

# PAB – 1F: PUBLIC INFORMATION

## DEPARTMENT OF URBAN & REGIONAL PLANNING



Welcome to the Department of Urban & Regional Planning (DCRP) at Jackson State University, located in historic Jackson, the capitol of Mississippi. Jackson is known for true southern hospitality and nationally recognized institutions of higher learning.

- ✓ DURP is the only urban and regional planning institution in the state of Mississippi and is one of four HBCU's in the nation offering accredited Urban Planning programs.
- ✓ DURP's premier, student-centered programs fosters engagement and empowerment as we diversify the field of Planning.
- ✓ DURP students specialize in:
  - ✚ Community Development & Housing
  - ✚ Environment & Land Use
  - ✚ Urban Design
- ✓ DURP graduates are trained to be knowledgeable, skilled and equity conscious practitioners, researchers, scholars, and decision-makers.
- ✓ DURP graduates are intellectually and technically equipped to confront sustainable development opportunities and challenges facing society in this century and beyond!



### Our mission:

- student-centered teaching and learning!
- empowerment of our people and communities
- equity and justice for all!
- building healthy, livable and resilient societies!



# Meet Our Full-time Faculty Members, 2021 - 2022



**Joan M. Wesley, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor

- Community Development & Housing
- Stakeholder Participation & Community Engagement
- Social Equity & Environmental Justice



**Edmund Merem, Ph.D.**  
Professor

- Global Cities & International Development
- Climate Change, Environment & Land Use, food security, hydro-politics, energy resources, growth management, comp planning, forensic environmental ethics



**Talya Thomas, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor

- Community/Economic Development & Housing
- Environmental & Public Policy
- Food Security



**Moe Chowdhury, Ph.D., AICP**  
Visiting Assistant Professor

- Urban Studies
- Transportation Planning
- Human Geography



**Firas Al-Douri, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor

- Urban Design
- Architectural Computing
- Parametric Urban Modeling



**Berniece S. Herbert, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor & Chair

- Urban Structure & Sustainability
- Food Security & Under-resourced Communities
- Climate Change & Energy Justice



**Mukesh Kumar, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor

- Urban Spatial Structure
- Economic Development
- Urban Governance



# DURP Highlights

## Re-accreditation of MA in Urban & Regional Planning

The Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) acted at its November 13 – 14, 2020 meeting to accredit the Master of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning degree at Jackson State University for a five-year term, effective January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025. In its report the Site Visit Team noted many areas of excellence and that the Program should be proud of its accomplishments. The Team emphasized the importance of the program in advancing the role of planning in the state and minority representation in the profession. The Team also found strong and robust connections with the community offering students multiple opportunities to engage with the profession through internships and networking with alumni, APA chapter, employers and the city of Jackson. Pictured below are some of DURP's faculty members with the PAB Site Visit Team.



**Summer 2021 Graduate: Johnathan Barry Burnside, Ph.D.**  
Dissertation titled, "Assessing Impacts of Wildland-Urban Interface Fires: A Case Study Analysis of Wildfires in California"

*Advisor: Dr. Edmund Merem, Professor*

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## DURP Partners with One Voice



One Voice, City of Jackson, and Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD) launch CONNECT JXN to Develop Comprehensive Plan

via surveys and focus group discussion. The Department has partnered with One Voice, in conjunction with the NAACP and the Mississippi Urban Research Center (MURC) to work on the consultation element of the City of Jackson's Comprehensive Plan. DURP's roles includes assisting in developing a distribution plan for obtaining citizens' and/or local officials' feedback, conducting virtual focus groups and key informants' interviews, analyzing collected survey responses and submitting summative reports, and presenting project results to communities, planning officials, planning commissions, and other public bodies.

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## Wesley participate in CBPR Academy

Dr. Joan Wesley was selected to participate in the Detroit Urban Research Center (URC) Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Partnership Academy. The Partnership Academy is an integrated one-year research education program, in which she will have the opportunity to join with eleven other community-academic teams from across the country to engage in an intensive weeklong CBPR course on July 12th – 16th (2021) and ongoing mentored learning activities throughout the year. The Detroit URC is a collaboration of Detroit organizations and academic researchers from the University of Michigan.

