African Diaspora Fellows

2016-2017

Lauren Boop
Hilburn Drive Academy – District Region 2
History and Social Studies

Lauren Boop teaches at Hilburn Drive Academy in Raleigh, NC for Wake County Public Schools. She will be teaching 6th grade Social Studies and an African American History elective during the 2016-2017 school year. Lauren is very passionate about incorporating global education, integrated geography and real-world issues into her classroom through project-based learning. She loves trying new things around the Triangle in her spare time, traveling and finding somewhere outside to explore!

Savannah Whitehurst Cутrell
Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools – District Region 1
Social Studies

Savannah Whitehurst Cутrell is from Gates County in northeastern North Carolina and is a proud graduate of East Carolina University with degrees in History and in History Education. She also attended NC State University for 2.5 years before transferring to ECU, so she is also a supporter of the Wolfpack. Savannah has been teaching high school social studies for going on 3 years now at Northeastern High School in Elizabeth City, NC. She is the proud parent of a red merle Australian Shepherd named Rooster Cogburn and a fat calico cat named Spot. Savannah is also an avid equestrian; she has two beautiful horses- Cowcutta and Nellie Jo.

If she is not at the barn riding her horses, she can be found at the beach with her husband. Savannah is very excited to be a part of this fellows program because—not only does it speak to her interests in history—she thoroughly believe this program will impact her students and teaching practices in a positive way. She hopes to bring a deeper understanding and appreciation of African Diaspora to her schools and other schools in her area. Savannah looks forward to building professional relationships with the other fellows in this program and is excited grow as a professional through this program.

Holly Jordan
Durham Public Schools – District Region 3
English Language Arts

Holly Jordan has been a teacher for ten years, all of them at Hillside High School in Durham, NC, where she teaches International Baccalaureate English, coordinates Hillside’s Teacher Cadet program, and advises the Hillside Gay-Straight Alliance. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education and English at Concordia University Wisconsin and is a National Board Certified Teacher. Holly is passionate about social justice. She is a board member of Safe Schools North Carolina, a non-profit dedicated to ensuring that all students in K-12 schools have safe, supportive and positive learning environments. She is also active in the Durham Association of Educators, NCAE’s Organize 2020 caucus, and the NC Moral Monday movement.
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Angela Kitchin
Craven County Schools – District Region 2
English Language Arts and Social Studies

Angela Kitchin earned a Master's degree in Secondary Education from the University of Phoenix. As part of the IMPACT V program with West Craven Middle School and Craven County Schools, she earned a Master's degree in Instructional Systems Technology through UNC Charlotte. She currently teaches Systems of Analysis, a course of her own creation, at Craven Early College High School in New Bern, NC. She is passionate about education and seeks to make a difference.

Edie McDowell
Public Charter School, Asheville – District Region 8
English Language Arts and Social Studies

Edie is a founding faculty member with The Franklin School of Innovation. A consummate team player – her love of learning and wide berth of experience will allow her to facilitate learning experiences for students and teachers which support common core objectives and integrate primary source documents. An educator for her entire career, Edie exemplifies the concept of “lifelong learner”. Most recently, she served as the K-8 Curricular Specialist and Lead Teacher at Odyssey Community School. She has experience with a wide range of students, having taught at-risk students as well as academically gifted students in public and private school settings. In all of her teaching experiences, she has employed the philosophy and methodology of Expeditionary Learning. Edie has worked part-time, throughout the past decade, for Learn NC as a curriculum development specialist with a focus on differentiation and cross-curricular instruction through technology and project-based learning, particularly in Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Humanities.

Jennifer Hackenholt Mont
Guilford County Schools – District Region 5
English Language Arts

Jennifer Hackenholt Mont just completed her 13th year of teaching English. She has taught in South Carolina (her home state), Georgia, the United Kingdom, and now teaches in North Carolina. She has taught English in grades 6-12 and even taught Social Studies one year. She graduated from Appalachian State University and has completed some graduate courses. Jennifer lives in Greensboro, North Carolina with her husband, son, and two cats. She currently teaches at Weaver Academy, an arts and technology magnet option for Guilford County students.
Cassandra “Cassie” Montelongo  
Catawba County Schools – District Region 7  
English Language Arts

Cassandra “Cassie” Montelongo is a twenty-seven-year-old native of El Paso, Texas. Due to a move early in her life, Cassandra graduated from a rural high school in Taylorsville, NC in 2007. She attended the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill for her undergraduate studies as a Carolina Covenant Scholar from 2007 to 2011. After obtaining a Bachelors of Arts in English, a separate degree in African-American Studies, and a minor in Creative Writing, she continued her education at Chapel Hill for a Masters of Arts in Teaching, Secondary Education-English. After graduating with her masters in 2012, Cassandra spent her first year teaching tenth grade English-ESL Inclusion classes at North Mecklenburg High School. Currently, Cassandra lives in Hickory, North Carolina with her two-year-old daughter, Lily Suggs and dog, a dachshund named Chanel. This year in August will make Cassandra’s fifth year teaching high school and make her fourth year teaching at Bunker Hill High School in Claremont, North Carolina. In past years, Cassandra has taught OCS-Inclusion, EC-Inclusion as well as Regular Ed classes for eleventh and twelfth grade at Bunker Hill.

