

GRC NEWSLETTER

THE Graduate School @ Bowie State



August 3, 2026

Issue 18

ABOUT THE GRC

The Graduate Research 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.



AUGUST EVENTS

- August 7th: Last Day of Summer Sessions II and III
- August 11th: Final Grades are Due by 11:59pm (for sessions II and III)
- August 15th: Transformative Synergies Call for Proposals Due
- August 15th: Graduate Student Orientation
- August 24th: First Day of Classes (15 week and 1st 7-week session)
- August 28th: Last Day to Add/Drop Courses (1st 7-week session)



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Center for Business & Graduate Studies
Thurgood Marshall Library, 1185

FALL 2026



GRAD STUDENT CLASS REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

DON'T DELAY REGISTER TODAY

[Take Me to Bulldog Connection](#)

[Schedule an Advising Appointment](#)



**TRANSFORMATIVE
SYNERGIES**

ARTS, BUSINESS, STEM, HEALTH & EDUCATION FOR A
CHANGING WORLD



CALL FOR PAPERS

HARMONIZING THE FUTURE: INTERDISCIPLINARY PATHWAYS FOR A RESILIENT SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 8 - 10, 2026

Hotel at the University of Maryland

7777 Baltimore Ave 4th Floor, College Park, MD 20740

Discounted rates are available for conference attendees

In an era defined by rapid technological shifts, political instability, global health challenges, and social evolution, the traditional silos of academia are no longer sufficient. To build a truly resilient society, we must find the "Transformative Synergies" where the precision of STEM, the soul of the Arts, the necessity of Health, the strategic scale of Business, and the foundation of Education converge.

This conference serves as a dynamic forum for faculty, scholars, and graduate students to showcase cutting-edge research that transcends disciplinary boundaries. We invite submissions that explore how these diverse fields can harmonize to create innovative solutions for the complex problems of the 21st century.

REGISTRATION FEE

Bowie State University \$100

Students, Faculty, and Staff Conference and Gala

Conference Only \$75

Gala Only \$50

IMPORTANT DATES

Proposal submission deadline

August 15, 2026 (EXTENDED)

Proposal acceptance notification

Early September, 2026

Conference

November 8-10, 2026

[Register Here](#)

[Submit a Proposal Here](#)

Organized by

**THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
AT BOWIE STATE
UNIVERSITY**

SPOTLIGHT

DR. AVON HART-JOHNSON

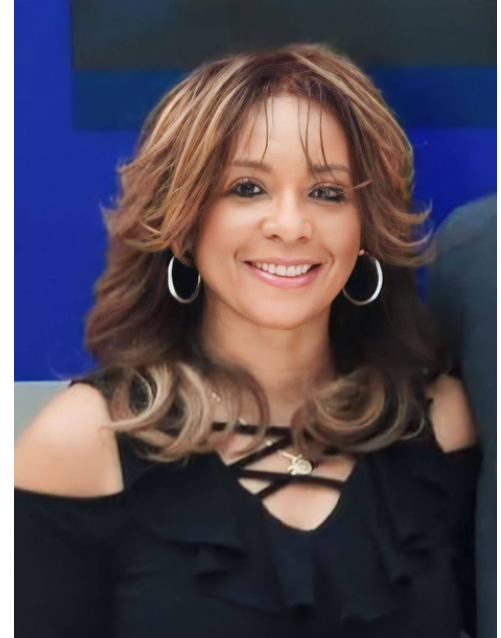
Counseling Education and Supervision

Meet Dr. Avon Hart-Johnson, a doctoral candidate in the Counseling Education and Supervision Ph.D. Program at Bowie State University whose research centers on counseling leadership, professional identity, and wellness among women of African descent. Grounded in African-centered theoretical frameworks, her work explores how women navigate leadership roles while sustaining their professional identity, ethics of care, and well-being despite systemic barriers and intersecting forms of oppression. Through her Well-Being, Identity, Ethics, and Leadership Dimensions (WIELD) framework, Dr. Hart-Johnson seeks to advance more culturally responsive approaches to counseling scholarship, leadership development, and counselor education.

Using a qualitative constructivist grounded theory methodology, her research examines how culturally congruent perspectives can reshape the understanding of counseling leadership and ethical practice. By centering the lived experiences of women of African descent, her work addresses a critical gap in counseling literature while contributing to broader conversations on equity, social justice, and inclusive leadership within the profession.

Dr. Hart-Johnson's scholarship extends beyond academia to influence national and international conversations on racial equity, trauma-responsive systems, and children's rights. She has presented testimony before the United Nations in Geneva and New York, advocating for trauma-responsive educational reforms and greater support for children with incarcerated parents. She is also the author of *African American Women with Incarcerated Mates: The Psychological and Social Impacts of Mass Imprisonment* (2017) and *Children of Imprisoned Parents: A Guide to Holistic Caregiver and Child Well-Being* (2025), and contributed a chapter to *Beyond the Carceral State: Forensic Psychology and Black Resistance* (2026).

Beyond her research, Dr. Hart-Johnson is an active leader, educator, and advocate. She has presented at national and international conferences, serves in leadership roles advancing equity for individuals and families affected by mass incarceration, and contributes to the Bowie State community through guest lectures and graduate student mentorship. Through her scholarship and service, Dr. Hart-Johnson exemplifies Bowie State University's commitment to research that advances equity, empowers communities, and creates meaningful societal impact.



Tailored Academic Support

GRADUATE WRITING SERVICES



Research editors at the Graduate Research 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.

Offerings:

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.