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## Merem to publish his 3<sup>rd</sup> book

Dr. Edmund Merem is working on his 3<sup>rd</sup> book entitled "An Anthology of African American Environmental History". He is also working with a global research consortium to roll out six new journal articles.



## Join the Department of Urban and Regional Planning for Summer 2021 Special Topics (URP 550/750)

Transit and Transportation Planning with the California Department of Transportation Division of Rail & Mass Transportation



The Department of Urban and Regional Planning is excited to present an innovative Summer 2021 Special Topics!

DURP is partnering with California DOT (Caltrans) on a unique eight-week curriculum that will introduce students to transit planning with a focus on practical, real-life learning through an innovative partnership with the Caltrans Division of Rail and Mass Transportation (DRMT). Students will have the opportunity to engage with transportation planning practitioners through class presentations and projects. The Summer 2021 Special Topics session culminates with students applying what they have learned to develop a solution to an actual transit problem in Mississippi.

Contact Dr. Talya D. Thomas for more information.  
talya.d.thomas@jsums.edu, 601.979.6863



## Summer Curriculum



Environmental Sustainability



Transit's Rebound from COVID-19



Project Management



Transportation Network Integration

## The Caltrans Division of Rail & Mass Transportation (DRMT)

DRMT supports, manages, and coordinates passenger rail and mass transit in California.

The DRMT Mission: **California provides mobility for all as a leader in public transportation.**

The DRMT Vision: **Transform public transportation by integrating and investing in an equitable, efficient, and accessible network.**

[www.jsums.edu/planning](http://www.jsums.edu/planning) | Contact Dr. Talya D. Thomas  
talya.d.thomas@jsums.edu | 601-979-6863



## Herbert appointed to 2021-2023 PAB Accreditation Standards Review Task Force

Dr. Berneece Herbert has been appointed to the 2021-2023 Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) Review Task Force. "The revision of accreditation standards is a collaborative and inclusive process that requires considerable expertise drawn from a broad range of stakeholders," Herbert said. "It is a critical endeavor for academic programs as priorities for education shift over time in response to changing times." She continued, "I am highly honored to be selected by the Planning Accreditation Board to be a part of its Task Force. This is a great opportunity for us as a department to be part of a national process that would increase the visibility of JSU's Urban and Regional Planning- the only accredited Planning programs in the state of Mississippi."

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## Thomas participates in CHER Institute

Dr. Talya Thomas was accepted to participate in the Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) Institute for summer 2021. CHER is located in the College of Health and Human Services at California State University, Long Beach. Their research focuses on diverse, underserved, and high risk populations. The purpose of the summer institute is to enhance the readiness of early career faculty at minority-serving institutions (MSIs) to conduct community-based, social and health behavior research and to increase their representation among National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded investigators.

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## DURP as part of the Jackson Ready project



The Community Foundation of Mississippi (CFM) launched a Jackson Ready Vision in 2019, and hired the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation to establish Innovations Labs and to train teams of community members for this effort. Five working groups across the City were trained by Harwood to conduct the focus group discussions. DURP is part of the Peak Tree Harwood Project group with Dr. Fran Bridges as the Team Leader. Other members represent the Jackson Redevelopment Authority, Hope Credit Union Enterprise Corporation, Military Veteran & Business Owner, Damian Thomas, Instructor Hinds Community College /Jackson Academic & Technical Campus, Glenda Johnson-Marshall, JSU Supervisor of Grounds Department, Facilities & Construction Management and Berneece Herbert, Chair Urban & Regional Planning at JSU.

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### Summer 2021 Graduate: Abe Hudson, Jr., Ph.D.

Dissertation title: "The Impact of Manufactured Housing on the Socio-Economic Status of its Residents: A Case Study of Affordable Housing in Two Mississippi Delta Counties."

