



# A&M-COMMERCE

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## Curriculum Vita August 2023

**Instructor:** Leslie Ekpe, Ph.D.  
**Academic Department:** Department of Higher Education and Learning Technologies  
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Texas A&M University-Commerce  
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Commerce, TX 75429-3011  
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<b>EDUCATION</b>
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2023      Doctor of Philosophy, College of Education  
Division: Higher Educational Leadership  
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas  
Dissertation: *"The Test Does Not Define My Ability": A Critical Narrative Study on First-Year Black College Students Who Took the SAT When Pursuing Selective Four-Year Institutions*

2016      Master of Business Administration, College of Business Administration  
Division: Business Administration  
Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas

2015      Master of Arts, College of Arts and Sciences  
Division: Communication Management  
The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama

2014      Bachelor of Science, Cum Laude, College of Business & Public Affairs  
Division: Business Administration  
Alabama A&M University, Huntsville, Alabama

## CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

2023	Revolution U: Dismantling Systemic Racism in Faculty Hiring Rutgers University Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
2023	Anti-Racist Series Texas Christian University
2022	Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES) Graduate Certificate Texas Christian University
2022	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Certificate Cornell University
2019	Graduate Student Pedagogy Certificate Texas Christian University

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Fall 2023	Dissertation Prospectus, HIED 710-01W Department of Higher Education and Learning Technologies Texas A&M University-Commerce, Commerce, Texas
Fall 2023	Qualitative Research Methods, HIED 696 Department of Higher Education and Learning Technologies Texas A&M University-Commerce, Commerce, Texas

### INVITED LECTURES

2023	TCU 150th Women in Excellence Alumnae Panel Moderator Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas
2023	Panelist, Holmes Career Fair (Academic Job Search Panel) AACTE Annual Conference Indianapolis, Indiana

## PUBLICATIONS

### Manuscripts

Thompson, V.J., **Ekpe, L.** There is No Vacation from Trauma: Black Female Academicians' Narratives on the Need for Community During Times of Racialized Injustices. *Journal of Trauma Studies in Education*.

**Ekpe, L.**, Sherman, A., & Ofoegbu, E. D. (2023). Restoring Resilience Through Joy: The Pursuit of Happiness in the Midst of Unprecedented Times. *Equity in Education & Society*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/27526461231154012>

Gasman, M., **Ekpe, L.**, Ginsberg, A.C. *et al.* (2023). Why Aspiring Leaders Choose to Lead Historically Black Colleges and Universities. *Innov High Educ*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s1075502209644-3>

**Ekpe, L.**, & Roach, W. N. (2023). A Guise of Inclusion: The Survival of 'Non-Ideal' Students in White Supremacist Heteropatriarchal Systems of Education. *Journal of School Leadership*, 10526846221149219.

Ofoegbu, E. D. & **Ekpe, L.** (2022). Walk it like you talk it: A critical discourse analysis of college athletics response to the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. *Journal of Issues in Intercollegiate Athletics*. 15, 168-188.  
[http://csrijiia.org/wpcontent/uploads/2022/03/RA\\_2022\\_08.pdf](http://csrijiia.org/wpcontent/uploads/2022/03/RA_2022_08.pdf)

Gasman, M., **Ekpe, L.**, Ginsberg, A., Washington Lockett, A., Samayoa, A. C. (2021). Understanding the Motivations of Future Minority Serving Institution Presidents. *johepal*. 2021; 2 (3):7-28. <http://johepal.com/article-1-126-en.html>

Killham, J., Mejia, B., **Ekpe, L.**, Estanga, L. (2021). The Strength of a Tigress: An Examination of Latina First Generation College Students' Tenacity During the Rapid Shift to Remote Learning. *Journal of Research on Technology in Education*.

### **Book Chapters**

Huckaby, M.F., Cuellar, S., Nguyen, M., **Ekpe, L.**, Brooks, R., Hollins, K. *Beyond the Years*. In V. Garry & P. Isaac-Savage (Eds.). *Black Cultural Capital: Activism that Spurred African American High Schools*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing Inc.

**Ekpe, L.** Adjuncting While Black. *Black Faculty Do It All: A Moment in The Life of a Blackademic*. Information Age Publishing.

