

W. DENAE POWELL

EDUCATOR • CURRICULUM SPECIALIST • INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNER

PROFILE SUMMARY

Experienced academic professional with a proven track record in delivering engaging and insightful lectures. Adept at curriculum development, research, and fostering an inclusive learning environment. Strong focus on collaboration and achieving academic excellence. Reliable and adaptable, with over 8 years of programmatic, budgetary, advisory, and assessment experience.

CONTACT

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- Jackson, MS
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EDUCATION

2022

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

- Doctorate of Philosophy - Pan African Studies

2017

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

- Masters of Art - Arts Leadership
 - Graduate Certificate - African American Studies

2015

TOUGALOO COLLEGE

- Bachelor of Arts - Education
 - MS Educator AAAA License #263534
 - Art (K-12)
 - Social Studies (7-12)

SKILLS

- Course development
- Research and analysis
- Teaching, training, and facilitation
- Grant and policy writing
- Stakeholder management
- Project management

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor - History and Philosophy

August 2026 - Present

Jackson State University - Jackson, MS

Lecturer - Black Studies

August 2024 - Present

Northern Illinois University - DeKalb, IL

Professor of Practice - African American Studies

September 2025-May 2026

University of Houston, Houston TX

Adjunct Professor - African American Studies

December 2023 - August 2025

University of Houston - Houston, TX

Assistant Professor - African American Studies

August 2022- January 2024

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh - Oshkosh, WI

COURSES TAUGHT AND DEVELOPED

- Research Methods in Pan-African Studies, *Taught* (University of Louisville)
- The Black Female in the US, *Developed* (University of Wisconsin Oshkosh)
- Black Social Movements in the US, *Developed* (University of Wisconsin Oshkosh)
- Blackness in American Visual Culture, *Developed* (University of Wisconsin Oshkosh)
- Race and Professionalism, *Developed* (University of Wisconsin Oshkosh)
- Introduction to Contemporary Black America, *Developed* (University of Wisconsin Oshkosh)
- Racialization in Reality TV, *Developed* (University of Wisconsin Oshkosh)
- Introduction to African American Studies, *Taught and Developed* (University of Houston)
- African American Studies Community Internship, *Taught and Developed* (University of Houston)
- Racism in America, *Taught* (Northern Illinois University)
- Foundations of Black Studies, *Developed* (Northern Illinois University)
- Black Liberation, *Developed* (Northern Illinois University)

ACCEPTED/PUBLISHED WORK

- Journal Article: Powell, W. D. (2022). Say a Word: A Textual Analysis of News Coverage of the 1961 Tougaloo Nine Study-In. *The Griot: The Journal of African American Studies*, 16-30.
- Journal Article: Crawford, M., Muhammad Murphy, W.D., Pegram, B. (Expected Spring 2025). "The World is Yours": BlackPlanet.com and the Black Birth of the Social Media Age. *The Griot: The Journal of African American Studies*
- Book Chapter: Powell, W. D. (Awaiting Excepted Publication Date). Resounding Resistance – A critical examination of the historical and mediated resistance in John Singleton's *Rosewood* (1997). In J. Carr, John Singleton: *The Soulful Auteur*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

SUBMITTED WORKS

- Journal Article: Powell, W. D. - Discussing Colorism on Reality Television Shows. *Journal Of Colorism*.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Book: Kinky & Knotless - An History of Black Hair Discrimination in America
- Documentary: All Booked Up - Shop Talk with the Shop Owners
- Journal Article: The (In)Visible Black Superheroine: Will We Ever See Her Theater Debut?

INTERVIEWS, INVITED TALKS & LECTURES

- Keynote Speaker: African American Studies Odelede Graduation Ceremony (November 19, 2025)
- Guest Speaker: African American Lawyers Section of Texas - The Law of Emancipation: Juneteenth Then and Now (June 19, 2025)
- Panelist: Greater Houston Black Chamber: Network and Nourish Juneteenth Edition (June 10, 2025)
- Interview with Dr. Bequita Pegram: D.O.P.E. Conversations with Dr. Bequita Pegram - Dear PhD Student (April 29, 2025)
- Interview with Laura Onyeneho: Houston Defender Newspaper "Texas, we've got a new Bachelor! (February 10, 2025)
- Professional Development Trainer: University of Wisconsin Oshkosh USP Program (June 6-7, 2023)
- Panelist: Frederick Douglass Institute Lunch (En)Counters: See Red: Stop Violence Against Women and Girls - West Chester University (March 1, 2023)
- Panelist: "OUR VOICES" Black Women Speak - University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (February 8, 2023)
- Guest Speaker: Black History Month Spotlight Radio Broadcast via 90.3 WRST-FM - University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (February 9, 2023)
- Keynote Speaker - Ronald E. McNair Scholars Showcase - University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (September 15, 2022)

ACADEMIC AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- Bob Starks Award - Center for Black Studies, Northern Illinois University - Fall 2025
 - Acknowledges the efforts of faculty and staff members who go beyond their professional responsibilities by offering outstanding support and guidance for student success

PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Associate 2 - African American Studies

September 2023 - August 2025

University of Houston - Houston, TX

- Enhanced curriculum quality by conducting thorough research and incorporating best practices in instructional design.
- Developing comprehensive Tenure Policies and Department By-laws, ensuring consistency in team performance and adherence to guidelines.
- Assisted in securing funding through effective grant writing and relationship building with donors.

Graduate Research And Teaching Assistant - Pan African Studies

August 2019- May 2022

University of Louisville - Louisville, KY

- Designed surveys and interview protocols for primary data collection, ensuring accurate representation of target populations.
- Served as a liaison between faculty members and students, addressing concerns and facilitating resolution of issues promptly.
- Facilitated academic success, offering personalized tutoring sessions for students struggling with course material.

Program Assistant - Office of Student Involvement

August 2018-July 2019

University of Louisville - Louisville, KY

- Established rapport with clients through exceptional customer service practices, fostering ongoing relationships built on trust and respect.
- Supported the development of new programs through thorough research and analysis of industry trends.
- Coordinated event logistics, including venue selection, catering arrangements, and attendee registration processes.

Teacher

August 2017- July 2018

Jackson Public School District - Jackson, MS

- Managed a diverse range of learners, adapting lesson plans to accommodate different abilities and interests.
- Implemented effective classroom management strategies, maintaining discipline while fostering creativity and individuality in student work.
- Communicated effectively with parents about their child's progress in the arts program, addressing any concerns or suggestions for improvement as needed.

Education & Community Engagement Administrative Assistant

May 2016- July 2017

Houston Ballet - Houston, TX

- Strengthened brand identity by organizing impactful events that showcased the organization's values and goals.
- Evaluated program effectiveness using data-driven metrics, continuously refining approaches to maximize community impact.
- Enhanced community engagement by implementing diverse outreach programs tailored to various demographics.

Development Intern

January 2016- April 2016

Houston Ballet - Houston, TX

- Coordinated event logistics for annual fundraisers, resulting in increased community engagement and support.
- Served as liaison between the development team and other departments within the organization to ensure streamlined communication flow on various projects and initiatives.
- Maintained donor database with accurate records, improving donation tracking and communication efficiency.