Advisor: Dr. Mukesh Kumar, Associate Professor

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## Herbert appointed to ACSP Governing Board

Dr. Berneece Herbert has been appointed to the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Governing Board as the Southeast Regional Representative, 2020 – 2023. ACSP is a consortium of more than 100 university departments and programs offering planning degrees as well as programs that offer degrees affiliated with planning. The



**ACSP**

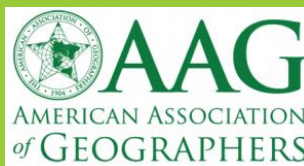
Connecting educators,  
researchers and students

organization also has individual faculty, retired faculty, and student members.

Most of the school members are located in North America, particularly the U.S., but individual members are from around the world.

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## DURP Receives Funding from AAG



The Department has received funding from the Association of American Geographers to assist in purchasing equipment for students in our GIS courses. AAG provided \$9,000 in fall 2020 and has committed an additional \$10,000 in the future. AAG has also created a Bridging the Digital Divide network to share resources and opportunities particularly from ESRI and NorthStar.

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## DURP Partners with the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) for Internships & Webinar Series



EDF builds partnerships with Historically Black College and Universities in order to identify and recruit diverse talent, meaningfully advance programmatic work on equity

and justice, and develop EDF as a force for environmental justice within the environmental community.

Strategy:

- ✓ Phase 1: Ad hoc guest lectures
- ✓ Phase 2: With at least two HBCUs, create a speaker series or host a research symposium with EDF staff experts to foster meaningful dialogue and build awareness of career and research opportunities at EDF and other eNGOs.

## DURP Partners with Williams Winter Institute

DURP partnered with the Williams Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation on their Rethink Mississippi Fellowship project. The Institute works in communities, organizations, and classrooms to support a movement of equity and wholeness. The Fellowship project

attracted and invested in five millennial Mississippians who are passionate about making a long-term impact in their home state. Drs. Wesley and Herbert served as trainers for the fellows providing workshops on concepts, dimensions and tools for community development and empowerment.



## DURP Participates in "Evicted - An Exhibition"

Dr. Joan Wesley spearheads DURP participation in "Evicted - An Exhibition" sponsored by the Margaret Walker Center.



The Exhibition opens on June 28, 2021 at the Johnson Hall Art Gallery, Jackson State University and will run through October 3, 2021. DURP co-hosted a session about the topic on Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at

Jackson State University, Downtown Campus



**Summer 2021 Graduate: Ashley Henderson McLoughlin, Ph.D.**  
Dissertation title: "A Study on Shifting the Tide on Urban Flooding: Providing Sustainable Solutions and Response Prior to Natural Disaster."  
Advisor: Dr. Talya Thomas, Associate Professor



**Fall 2020 Graduate: Monica S. Lewis, Ph.D.**  
Dissertation title: "A Systematic Review on Younger Adults Living in Nursing Homes Transitioning to Home and Community-Based Services."  
Advisor: Dr. Talya Thomas, Associate Professor



**Summer 2021 Graduate: Frederick L. Hunter, Jr., Ph.D.**  
Dissertation title: "Local and Sustainable Foods: A Case Study of Planning and Development Districts' Food Planning in the Mississippi Delta-A Pilot Study."  
Advisor: Dr. Joan M. Wesley, Associate Professor



## DURP Launched the PATHWAYS Institute – Summer 2021

### PATHWAYS (Pathways Institute for Professional Development & Technology Enhanced Learning)



The Department of Urban & Regional Planning (DURP) at Jackson State University is launching its Pathways Institute for Professional Development & Technology Enhanced Learning program (PATHWAYS) during Summer 2021.

The goal of PATHWAYS is to operationalize the vision and mission of DURP, which is the only Urban Planning degree-granting department in the State of Mississippi. DURP envisions a premier, student-centered program that will diversify the field of Planning with highly knowledgeable, skilled, competent and innovative thinkers and leaders who can significantly contribute to society on the local, national and international levels.

Our vision also fosters engagement, excitement and empowerment as we endeavor to produce graduates who will utilize and leverage their knowledge and skills to build communities that are healthy, equitable, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable. DURP is committed to improving student experience and learning, elevating discovery and innovation through new educational technologies, partnerships and collaborations, and research.

