



Dr. Matasha L. Harris, associate dean of the College of Professional Studies, is co-founder and co-executive director of the Institute for Restorative Justice & Practices at Bowie State University (BSU). She has specialized in restorative justice for over 15 years and affirms, through research and practice, the education and edification of incarcerated people and returning citizens. In 2019, Dr. Harris served as co-principal investigator for Bowie State University's Second Chance Pell Grant Experimental Sites Initiative through the U.S. Department of Education. Her research and contributions to the proposed project in support of BSU receiving the designation as a Second Chance Pell Grant Experimental Site awardee was instrumental. In 2022, as principal investigator, Dr. Harris led Bowie State University's Restorative Justice and Practices Job Pilot Prison Education Program. This program was designed to provide incarcerated women at Maryland Correctional Institution for Women an opportunity to receive college credits and training through Bowie State University. Recently, as a visiting scholar at the University of South Africa (UNISA) in Pretoria, South Africa, Dr. Harris collaborated with the Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs and the College of Law to engage in critical discourse and research on restorative practices and *Lekgotla*, an African dispute resolution system. Through lectures and roundtable discussions at UNISA, keynote addresses, and community engagement with King Kgosi Nchape Makapan III, the Bakgatla Ba Moseitlha traditional council in Makapanstad village, North West province, and public schools in Limpopo province, Dr. Harris underscored the need for global partnerships and engaged scholarship.

Dr. Harris' research is reflected in her book, *Returning home: Intimate Partner Violence and Reentry*, numerous journal articles, and book chapters. She received her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice, with a specialization in Public Policy, and a Master of Philosophy in Criminal Justice from The Graduate Center, City University of New York. She received a Master of Arts in Applied Sociology and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia.



Dr. Charles B. Adams is a prominent Criminologist and the Professor and Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice at Bowie State University. He focuses on addressing issues faced by marginalized communities within the criminal justice system, advocating for a paradigm shift in how criminal behaviors and punishment are approached. His research spans police reform, the school-to-prison pipeline, juvenile drug use, mass incarceration, intimate partner violence, restorative justice, and reentry programs.

Dr. Adams collaborates with federal, state, local, and community organizations to reduce inequalities within the justice system. His contributions are evident in his numerous scholarly articles, book chapters, and presentations, covering crucial topics such as racial impact statements, substance abuse, crime pattern analysis, racial profiling, and restorative justice.

Beyond academia, Dr. Adams has influenced policy and practices through research assignments for municipalities including Washington DC, Baltimore, Savannah, Tampa, Dallas, Prince George's County, Charles County, and the State of Maryland. As the founder of the Institute of Restorative Justice and Practices at Bowie State University, he advances restorative justice principles. He also co-directs the Bowie State University's Prison Education Program, offering post-secondary education to incarcerated citizens in Maryland, facilitated by the Second Chance Pell Grant he was awarded.

Dr. Adams is dedicated to the successful re-entry of returning citizens, contributing to reduced recidivism and promoting rehabilitation. His expertise led to his selection as co-evaluator of the Maryland Equitable Justice Collaborative, addressing mass incarceration in Maryland.

He is a member of several prestigious organizations, including the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, Western Society of Criminology, American Society of Criminology, American Sociological Association, and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Dr. Adams earned his Ph.D. from Howard University, and his impactful work continues to reform the criminal justice system and benefit the broader community.