



GRC NEWSLETTER

THE Graduate School @ Bowie State



May 1, 2025

Issue 3

ABOUT THE GRC

The Graduate Resource Center's mission is to transform the graduate student experience. We cultivate a dynamic academic environment in which graduate students engage in innovative research, receive tailored academic support, and leverage resources for both academic and professional development. We are dedicated to nurturing emerging scholars, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and empowering individuals to excel in their academic pursuits through mentorship, fellowship opportunities, and transformative services.



MAY EVENTS

- May 3rd: HRD Information Session
- May 9th: Last Day of Classes (2nd 7-week session)
- May 10th: Last Saturday Class
- May 13th: Last Day of Classes (15-week session)
- May 14th: Reading Day
- May 16th: Last Day to Change Fall 2023 Graduate Incomplete Grades
- May 23rd: Final Grades Due
- May 23rd: Commencement Ceremony and End of Term
- May 23rd: Graduation Clearance for Fall 2025



@BSUGradCenter



GRC@bowiestate.edu



Center for Business & Graduate Studies
Thurgood Marshall Library, 1185



A Message to Graduating Scholars

As you prepare to walk across the stage, take a moment to reflect on the incredible milestone you've achieved. Your dedication, hard work, and scholarly pursuits have brought you to this moment. You should be immensely proud.

Whether you're stepping into a new career or advancing along your current path, we have no doubt that you'll continue to succeed. Your time in graduate school has not only sharpened your skills—it has also shown your resilience, passion, and commitment to growth.

It has been an honor to support you throughout your graduate journey. We are deeply proud of all you've accomplished and excited for all that lies ahead.

As you transition to your next steps, we hope you stay engaged and connected as a graduate alumnus. Keep reaching for new heights—and always remember to be BOLD.

Best wishes,

The GRC Team



HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION SESSION

Position Yourself for High Level Organizational Impact with the Human Resource Development Master's Program at Bowie State University

- Gain skills to lead and drive systemic change.
- Design impactful training programs that boost performance.
- Connect with top faculty, industry pros, and like-minded peers.
- Tailor your learning journey for rapid career advancement in any industry.

Don't miss this opportunity to up-skill and thrive!

May 3rd, 2025
12PM - 2:00 PM

In-Person and Virtual - Scan QR Code Or Click [this link](#)



Tailored Academic Support

GRADUATE WRITING SERVICES



Research editors at the Graduate Resource Center focus on helping graduate students grow as academic writers and scholars across disciplines. We support students at any stage in the writing process. We provide feedback on a range of work including research papers, literature reviews, dissertation chapters, grant proposals, and conference presentations.

The services that we provide include:

- Constructive criticism for drafts as well as final products
- Help with developing revision plans
- Considerations for refining the writing process
- Support with overcoming barriers to productivity

Brainstorming Consultations

Students talk through approaches they are considering for starting an assignment, drafting sections of longer manuscripts, or even working through structural issues in a current draft. The consultation focuses on using dialogue to explore ideas, ask questions, and gain clarity. Brainstorming consultations are scheduled 24 hours in advance and require an assignment sheet or a short project description.

Read Ahead Consultations

Students will identify a specific challenge that they are facing in a current draft. An editor will read student work before the consultation. The consultation centers on using dialogue to provide constructive feedback, potential strategies, and resources for overcoming the challenge. Consultations are scheduled 48 hours in advance. Requirements for making the appointment include an assignment sheet or a short project description in addition to 5-8 double-spaced manuscript pages or slides.

Register Here:



STATISTICS ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE



Statisticians at the Graduate Resource Center provide academic support to graduate students by assisting with statistical concepts, data analysis techniques, and software applications. We help students understand probability, hypothesis testing, regression analysis, and other advanced statistical methods. Services include one-on-one or group sessions, guidance in applying statistical methods to research projects, and clarification on complex topics to enhance comprehension and confidence.

Offerings:

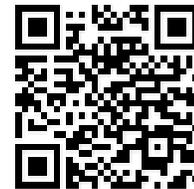
One-on-One or Group Sessions to address challenges directly related to coursework in the following:

- **EDAD 810 - Descriptive and Inferential Statistics in Education**
- **COES 760 - Multivariate Research and Statistics in Counseling**

Individual sessions for graduate students to address statistical related research questions that stem from course work:

- **EDAD 835: Research and Design Methods**
- **COES 700: Research Theory, Design and Methods**

Register Here:



Need to Print?

Graduate programs or students in need of printing large images for conference presentations, abstract presentations, posters, etc., may complete the request form below. Materials will be ready for pickup on Mondays and Wednesdays in room 1185 of the Thurgood Marshall Library.

[Print Services Submission Form](#)



BOWIE STATE'S COES ATTENDS COUNSELORS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE IN PUERTO RICO



Presentations included:

"Outcomes Through UJIMA" by Dr. Jordan, Dr. Ham, and Dr. Humphrey, emphasized the power of collective responsibility in advancing equity in mental health services.