PATHWAYS will improve students' learning experience by exposing them to key skills (statistical, analytical, critical thinking) and hands-on experience required by innovative planners, leaders and decision makers.

The program will:

1. Expose current students to missing skills and knowledge required of Planners.
2. Provide opportunities for professional certification for students, alumni and other interested professionals.
3. Provide a "summer pathway to college" for high school students wanting to major in studies of the urban environment.

The Department of Urban & Regional Planning @



## MISSISSIPPI'S ONLY URBAN PLANNING PROGRAM

Jackson State University | 101 Capitol Street | Downtown Jackson Campus

**CONCENTRATIONS:**  
Community Development and Housing  
Environment and Land Use  
Urban Design

*"Improving the Quality of Life"*



**Dr. Berniece Herbert, DURP Chair**

[Berniece.Herbert@jsums.edu](mailto:Berniece.Herbert@jsums.edu)

601-979-8732

## GIS Workshops – DURP Partners with City of Jackson



*Always have a plan, and believe in it.  
Nothing happens by accident.*

*Chuck Knox*

Like us on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/URPJSU/>

For additional information, please contact:

Ms. Lisa Johnson, Student Development Coordinator: [lisa.r.johnson@jsums.edu](mailto:lisa.r.johnson@jsums.edu)

Ms. Karmon Richardson, Office Manager: [tamara.m.preston@jsums.edu](mailto:tamara.m.preston@jsums.edu)

[www.jsums.edu/planning/](http://www.jsums.edu/planning/) | 601-979-6863 or 601-979-8732 |

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

### Tabaris Smith



Tabaris D. Smith, a 2<sup>nd</sup> student-year PhD student at Jackson State University has been selected to the first annual Young, Gifted, and Green 40th under 40th cohort.

Young, Gifted & Green 40 under 40 is an annual list of Black, Latinx (non-white presenting\*), and Indigenous environmental justice leaders under the age of 40 from across the U.S. who are grappling with complex solutions to solve the Climate Crisis and dismantle Environmental Racism. Nominees include educators, scientists, artists, policymakers, healthcare/public health professionals, faith-based leaders, mental health professionals, birth workers, farmers, social-justice advocates/activists, storytellers, journalists, entrepreneurs, technologists, chefs, clean-energy gurus, social media influencers — any individual making a major difference in environment justice.

Since the beginning of his career, Tabaris has been breaking steps toward identifying and connecting environmental injustice communities with economic opportunities. Through collaboration with grassroots organization, policy groups, labor, and workforce organizations in different parts of the country, his work aims to create a career pathway and business opportunities for a fragmented environmental workforce and small business ecosystem. He develops strategies to demonstrate the value of Minority, Women, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises participating in clean energy and infrastructure projects that support small contractors to decarbonize America's building stock in cities including Chicago, DC, California, Boston, and Seattle. Smith is passionate about building strategic partnerships to support disadvantaged communities. He has been an organizer on local, statewide and national campaigns including that of North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper.

Smith graduated from South Carolina State University in 2016 and is a graduate of Alabama A&M University in 2018. He is pursuing a PhD degree in Urban and Regional Planning with a focus in Housing and Community Development at Jackson State University.

### Dr. Ashley H. McLaughlin



Dr. Ashley Henderson McLaughlin serves as the Director of Communications and External Relations for Tougaloo College. She is responsible for leading the team in developing communications strategies as well as providing advice to the President and Executive Team that help advance the efforts of Tougaloo College. Born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi she obtained a Bachelor's in Political Science, Pre-Law from Tougaloo College, and Master of Arts in Political Science from Jackson State University. Over the course of her working career in city and state government, her love for city and community planning flourished. She pursued and received her Doctorate in Urban and Regional Planning with an emphasis in Community Development from Jackson State University in December 2021.

Dr. McLaughlin previously served as a senior staff member in the Administration of Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba and the City of Jackson. She served as Policy Advisor and the Interim Communications Director. During her time with the City, one of her major roles was to strategize and formulate responses to legislative and policy actions while facilitating relationships on the federal, state, and local level. She led various policy initiatives as well as crafted responses and actions to policy concerns. Dr. McLaughlin focused extensively on the issues that surround public policy, social injustice, promoters of poverty, and finding plausible solutions for long-term sustainability and change.