Thesis/Dissertation Support Groups:

Weekly, noncommittal groups will offer a supportive, flexible space for writers to meet the demands of revising manuscripts and take advantage of dedicated writing time. Sessions will also feature brief workshops focused on enhancing your writing process, trying new revision strategies, using feedback effectively, maximizing writing time, and more.

Dissertation Workshop Series:

The Dissertation Workshop Series guides doctoral students through writing and refining key sections of the dissertation. Workshops will focus on writing a clear problem statement, crafting a comprehensive literature review, describing research methodologies, presenting findings, and highlighting a study's significance.

[Schedule a GRC Service](#)

ACADEMIC ADVISING



Academic advisors at the Graduate Research Center support new and continuing graduate students through the enrollment and registration process, help them understand program requirements, and provide ongoing guidance throughout their academic journey.

Offerings:

In-person and online advising sessions by appointment only.

New Student/Doctoral/Certificate Program Advising:
Ms. Oji

New Student/Master's Program Advising: Ms.
Bradford-Yancey

STATISTICS ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE



Statisticians at the Graduate Research 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.

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](#)



SUMMER FACULTY WRITING SUPPORT FROM THE GRC



Sessions led by Dr. McElroy

The Graduate Research Center is pleased to offer dedicated writing support for faculty throughout the summer. Whether you're developing a new manuscript or preparing a final submission, our team is here to support your work throughout the writing process.

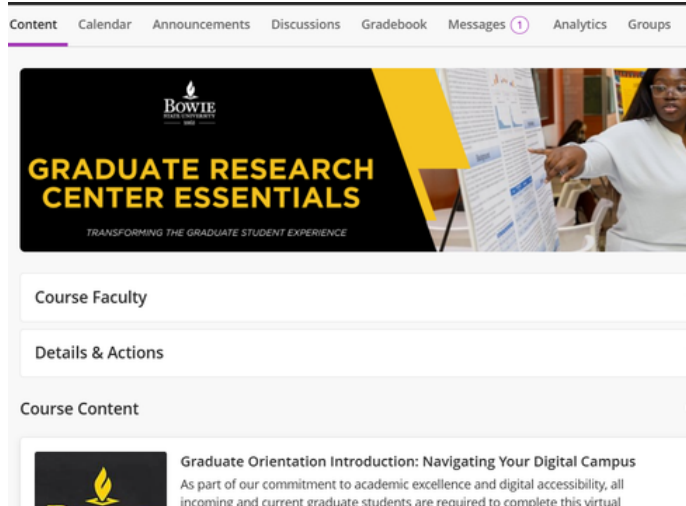
AVAILABLE SERVICES:

- **One-on-one consultations** to discuss project goals, structure, and direction.
- **In-line feedback** on drafts to strengthen clarity, organization, and throughline.
- **Brainstorming sessions** for new ideas, proposals, or revisions.
- **Final reviews** to help prepare manuscripts for submission.



**EMAIL HMCELROY@BOWIESTATE.EDU
TO SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION**

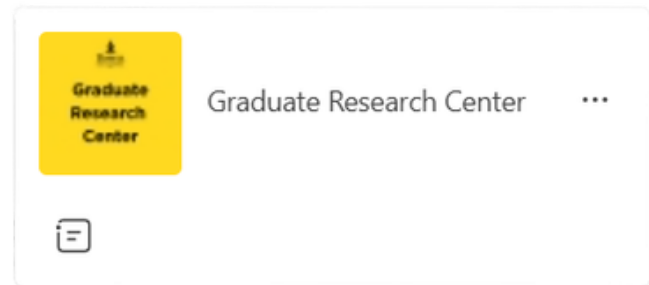
GRC ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE ON NEW PLATFORMS



The Graduate Research Center (GRC) Essentials Blackboard organization is now open to all graduate students. This module is designed to orient students to GRC services while also providing access to essential Graduate School resources.

Students can easily access the organization by visiting [Blackboard](#), logging in, and selecting “organization” on the navigation pane located on the left. Within the GRC Essentials module, students will complete a brief orientation and earn a digital badge to recognize their participation.

The module will remain available throughout the academic year, serving as a convenient point of reference for all things related to the Graduate Research Center and the Graduate School.



In addition to Blackboard, we are excited to announce the launch of the GRC Team Hub, now available to all graduate students and faculty. The hub serves as a centralized resource, offering easy access to pertinent information about GRC services, university personnel, policies, and more. By streamlining these resources into one convenient space, the Team Hub is designed to support academic success, strengthen communication, and foster engagement across the graduate community.

**JOIN THE
HUB
HERE!**



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MEET THE GRC STAFF:

DR. HONOR MCELROY



Title: Graduate Research Editor

How long have you been with the GRC? 1 year & 6 months.

What is your role in supporting graduate students? I focus on helping graduate students grow as academic writers and scholars across disciplines. I support students at any stage in the writing process. I provide feedback on a range of work including research papers, literature reviews, dissertation chapters, grant proposals, and conference presentations.

What do you enjoy most about working with graduate students? I love talking through research ideas and research designs.

One piece of advice for graduate students: Make an impact by translating your research for a variety of stakeholders, communities, and publications.

Coffee or tea? Coffee.

Favorite way to spend a weekend: Reading and paddle boarding

Favorite book: Anything by Mary Oliver.

Dream travel destination: Antarctica.

Fun Fact: I have gone swimming in the Amazon River.

Early bird or night owl

Sweet or savory

Virtual meetings or in-person

Beach or mountains



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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



Bulldog
Card
Required
for Entry

RESERVE THE
GRADUATE
LOUNGE



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FEATURED?**