

SPRING 2023 | @VCUHOLMES | VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY



## A MESSAGE FROM DEAN ANDREW DAIRE

The VCU Holmes Scholars Program provides students interested in pursuing a Ph.D. with resources and professional development opportunities to best position them for tenure-track faculty positions. The program is part of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) Holmes Scholars Program, which supports students from historically underrepresented communities enrolled in doctoral programs in education.

I am excited that the Holmes Scholars Program at VCU focuses on preparing our scholars for academic positions at high (R2) and very high (R1) research academic institutions. Students who apply to VCU's program are selected based on their active research agenda and excellent academic standing in their doctoral program.



The VCU Holmes Scholars Program benefits the university in many ways, including:

- By promoting the diversity of the professional community and preparing educators who can serve diverse learners;
- By incorporating the benefits of a national program on the VCU campus, such as recruiting more effectively, connecting students with a national peer network, boosting graduation rates; and
- By joining a growing national community of administrators, faculty, and students who are dedicated to diversifying the field of education.

Since being named dean of the VCU School of Education a little over five years ago, I have been committed to strengthening the school's support for the Holmes Scholars Program.

I am very proud of the fact that membership in the VCU Holmes Scholars Program has more than doubled in the last four years – from five members in 2017 to 13 members today. These Holmes Scholars are part of a supportive national network of peers, all of whom have access to unique professional experiences that will help lead to their overall success in academia.

Why the Holmes Scholars Program?

**"I wanted to be surrounded by like-minded doctoral students and mentors who look like me and support me through my educational journey."**

- Ejana Bennett, Doctoral Student & Former VCU Holmes Scholars President



# MEET THE SCHOLARS...



**JASMINE BATES**

Program Area: Educational Leadership, Policy & Justice

Projected Completion: Spring 2024



**JOY BEATTY**

Program Area: Curriculum, Culture and Change

Projected Completion: Spring 2025



**EJANA BENNETT**

Program Area: Curriculum, Culture and Change

Projected Completion: Spring 2023



**LA-NEKA S. BROWN**

Program Area: Educational Leadership, Policy & Justice

Projected Completion: Spring 2024



**MAKEBA L. D'ABREU**

Program Area: Urban Services Leadership

Projected Completion: Spring 2025



**BISOLA DUYILE**

Program Area: Counselor Education and Supervision

Projected Completion: Spring 2023



**MICHELLE HICKS**

Program Area: Special Education and Disability Policy

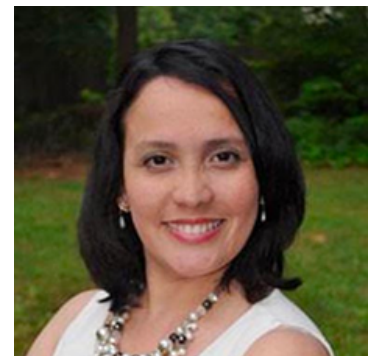
Projected Completion: Summer 2023



**SILVIA R. HOYLE**

Program Area: Urban Services Leadership

Projected Completion: Winter 2025



**VIVIAN MEDINA-MESSNER**

Program Area: Art Education

Projected Completion: Spring 2024



# MEET THE SCHOLARS...



**ISAIAH C. MOORE**  
Program Area: Educational Leadership, Policy and Justice  
  
Projected Completion: Spring 2024



**KORINTHIA NICOLAI**  
Program Area: Educational Psychology  
  
Projected Completion: Spring 2024



**JOYCE ROBINSON**  
Program Area: Educational Leadership, Policy and Justice  
  
Projected Completion: Spring 2025



**MARTINIQUE SEALY**  
Program Area: Educational Psychology  
  
Projected Completion: Summer 2023



**BROOKE TAYLOR**  
Program Area: Curriculum, Culture and Change  
  
Projected Completion: Spring 2025



**CHRISTINA TILLERY**  
Program Area: Counselor Education and Supervision  
  
Projected Completion: Spring 2024



**TANYA WINELAND**  
Program Area: Educational Psychology  
  
Projected Completion: Spring 2026

*Learn more about our Scholars' scholarship & line of research by visiting our [Website!](#)*

## VIVIAN'S REFLECTION

This year's AACTE 75th conference brought together educators, researchers, and students from around the United States and the globe. During this 2023 conference, the main theme addressed was "Innovation through Inspiration: Remembering the Past to Revolutionize the Future."

Here are some takeaways from conversations with scholars and keynote panelists:

"We have personal experiences...Research is not a sterile enterprise. It comes out of you. We didn't start with this conversation about who we are just as a nice, polite exercise, but your research is part of you. Your positionality matters and we need your voice, and those different questions." - Leslie T. Fenwick, AACTE Dean in Residence and Dean Emerita of Howard University.

"My curiosity about what it is that we need to know or don't know about these young people pushed me on to go to school...and head off to Stanford. I still didn't really get all my questions answered there. It took spending time with some outstanding teachers and the work that they were doing there, that really put me on that trajectory." - Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings, former Kellner Family Distinguished Chair in Urban Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she was faculty in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction and Faculty Affiliate in the Departments of Educational Policy Studies, Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, and Afro-American Studies.

"Research innovation is the development of an idea, process, method, practice, or product that is new, novel and helps to address the problem or challenge that was identified at the beginning of the research process."- Dr. Andrew Daire, Virginia Commonwealth University.

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## 2023 AACTE Holmes Scholars Pre-Conference

VCU School of Education Holmes Scholars showcased their work at the AACTE Holmes Scholars Pre-conference in Indianapolis in February 2023. Of the 38 research posters at the poster session, 16 were VCU School of Education Holmes Scholars.







# Thank You



Naomi Wheeler, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor, Counseling and Special Education

## Dedicated Mentors

Dr. Naomi Wheeler  
Dr. Yaoying Xu  
Dr. Michael Broda  
Dr. Rachel Gómez  
Dr. Hillary Parkhouse  
Dr. Sharon Zumbunn



Yaoying Xu, Ph.D.  
Professor, Counseling and Special Education



Rachel F. Gomez, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor, Foundations of Education



Hillary Parkhouse, Ph.D.  
Associate professor, Teaching and Learning



Michael Broda, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Foundations of Education



Sharon K. Zumbunn, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Foundations of Education

The VCU Holmes Scholars would like to thank our dedicated mentors for immensely supporting our growth and development.

Additionally, we would like to express our gratitude for our fearless leader, Dean Daire. Your passionate commitment to the Holmes Scholars is incomparable. We wish you much success in your next chapter. You will be missed dearly.