"Breaking Barriers: Social Justice in School Counseling" by doctoral students Carolyn Thorpe and Iesha Caisey, addressed systemic obstacles in K-12 education and proposed actionable, equity-centered solutions.

A panel on Black Women's Counseling Experiences, presented by Dr. Humphrey and Dr. Cox, explored intersectional identities and the importance of culturally responsive, healing-centered counseling practices.

"Enhancing Counseling Competency: Advocacy, Ethics, and Inclusivity in Supporting People with Disabilities" by doctoral student Shakeela Gray, sparked vital conversations around accessibility in mental health services.

"Black Men Counselors in Training at a Black University", presented by master's students Elijah Prince, Quentin Randolph, Ky'Shaun Bradford, and Andre Moore, highlighted participatory action research focused on radical self-care and culturally grounded support.

"The Personal is Political: Racial Identity and the Counselor's Role" by doctoral students Billie Shabazz and Carolyn Thorpe, examined how counselors' own racial identity development influences their advocacy and practice.

"Best Practices to Foster Workplace Accountability: Providing Equitable Counseling Services to Marginalized Students using the MSJCC Framework", presented by doctoral student Temitope Unonu discussed strategies for promoting equity and accountability in counseling practices through communal responsibility among colleagues, proactive self-evaluation using the MSJCC framework, and sustainable advocacy for and with students.

This year, 23 faculty members and students from the Mental Health Counseling, Master's in Counseling, and Counselor Education and Supervision Ph.D. programs proudly represented Bowie State University at the 2025 Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ) Conference. Held annually, the CSJ Conference convenes educators, students, and practitioners from across the country who are committed to advancing equity and justice through counseling.

The conference proved to be both empowering and inspiring for the attendees, who participated in a range of impactful sessions and shared their own scholarly contributions. Their collective presence at the event underscored a strong commitment to social justice, community healing, and advocacy.

Among the highlights was the **Melanin Scholars Retreat by Dr. Williams** which created a restorative and empowering space for scholars of color in counseling to reflect, resist, and rejuvenate. This retreat set the tone for several standout presentations delivered by faculty and students.



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A standout moment of the conference was the recognition of Carolyn Thorpe, who received the prestigious Reese House Social Justice Advocate of the Year Award. This national honor, named in memory of CSJ founding member Dr. Reese House, acknowledges individuals who have made significant contributions to social justice in school counseling. The award recognizes excellence in closing educational gaps, promoting equity in K-12 schools, and advancing counselor education.

As part of the award, Carolyn will direct funding from the Reese House Memorial Social Justice Advocacy Fund to a nonprofit organization that supports school counseling and social justice initiatives. Her achievement serves as a powerful reminder of the transformative impact that counselor educators and practitioners can have in their communities.

The conference reaffirmed Bowie State's dedication to advocacy and inclusion. Participants returned energized and equipped with new insights, committed to applying these strategies in their classrooms, communities, and counseling practices.



BOWIE STATE'S COES ATTENDS COUNSELORS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE IN PUERTO RICO



A special thank you to Dr. Cox for providing the GRC with a detailed summary and photos from the CSJ Conference.

GRADUATE STUDENT APPRECIATION WEEK RECAP



This past April, we celebrated Graduate Student Appreciation Week from April 7-11 with events designed to support and recognize the incredible contributions of our graduate student community. The Graduate Resource Center hosted two engaging events during the week.

The first was the How to Budget and Save seminar, presented by Fritz Cenal, a doctoral student in Computer Science. Fritz shared practical financial tips and strategies tailored to the unique needs of graduate students, offering valuable insight into budgeting, saving, and financial planning.

Later in the week, we held the GRC Mixer, a casual and welcoming space for students to meet the GRC team, connect with fellow graduate students, and ask questions about available resources and support.

We're so grateful to everyone who participated and helped make these events a success. We look forward to hosting more opportunities for connection, learning, and community building in the future!



SPOTLIGHT

DR. RUTH ABIDEMI OLUSEGUN

Computer Science

Meet Dr. Ruth Olusegun, a May 2025 graduate of the Computer Science Doctoral Program at Bowie State University! With a research focus at the intersection of Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain, Dr. Olusegun is tackling some of the most pressing challenges in secure and ethical technology development.

Her doctoral work centered on improving blockchain security using a tabular pre-trained transformer model grounded in Approximate Bayesian Inference and Meta-Learning. She developed a neural network framework capable of real-time monitoring and predictive analysis of blockchain transactions, allowing for proactive security measures and greater transparency. Her approach combined hybrid feature selection and a custom tokenizer to process complex data, ultimately enhancing both model performance and interpretability.

