

Lesley A. Jackson, Ph.D.
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Education

Doctor of Philosophy: Transformative Studies, California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA

Dissertation: The Implications of Self-creation and Self-Care in Higher Education

Master of Arts: Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Learning Education/Student Affairs Administration, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Bachelor of Arts: Psychology and Sociology with a Minor in Women's Studies, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Profile & Skills Summary

Seasoned, results-oriented scholar-practitioner and senior higher education administrator with outstanding experience in academic advancement, student retention, diversity, student life, student affairs operations, and team leadership. Stellar skills in management, strategic planning, and programs that promote academic success and engagement. Highly regarded organizational, analytical, and advising abilities with a commitment to promoting inclusion. Noted for success in creative program design, implementation, and engagement.

Student Development & Campus Life
Leadership and Staff Development
Teaching (distance, hybrid, local)
Doctoral Student Advancement

Strategic Vision
Education/Leadership Consulting
Program Design & Management
Curriculum Development

Academic Positions

Adjunct Professor, Antioch University

2019-Present. Doctor of Education in Educational and Professional Practice

Adjunct Associate Professor, California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, California, 2011-Present Transformative Inquiry Department, Transformative Leadership, Graduate Programs

Assistant Professor, Marygrove College, Detroit, Michigan

College of Education- Interdisciplinary Studies, Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

Adjunct Professor, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan
College of Education-Higher Education, Student Affairs & Leadership, Graduate Programs

Highlights of Professional Experience

CEO, Clarity Life Design, Farmington, MI 2008-Present

Educational, life and leadership development consultation and coaching. Strategic, visionary, operations and budgetary consultation which includes faculty, staff, student development theory and practice, work/life/school balance, self-care and self-creation, as well as academic and student services best practices. Individual and group college preparation, readiness, and admissions preparation services. Creator and facilitator of experiential activities, leadership retreats/conferences, and work/life balance and educational planning programming. Use of best practices and transdisciplinary methodology. Clients include: Southfield Public School District, West Bloomfield School District. Detroit Lions, Oakland University, New Detroit, Marriott Hotels, Wayne State University, Stellar School Services.

Marygrove College, Detroit, MI 2007-2011

Associate Vice President & Dean of Students

Authored vision of co-curricular engagement leading to the development of innovative pathways across academic disciplines and student services. Leadership in the management, planning, coordination and supervision of staff and services. Development of programming and instruction of student & leadership development including implementation of high-level staff training and stellar services. Also includes Student Affairs and Enrollment Management assessment, planning, and policy development. Coordination of critical student service areas including: Academic Advising, Residence Life, Student Life, Enrollment Management, Career Services, Financial Aid, Judicial Affairs, Student Government, Counseling and Wellness, and Athletics and Recreation. Initiatives included: increase student engagement through the development of a student-centered approach to key endeavors; strengthening of leadership initiatives and innovative interventions; enhanced campus life and educational programming to reduce high-risk behaviors; increased academic success and retention which included innovative academic advising. Integral in enrollment re-engineering process involving admissions and financial services. Participated in institution-wide strategic planning and policy development, recommending policies and procedures to the President and Board of Trustees. Effectively engaged colleagues in the chronicling of current student support service initiatives. Facilitated the cross-division collaboration on several major construction projects including the move and construction of new student book-store and Student dining center.

Assistant Dean & Director of Student/Residence Life & Student First Year Programs

Managed a residential housing complex. Selected, supervised, trained and evaluated professional and para-professional staff. Responsible for coordination of facility maintenance and initiated the development of a five-year plan for capital improvements, while overseeing a major renovation project. Designed and implemented the online room selection and verification process. Stabilized a department that was consistently over budget; and increased and exceeded occupancy rates while reducing high-risk behaviors. Advised and coordinated various major programs, and programs designed to increase student engagement. Coordinated University support services necessary for implementation of student organized events. Coordinated residential component for summer academic, dance and sport camps. Served as founding Director of Student First Year

Transition Program which included the creation of inaugural Peer Mentor Program, which offered programs and services to foster the retention and graduation of underrepresented students. Focused on connecting new and undeclared students with academic advisors, peer mentors, faculty and support services on campus to ensure a positive educational and social experience. Developed and coordinated inaugural first year-living and learning residence hall programs. Developed and employed an intrusive advising model to allow students the ability to track progress through multiple touch points. Revamped student orientation and parent orientation programs.