### **Dr. Frederick L. Hunter Jr.**



Dr. Frederick L. Hunter, Jr. currently serves as the Chair of Social Sciences, Director of Social Work, and Associate Professor of Social Work at Florida Memorial University in Miami Gardens, FL. Prior to these roles, Dr. Hunter served as an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Social Work, and the Director of QEP and Faculty Development at Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, MS. He is originally from Chicago, IL.

Dr. Hunter holds a Ph.D. from Jackson State University in Urban and Regional Planning with a concentration in Community Development and Housing. His advisor was Dr. Joan M. Wesley. Additionally, Dr. Hunter holds a Master of Social Work degree with a concentration in Mental Health from Loyola University Chicago, a Master of Arts in Sociology from Western Illinois University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

His research converges at the intersection of food sovereignty, health disparities, critical consciousness, and environmental justice. His dissertation titled “Local and Sustainable Foods:

A Case Study of Planning and Development Districts’ Food Planning in the Mississippi Delta-A Pilot Study” aimed to evaluate county-level planning around food insecurity with a consideration of the impact of macro and micro-level processes and strategies used to link community residents with food access. In addition, Dr. Hunter is a community advocate and is currently working with a start-up university-community collaboration project in South Florida that addresses community resiliency, connectivity, and economic opportunity.

### **Dr. J. Barry Burnside**



Jonathan Barry Burnside was born in Jackson, Mississippi. He was awarded an Associate in Arts degree and obtained his Emergency Medical Technician – Basic certification from Hinds Community College in 1994. In 1994, he joined the Clinton Fire Department. He received the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Mississippi College in 2001. He received the Master of Emergency Management degree in 2008 from Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama. In July of 2010, he completed the National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officer program and was recognized for the 2008 Outstanding Research Award from the National Fire Academy and received the A. Don Manno Award for Excellence of Outstanding Applied Research Paper for Leading Community Risk Reduction award from the National Society of Executive Fire Officers. In December 2021, Burnside received his Doctor of Philosophy in Urban and Regional Planning with an emphasis in environmental and land use planning from Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi.

He served in the Clinton Fire Department for 22 years. During that period, he served as the fire chief from 2005 to 2016. While serving as the fire chief, he led the department during the devastating Hurricane Katrina event in 2005 and the EF-3 tornado that struck the City of Clinton in April 2011. Burnside assisted the City of Clinton and the State of Mississippi in the planning and development of an emergency response plan for the Continental Tire Plant in Clinton, Mississippi.

Since 2016, he has been an adjunct professor teaching undergraduate and graduate-level courses in the areas of emergency management and arson investigation for the Administration of Justice Program at Mississippi College. Burnside serves at the Mississippi State Fire Academy as an Instructor-Advanced with responsibilities of developing and delivering courses in code enforcement, prevention, fire suppression, officer-level courses, and the Mississippi Executive Fire Officer Program.



### **Ms. LaQuita Williams**

Ms. Williams graduated with her master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning with a focus of Environment and Land Use from Jackson State University. In the Summer of 2021, she received a scholarship to work in DC with The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation where she worked with other HBCU students on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice within the system. Ms. Williams is currently a Planner I with the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia. Sandy Springs, located in North Fulton county, is a newly incorporated city that gained the title of a PlanFirst Community. Currently the Community Development Department is working on the NextTen Master Plan that Ms. Williams is happy to be a part of this process. The goals are to create a unique, vibrant, walkable City Center rich in amenities desired by the community, such as commercial retail, recreational and cultural facilities, still hold true today and many recommendations from that plan have been implemented and are enjoyed by the community.

### **Dr. Abe Marshall Hudson, Jr.**



Dr. Abe Marshall Hudson, Jr. is a graduate of T.L. Weston High School in Greenville, Mississippi. After graduation, he attended the University of Southern Mississippi where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing. He then attained two Master's degrees, one in Business Administration and the other in Finance, from Mississippi State University. Abe defended his doctoral dissertation in Urban and Regional Planning from Jackson State University in April of 2021 and will receive his formal degree in December 2021.