Dr. Olusegun's research has been published in leading journals, including IEEE Access and the IEEE Xplore Digital Library. Notable titles include Text Mining and Emotion Classification on MonkeyPox Twitter Dataset, Improved Ethereum Fraud Detection Mechanism, and Explainable Tabular Transformer Model for Enhancing Security in Cryptocurrencies. Her work has earned academic recognition and invitations to present at prestigious conferences such as IEEE-TPS 2024 in Washington, D.C., MLIS 2024, and CSCI 2023 in Las Vegas.

Her academic success is matched by her leadership and service. She mentored students in the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program, contributed to the Apple Create and Code Camp at Bowie State, and supported high school research collaborations through BSU-D.C. Public Schools initiatives. She is also a recipient of the MacKenzie Scott Scholarship for Academic Achievement and certifications from AWS and Apple's education programs.

Dr. Olusegun exemplifies the strength of Bowie State's commitment to innovation, research, and community engagement. As she embarks on the next stage of her career, her work continues to push the boundaries of AI and blockchain for the betterment of society. Congratulations, Dr. Olusegun!



**INTERESTED IN
NOMINATING A
GRADUATE STUDENT OR
FACULTY MEMBER?
FILL OUT THIS FORM!**



SPOTLIGHT

CAROLYN THORPE

Counselor Education & Supervision



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Thorpe currently serves as President of Chi Sigma Iota's Mu Chapter at Bowie State University and as Secretary for Maryland Counselors for Social Justice (MCSJ). In these roles, she co-planned the Spring 2025 Graduate Student Virtual Conference with MACES and is organizing a joint conference between Chi Sigma Iota and MCSJ, scheduled for June at Bowie State. A dedicated scholar and advocate, she has attended over a dozen conferences and workshops since beginning her doctoral program. She continues to seek opportunities to grow and uplift others through her work.

Meet Carolyn Thorpe, a COES doctoral candidate! Thorpe's research focuses on Racial Identity Development (RID) among Black female adolescents, examining how identity formation influences their capacity for leadership and advocacy in predominantly White educational contexts. Her work explores the connection between RID and students' willingness and ability to engage in self and peer advocacy, as well as their readiness to take on leadership roles within school settings.

Using a qualitative approach, Thorpe gathers student testimonials to assess the impact of counseling groups she facilitates. These groups, rooted in solution-focused and strengths-based practices, incorporate reflective and experiential activities that support Black girls in identifying personal strengths, recognizing areas for growth, and building self-efficacy. The overarching goal is to promote positive identity development and a sense of community within schools.

Her contributions have earned her several honors including the Reese House Social Justice Advocate of the Year award and the Doctoral Student of the Year award from the Maryland Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (MACES). She has presented her work at major conferences such as the Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (SACES), NBCCF Symposium, National Cross-Cultural Counseling and Education Conference, and Counselors for Social Justice. She has an upcoming presentation at the American School Counselor Association Conference.



SPOTLIGHT

DR. STAPHORD BENGESI

Computer Science



Meet Dr. Staphord Bengesi, a May 2025 Doctor of Computer Science graduate from Bowie State University, whose cutting-edge research is transforming the intersection of artificial intelligence and healthcare.

Dr. Bengesi's research focuses on the utilization of emerging deep learning and transformer techniques to address critical challenges in healthcare, including enhanced diagnostics and medical imaging. His innovative approach combines hybrid deep learning architectures—such as CNN-LSTM, CNN-BiLSTM—and vision transformers (ViT), delivering robust models capable of tackling complex medical data with increased accuracy and efficiency.

Over the course of his doctoral journey, Dr. Bengesi has published three peer-reviewed journal articles and four conference papers, earning more than 285 citations—a testament to the relevance and impact of his work within the global research community. His scholarly contributions have been featured in esteemed platforms like IEEE Access, and he has actively participated in premier conferences and professional development opportunities with Azure, IBM, ICCA, and LOTTO.

In addition to his academic achievements, Dr. Bengesi has played a vital leadership role within the Bowie State community. He has served as Department Summer Program Coordinator, SURI Coordinator, Cybersecurity SFS (Scholarship for Service) Coordinator, and GEP (General Education Program) Coordinator, consistently supporting student research, guiding program development, and fostering academic excellence.

Dr. Staphord Bengesi exemplifies the spirit of innovation, scholarship, and service. His contributions to deep learning and healthcare analytics, along with his dedication to community leadership, reflect the best of what Bowie State University strives to cultivate in its scholars. Congratulations, Dr. Bengesi!

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VISIT THE GRADUATE LOUNGE!

Looking for a space to study, collaborate with peers, or work on assignments? Visit the Graduate Lounge in **Thurgood Marshall Library (Room 1185)**.

This modern space features seating for 30, 7 computers, 3 private study pods, and a large 80" interactive screen with virtual and touchscreen capabilities.



Thurgood Marshall Library, Room 1185

RESERVE THE GRADUATE LOUNGE:



YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS!
GRC Feedback Survey