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 1994-1998

Assistant Director, Residence Life,

Operational, budgetary, judicial, and staff management of world-class residential programs servicing over 600 students. Collaborated with key university constituencies in implementing and enhancing university comprehensive recruitment, enrollment, residential life, and support services programs. Designed and implemented programs, systems, and trainings that supported retention initiatives, which included the creation. Creation of academic support, cultural, and social co-curricular opportunities and programs that supported diversity and inclusion initiatives to build awareness. Creation of public relations and information materials and workshops. Coordinated orientation and welcome week programming. Trained and supervised staff and student support staff.

Coordinator, Supportive Services and Summer Programs

Financial and student support counseling and coordination of services for students. Academic advising and support services included developing program components for summer bridge programs, and facilitation of programming that included test taking, stress management and goal setting.

Coordinator, Office of Cultural & Academic Transitions,

Coordinated comprehensive recruitment and retention programming initiatives including social, cultural, academic, and support services programming and activities. Student organization advisement. Supervised undergraduate assistants in the coordination of student programming and fielding student issues and concerns. Served as a resource agent and liaison to students, staff, faculty, external and internal constituencies on student issues.

Related Professional Experience

Executive Director, Renaissance Unity, Warren, MI, 2013-2020

Operations management and development of curricular and co-curricular programs community, groups and partners. Focus on holistic transdisciplinary developmental growth issues including, spiritual, social and family dynamics, career and leadership development and college preparation and success. Creation of training and programs for individual, staff and community development and engagement.

Leadership/Educational Consultant, Business Performance Consulting USA, MI 2003-2007, 2013-2015

International organizational leadership consulting firm working with Fortune 500 companies, government agencies and educational institutions. Organizational assessment, analysis, development of training, and programs for executive management and supervisory staff. Conducted and implemented ongoing strategic planning initiatives. Coordination and facilitation of management and leadership development training seminars, programs and events including retreats and regional conferences for university faculty, community and business leaders. Development of innovative management coaching programs. Client list included: Bayer Industry Services, BASF, and Siemens.

Educational/Leadership Consultant, Pathways, Southfield, MI 1998-2002

Developed curriculum based instructional and assessment materials, and quality assurance editing for educational and online educational institutions. Skills assessment & career interest test. Created and presented personal/leadership development and training seminars, and workshops for staff and faculty development. Creation of recruitment and retention initiatives and programs. Public relations coordination including marketing and communication flow processes. Partial Client List: National Football League, Ford Motor, Ross Medical Center, and Virtual Sage-Online programs

Director, Youth Living Center, Lansing, MI 1991-1994

Operations management, accurate and timely management of reports, administering and allocation of annual budget, developing training modules and material, hiring, training, supervision of staff. Coordinate services between departments, outside community and, social and government agencies. Ensured compliancy for accreditation and licensing.

Curriculum Development

Curriculum Consultant, California Institute of Integral Studies (2020-Present) Participated in evaluating existing course curricula and implementing changes to introductory first year and second year courses which includes Comprehensive Exam courses.

Curriculum Developer, Antioch University (2019-Present) Development of course materials, format and systems for new hybrid/online doctoral program in Educational Professional Practice. Focus on introduction to doctoral studies and scholarly writing.

Curriculum Developer, California Institute of Integral Studies (2017-Present) Development of course materials, format and systems for hybrid/online doctoral program in Transformative Studies. Focus on transitions in doctoral studies, with emphasis on self-creative efforts of doctoral students, scholarly writing, dissertation proposal and completions support.

Curriculum Consultant, Siena Heights (2016-2017) Participated in evaluating existing course curricula and implementing changes to sociology/anthropology course on social behavior and

research with a focus on examining individuals and socio-cultural processes to include the integration of self-creation and self-care elements.

Curriculum Developer, Marygrove College (2009) Development of course materials, format and systems for Interdisciplinary Studies program with a focus on academic strategies for student success which included for navigating academic, social and cultural transitions.

Curriculum Designer, Sage (2008) - Contributed to several digital resources including the development of social science online learning modules and assessments.

Courses Taught

Educational Practice-Doctoral Writing, Graduate Programs
Transformative Studies-Literature Review Comprehensive Exams, Graduate Program
Transformative Studies-Introduction to Transformative Studies, Graduate Program
Transformative Studies-Self, Society and Transformation, Graduate Program
Transformative Studies- Creative Inquiry, Graduate Program
Transformative Studies-Dissertation Completion Support, Graduate Program
Transformative Studies-Dissertation Proposal Support, Graduate Program
Transformative Studies-Introduction to Transformative Studies, Graduate Program
Transformative Studies-Creative Inquiry, Graduate Program
Transformative Studies-Transdisciplinarity, Graduate Program
Transformative Leadership, Leadership, Graduate Program
Educational Leadership- Introduction to Management and Leadership, Graduate Program
Interdisciplinary Studies-Learning Strategies, Undergraduate Program
Interdisciplinary Studies-College Success, Undergraduate Program
Freshman Seminar-Undergraduate Program
Higher Adult Learning Education- Student Affairs Leadership Management, Graduate Program
Higher Adult Learning Education- Organizational Leadership, Graduate Program