Currently, Abe Marshall Hudson, Jr. is a Program Officer for the Home Region Program at the Walton Family Foundation. Prior to joining the foundation, he was a Mississippi State Representative (Bolivar and Sunflower Counties) in the Mississippi Legislature. Additionally, he worked with Delta State University as a Visiting Professor in the College of Business and as a Program Director at the DEBTS Program for over five years.

Additionally, Abe owns two businesses, Abe Hudson Consulting Services, Inc. and Real Delta Tours and Artistry, Inc. Abe Hudson Consulting Services, Inc. provides several services to individuals, businesses, municipalities, and counties. Services range from management consulting to governmental affairs to grant advisement. Real Delta Tours and Artistry, Incorporated is a company committed to providing authentic Mississippi Delta Tours, creating handmade invitations, and sponsoring creative events.

## **ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Dr. Gary B. Crosby**



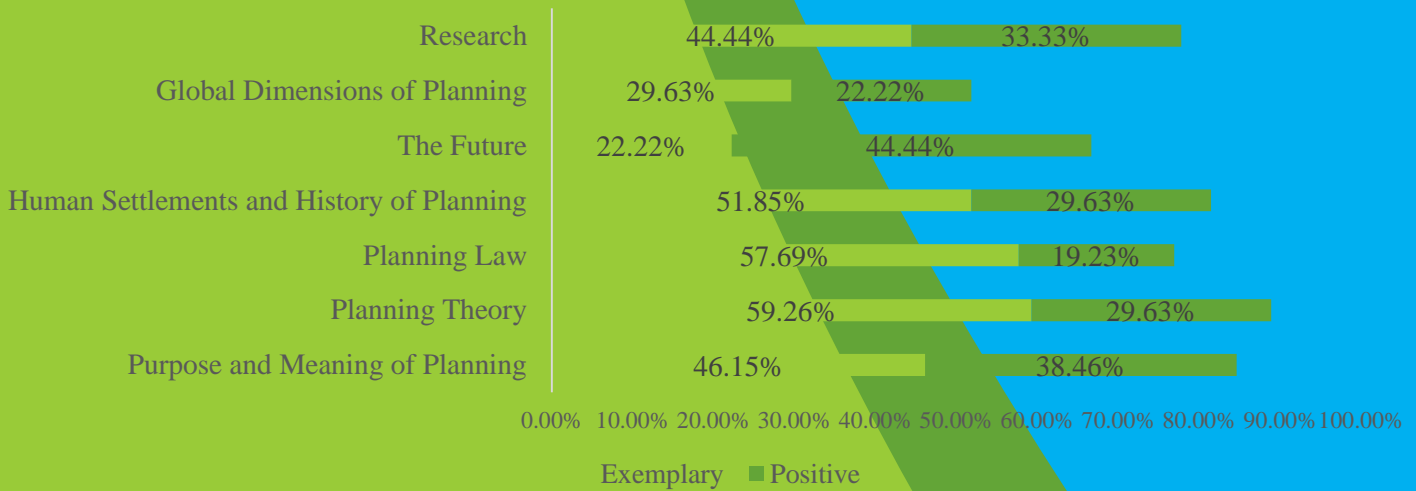
Dr. Crosby was named the eighth president of Saint Elizabeth University in Morristown, New Jersey. When he took office on July 1, 2021 he was the first male and the first African American to lead the university in its 121-year history.

Since 2015, Dr. Crosby has been vice president for student affairs at Alabama A&M University. Prior to joining AAMU, he served in various capacities at Jackson State University in Mississippi. A native of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Dr. Crosby holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Southern Mississippi. He earned a master's degree in political science and a doctorate in urban and regional planning from Jackson State University.