**Ekpe, L. U.** & Wallace, J. K. (2023). Engaging Sankofa Mentorship to Create Liberatory Practices for Black Graduate Students at Historically White Institutions. In A. Wilkerson & S. Samuels (Eds.), *Best Practices and Programmatic Approaches for Mentoring Educational Leaders* (pp. 176-187). IGI Global. <https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-6684-6049-8.ch013>

**Ekpe, L., & Toutant, S. (2023).** Empowering Adolescent Girls in STEM Through Online Learning and Mentoring. *Teaching and Learning Online: Science for Secondary Grade Levels*, 69.

**Ekpe, L. & Toutant, S. (2022).** Moving Beyond Performative Allyship: A Conceptual Framework for Anti-racist Co-conspirators. In: Johnson, K.F., Sparkman-Key, N.M., Meca, A., Tarver, S.Z. (eds) *Developing Anti-Racist Practices in the Helping Professions: Inclusive Theory, Pedagogy, and Application*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.  
[https://doi.org/10.1007/9783030-95451-2\\_5](https://doi.org/10.1007/9783030-95451-2_5)

Silveus, A., **Ekpe, L. (2021)** The Evolution Revolution: The Application of a Leadership Adaptation Continuum to the Future of Global Higher Education Post COVID-19. *STAR Scholars. Journal of International Scholars*.

### **Opinion Editorials**

**Ekpe, L.,** Guyton, N., Mhlbauer, A. (November 2022). *We Have To Talk About Mental Health for Student-Athletes*. HigherEdJobs.  
<https://www.higheredjobs.com/articles/articleDisplay.cfm?ID=3258>

**Ekpe, L., & McCray, T. (August 2022).** *Graduate Student Perspective: New Year for Opportunity*. HigherEdJobs.  
<https://www.higheredjobs.com/Articles/articleDisplay.cfm?ID=3146&Title=Graduate%20Student%20Perspective%3A%20New%20Year%20for%20Opportunity>

**Ekpe, L.,** Smith, S. L. (July 2020). *3 Tips for First-Generation Graduate Students Navigating Education During the Pandemic*. Diverse Education, [www.diverseeducation.com/article/185452/](http://www.diverseeducation.com/article/185452/).

## **RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS**

### **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIP AWARDS**

2022	UCEA Graduate Student Fellowship - The UCEA Center for Educational Leadership and Social Justice, Awarded \$2,500.00
2022	Collab Day - Southern Methodist University (SMU) Grant to establish professional development for SMU and TCU graduate students; \$4,975.00
2022	Diversity Day Conference - Texas Christian University Revolutionizing Social Change in the Academy

Conference Coordinator, Grant \$30,000.00

2021 Diversity Day Conference - Texas Christian University  
Moving Forward through Activism and Advocacy  
Conference Coordinator, Grant \$30,000.00

2020 Diversity Day Conference - Texas Christian University  
REFLECT. REIMAGINE. RECONNECT.  
Conference Coordinator, Grant \$27,000.00

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022 *Revolutionizing Research for Social Change Workshop A Summer Institute in Anti-Racist and Decolonizing Research Information and Policies Center for Social Science Research*  
George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia

2022 *Exploring Supportive Recruitment and Access Strategies: The Impact of Test-Optional Policies on Undocumented Students' Interest, Access, and Enrollment in Highly Selective Institutions* UCEA  
Graduate Student Fellowship  
UCEA Center for Leadership and Social Justice  
Supervisor: Dr. Liliana Castrellón

2021 *Community Visioning Sessions: Evaluation Report for Dallas Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation*  
Center for Public Education and Community Engagement  
College of Education  
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas

## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

2023 Outstanding Graduate Student Service Award, \$500  
College of Education  
Texas Christian University  
Fort Worth, Texas

2023 Graduate Student Pillar of University Leadership  
Texas Christian University  
Fort Worth, Texas

2023 1st Place, Holmes Dissertation Funding Competition

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)  
Annual Conference  
Indianapolis, Indiana

- 2023 Outstanding Graduate Student  
American College Personnel Association (ACPA) - Commission for Academic  
Support in Higher Education (CASHE)
- 2022 Outstanding Service Award  
Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES)  
Texas Christian University
- 2022 Outstanding Doctoral Student  
American College Personnel Association (ACPA) - Communities of Practice
- 2021 Outstanding Graduate Student Service Award, *\$500*  
College of Education  
Texas Christian University  
Fort Worth, Texas
- 2021 Recipient of the Texas Christian University Bob Bolen Leadership Scholarship
- 2020 Recipient of the Texas Christian University Bob Bolen Leadership Scholarship
- 2020 Recipient of the Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education  
Founder's Day Scholarship Award
- 2019 Recipient of the Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education  
(TABPHE) Founder's Day Scholarship Award