Research Interests

Personal transformation
Self-creation
Holistic well-being and self-care
Doctoral Student & Studies Development
Transformative Learning & Pedagogy
Leadership development
Social change
Spiritual Intelligence
Adult Development and Identity,
Coaching
Creative Inquiry

Complexity
Higher Education

Presentations, Program Facilitation/Trainings

Presenter, Dissertation Support, 2020
Presenter, Self-care for Scholars, August 2019
Presenter, Unity Worldwide Teacher Training Conference, June 2018
Presenter, “College Planning”, West Bloomfield, Michigan, March 2018
Presenter, “Student-Parent Dynamics”, Warren, Michigan February 2018
Presenter, “Educational/College Planning”, City of Oak Park, Michigan, September 2017
Consultant/Facilitator, Coaching & Intervention Core Development & Training, Detroit, Michigan, October, 2017
Consultant/Facilitator, Management Skills Development, “Leadership Essentials”, Hampton Virginia, September, 2017
Consultant and Facilitator, Management Leadership Development Retreat, “Operational Excellence”, Potomac, Maryland June 2016
Facilitator, “Organizational Effectiveness”, Shawnee, Kansas, April 2015
Consultant/Facilitator Transdisciplinary Leadership Management, December 2015
Consultant/Facilitator, Conference “Leading Growth through Innovation”, San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 2015
Consultant/Facilitator for the North American Management Bayer Team, Berkeley, California, August 2014
Presenter, “Self-Care for Scholars”, Marygrove College, 2014
Presenter, “Work/Life Balance”, Marygrove College, March 2014
Presenter, “Academic Success”, Marygrove College, November 2013
Presenter, “New Visions: Leadership Strategies”, Marygrove College, March 2013

University Committees, Honors and Awards

Administrative

Administrative Council, Marygrove
Orientation and New Programs Committee, Marygrove College, Chair
Urban Leadership Pedagogy and Curriculum Development, Marygrove College
Academic Review, Marygrove College
Enrollment Planning & Management Committee, Marygrove College
Housing Management Committee, Chair
Retention Committee, Marygrove College
Study Abroad Committee, Marygrove College
Honor’s Program Committee, Marygrove College
Academic Review, Marygrove College
Student Leadership and Development, Marygrove, Chair
Urban Leadership Pedagogy and Curriculum Development, Marygrove College

Athletic Director, Search Committee, Marygrove College
Provost, Search Committee, Marygrove College
Director of Admissions Search Committee, Marygrove College
Outstanding Staff/Administrator of the Year, Marygrove College
Outstanding Instructor/Faculty, Marygrove College
Lansing Area Community Engagement, City of Lansing, Co-Chair
Student Life & Activities Committee, Michigan State University
Orientation Programs, Michigan State University
Diversity Task Force, Michigan State University
Residence Life Resource Programs and Training, Michigan State University
Residence Life Complex Coordinator of the Year, Michigan State University
Student Success Award

Graduate & Post-doctoral Dissertation Committees

Fitzpatrick, R. (2020). AA Developmental Approach to Leadership Training. California Institute of Integral Studies. (Theoretical/Hermeneutics)

Martinez, C, (2020-Present). What Can Healing from Trauma Look Like: Tattoos as a Healing Modality. California Institute of Integral Studies. (Narrative Inquiry)

Brooks, S. (2019-Present). An Exploration of the Relationship Between Pastors and Their Congregations and Attitudes Toward Health: A Qualitative Study. California Institute of Integral Studies. (Phenomenological)

McNeal, C. (2019-Present). Advancing Emancipatory Pedagogy: An Integrated, Transdisciplinary, Conceptual Educational Framework. California Institute of Integral Studies. (Narrative Inquiry)

Cheng, S. (2019-Present). Integrative Transdisciplinary Educational Philosophy and Pedagogy Applied to Professional Business and Leadership Education. California Institute of Integral Studies. (Theoretical/Transdisciplinary)

Awards, Honors & Affiliations

Outstanding Staff/Administrator of the Year, Marygrove College
Outstanding Instructor/Faculty, Marygrove College
Excellence Award, Program Coordinator
Student Success Award
Professional Coach Training and Certification, Mentor Coach
Experiential Learning Program and Facilitation Training, Highfields
National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)
Explorer's Academy of Science and Technology Charter School (Board Member)