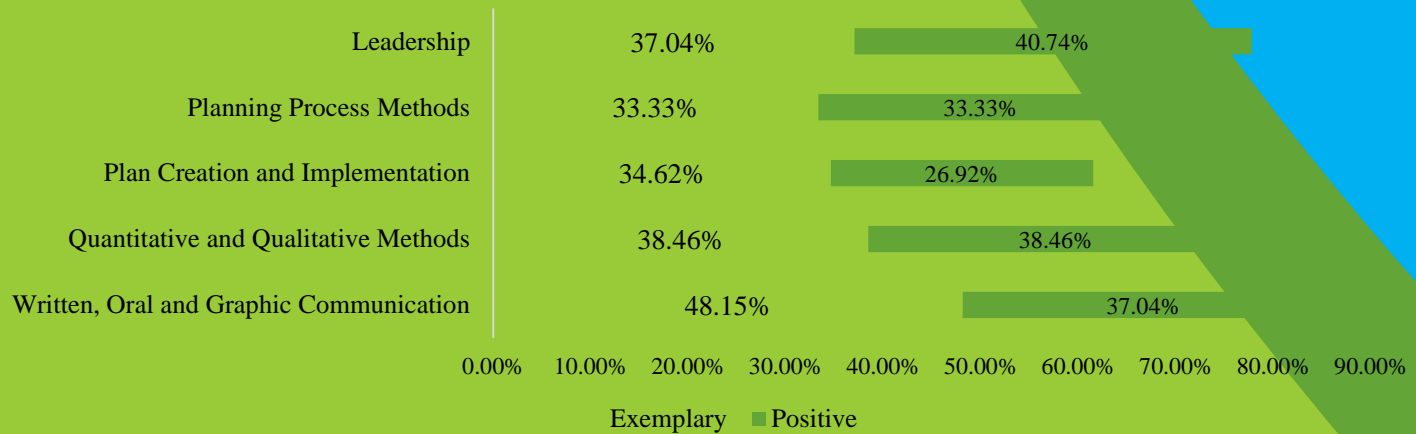


## 2020/2021 Exit Survey Results

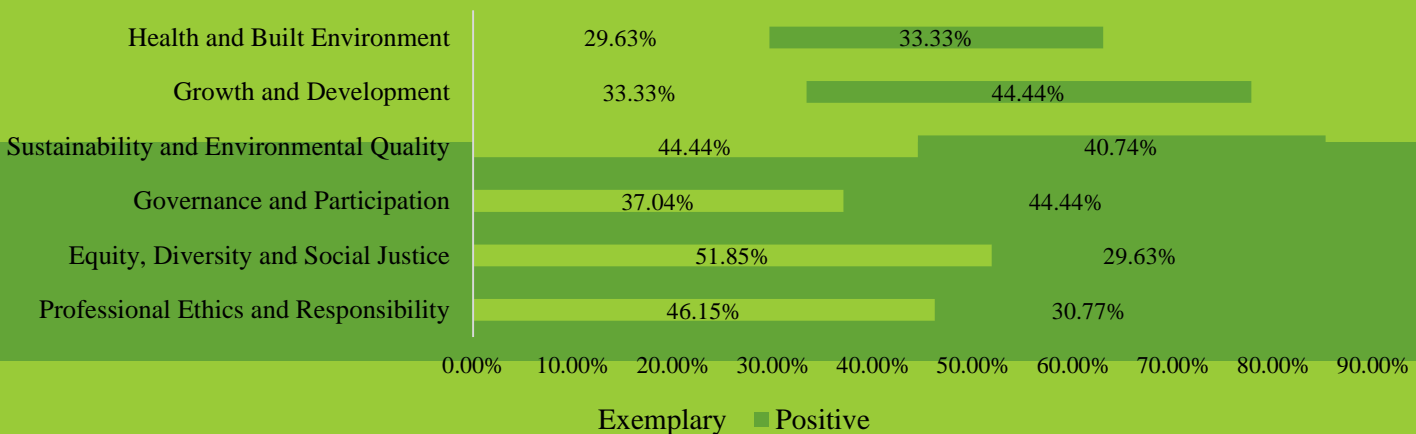
### Graduates' perception (Exemplary & Positive) of their educational preparation on the following Planning knowledge areas



