100 Black Influencers, and the CT African American Affairs Man of the Year Award.

Dr. Harris holds a doctorate of education from Nova Southeastern University, a master of science degree in counseling from CCSU, a bachelor of science degree in economics from UConn, and certificate in Management and Leadership from Harvard University.

He resides in Windsor, CT with his wife, Garcia, and two children, Grant and Grayson



Dr. Kevin A. Christian serves as the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). In his role, he analyzes and monitors trends that affect diverse populations in community colleges and manages the diversity related issues that are key and priority to AACC's mission and core values.

From 2010-2016, Christian managed AACC's Minority Male Student Success Database, which highlighted community college programs and initiatives that focused on mentoring, recruitment, persistence and completion.

Dr. Christian has a bachelor's degree in Mass Media Arts from Hampton University, an MBA from Southeastern University (DC), and doctorate in Higher Education Administration from George Mason University (VA).



Kimberly Beatty, Ed.D., began her tenure as Metropolitan Community College's eighth chancellor on July 1, 2017. Dr. Beatty came to MCC from Houston Community College and has enjoyed over thirty years in higher education. Beatty's commitment to the community college mission has been realized through her service as a faculty member, program manager, dean, associate vice chancellor, vice chancellor and chief academic officer, and now chancellor. Throughout her career, she has aligned her leadership philosophy with the mission of community colleges and is laser focused on creating equitable access to higher education, especially for the underserved.

As a three-time graduate of Morgan State University in Baltimore, Dr. Beatty received a B.A. in English, an M.A. in English, and an Ed.D. in higher education, with a specialization in community college leadership. Beatty's leadership has earned her several awards and recognitions in the community.



Dr. Christine Johnson McPhail is the 13th President of Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, NC. Prior to joining Saint Augustine's, Dr. McPhail served as President and CEO of the McPhail Group, LLC and a nationally recognized thought leader in higher education. She is the founding professor and director of the Community College Leadership Doctoral Program at Morgan State University. Dr. McPhail is the former president of Cypress College in California. She also recently served as a professor of practice at Kansas State University in the John E. Roueche Center for Community College Leadership Development.

After multiple decades in higher education, Dr. McPhail served as a leadership coach with Achieving the Dream with a mission to help leaders shape the teaching and learning environment by engaging, aligning, and inspiring people to act. She served on the board of directors for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and the Council for the Study of Community Colleges. Dr. McPhail has also served as the affirmative action officer for Division J of the American Education Research Association and on the editorial board for the Community College Journal of Research and Practice. She is the editor for one of AACC's best-selling publications, *Establishing and Sustaining Learning Centered Community Colleges*.



Dr. Larry D. Johnson Jr. began serving as the second president of the Stella and Charles Guttman Community College-CUNY in July 2021. Prior to joining Guttman, he served as the first Black president of Phoenix College (in the Maricopa County Community College District)—a first in the college's 100-year history. He is committed to ensuring that first-generation college students and minoritized communities are granted access to educational and cultural experiences that increase their self-efficacy and social mobility.

As an engaged member of the academy, Dr. Johnson provides expertise and service to several organizations including the Presidents Academy Executive Committee of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and Phipps Neighborhood (NYC). He is the recipient of national and community awards such as the Power Players in Education (NYC), the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society Paragon Award, and the Most Admired Leaders Award, to name a few. He is also a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated.

Dr. Johnson has participated in national leadership programs such as the Carolyn Grubbs-Williams mid-level Leadership Institute (LDI) of the National Council of Black American Affairs (NCBAA). He was also tapped to join the inaugural New Presidents Fellowship by the Aspen Institute Community College Excellence Program.

Dr. Johnson holds a BA in English literature from Florida A&M University (FAMU), a Masters in Humanities and a graduate certificate in institutional research from Florida State University, and a Doctor of Arts in English literature from Clark Atlanta University.



Dr. Claudia V. Schrader is the president of Kingsborough Community College (KCC) of The City University of New York (CUNY). She is the College's 7th president, and she holds the distinction of being the first African-American in the College's history to hold that office.

Education has served as a vehicle for Dr. Schrader. She was born and raised on St. Croix, the largest of the United States Virgin Islands. She earned her undergraduate degree from Rutgers University and her Master of Arts, Master of Education, and Doctorate of Education from Columbia University, Teachers College. Dr. Schrader also obtained a certificate from the Institute for Educational Management at the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University.