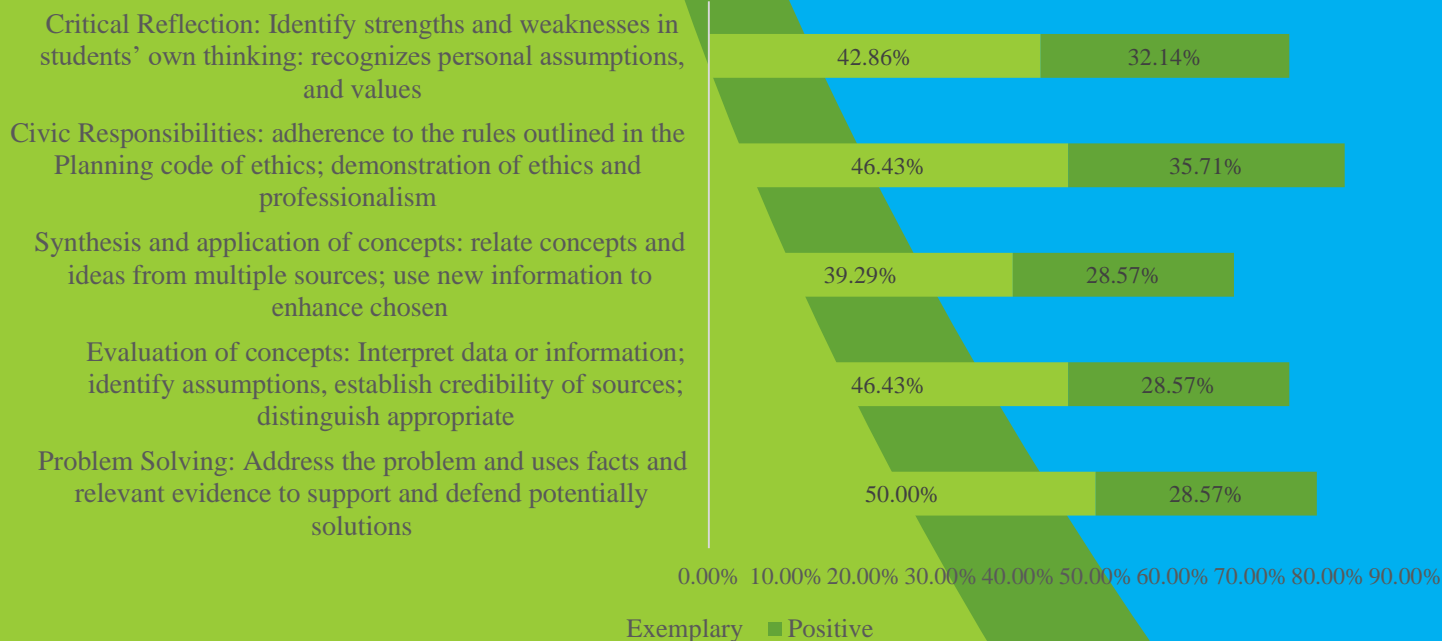
### Graduates' perception (Exemplary & Positive) of their educational preparation on the following Planning knowledge areas



### Graduates' perception (Exemplary & Positive) of their educational preparation on the following Planning knowledge areas



### Graduates' perception (Exemplary & Positive) of their educational preparation on the following skills



### 2021-2022 Tuition and Fees

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| In State Residents, per full-time academic year     | \$8,445 |
| Out of State Residents, per full-time academic year | \$9,445 |

### Student Retention Rate

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Percentage of students who began studies in fall 2020 and continued into fall 2021 | 99% |
|--|-----|

### Student Graduation Rate

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Percentage of students graduating within 4 years, entering class of 2017 | 100% |
|--|------|

### Number of Degrees Awarded

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Number of degrees awarded for 2020-2021 Academic Year | 4 |
|---|---|

### AICP Certification

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Percentage of master's graduates taking the AICP exam within 5 years who pass, graduating class of 2016 | NA |
|---|----|

### Employment

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Percentage of full-time graduates obtaining professional planning, planning-related, or other positions within 12 months of graduation, graduating class of 2020 | 75% |
|--|-----|