Sashir Moore-Sloan  
Durham Public Schools– District Region 3  
Social Studies

Sashir was born in Newark, New Jersey on Dec. 5, 1983 to Joyce T. Moore and the late Kevin L. Moore. Her mother is a retired schoolteacher and father was a Detective for the Newark Police Department before he passed away in 2004. She graduated from West Orange High School in June 2001 and went on to attend college at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in Durham, North Carolina. Sashir is a third generation Eagle and a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. In May of 2006, she graduated from NCCU with her Bachelors Degree in History. In August of 2008, Sashir began her career as a Social Studies teacher at Durham Public Schools. On June 22, 2013, Sashir married the love of her life Domnique Sloan. She just finished her 8th year teaching 7th grade Social Studies at Lowe’s Grove Middle School of Technology and is currently finishing her Master’s Degree in History at North Carolina Central University.
Teryn Odom
North Carolina Virtual Public School– District Region 4
World Languages - Spanish

Teryn Odom graduated with Bachelor's degrees in Spanish, Psychology (and Education) from UNC-Charlotte and is a NC Teaching Fellow. She also earned her Master's in International Studies from NC State University and is finishing her administration certification online through UNC-Wilmington. Teryn is currently an online Spanish Instructor and Instructional Leader for the North Carolina Virtual Public School, as well as an eLearning Support Specialist for Guilford Technical Community College. Previously, she was a World Language Course Development Team Leader, Developer, Course Reviewer, and an Advisory Board Member for NCVPS.

Judy B. Richards
Lexington City Schools– District Region 5
English Language Arts

Judy is a native New Yorker, but she and her family call Lexington. She has been exposed to and pursued a variety of career options before returning to her childhood dream of becoming a teacher. Graduating from High Point University in May 2000, she began working for Lexington City Schools first at South Lexington where she taught both second and third grades, moving to Charles England Intermediate School teaching fourth grade. She is currently teaching ELA at Lexington Middle School. In 2013 she was named Lexington Middle Schools Teacher of the Year. In 2003 she began her graduate work at Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina, graduating in May of 2006. She is currently a National Board Candidate and looking to complete her Educational Specialist degree in the near future.

Timothy Ross
Guilford County Schools– District Region 5
History and Social Studies

Timothy was born and raised in Greensboro, NC. He graduated from Ben L. Smith High School (Greensboro) and attended Appalachian State University (1989 - 1993). He went on to obtain a Bachelors of Arts in Religious Studies (UNCG 2000) and Bachelors of Arts in Middle School Social Studies (Greensboro College). Timothy has taught 6th, 7th, 8th Grades social studies (Allen Middle School, Greensboro 1999 - 2016) and will be making a transition to High School Ahead Academy in August 2016 where he will teach 6th grade social studies. Timothy his wife Leslie are the proud parents of 7 Children—2 biological, 4 foster, and 1 adopted, ranging from 17 to 24 years old.
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Jamie Shell
Buncombe County Schools – District Region 8
World Languages - Spanish

A North Carolina Teaching Fellow that graduated from UNCA, Jamie Shell has taught high school Spanish for Buncombe County Schools for eleven years. She is passionate about working with and advocating for Latinx and LGBTQ students. She has helped coach Asheville’s Homeword youth poetry team and traveled with them to international festival Brave New Voices in Chicago, Philadelphia, and Atlanta. She spends her down time reading, swing and ballroom dancing, and arguing with cishets on social media.

Diane Smith
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools – District Region 6
World Languages - French

Mrs. Smith teaches French 3, 4, and 5/6 IB/AP and is the World Language Chairperson at East Mecklenburg High School, Charlotte, NC. As a Reed College graduate she studied French literature and French medieval history. She has taught 35 years and is a National Board Certified teacher. She completed her master's degree at Winthrop University in Curriculum and Instruction. She helps coordinate an exchange program to France every summer and receives French students in the spring and summer. She has been married 37 years and has two sons.

Alan Vitale
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools – District Region 6
Social Studies

Alan has been married for almost 25 years and has 1 teenage child, a high school senior. He was an attorney for almost 10 years before joining Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools as social studies teacher. Over the past 10+ years as an instructor, Alan has served on the district and state exam writing teams for American History, been a Charlotte Teacher Institute Fellow and was selected for an Ashbrook Fellowship. He is currently serving as the Master Teacher (lead teacher) for AP United States history for the CMS district and am passionate about the study of history, government, and politics.
Michael Williams
Warren County Schools – District Region 3
Social Studies

Michael “Mike” Williams is the Chair of the Social Studies Department, and a New Tech Certified Teacher, at Warren New Tech High School (WNTHS) in his hometown of Warrenton, North Carolina. As a member of the New Tech Network, the WNTHS curriculum is based on the Project Based Learning (PBL) model where the learning outcomes of agency, communication, knowledge & thinking and collaboration guide students in applying academic content to authentic problems. In his seventh year with WNTHS, Williams teaches courses in Civics & Economics, United States/American History, and Sociology. In 2013-2014, he was honored as the Warren County Schools Teacher of the Year and Runner-Up for the North Central Region 3 Teacher of the Year. He has served in a number of capacities including the Warren Region 3 Teacher of the Year. He has served in a number of capacities including the Warren County Schools Strategic Planning Leadership Committee, Common Core and Essential Standards District Transformation Team, and World View Global Education Leaders Program. He is the author of “The Cornerstone Project,” recently published in the textbook Family History in the Classroom as well as an international research project entitled “Coast Stories” focusing on a geospatial analysis of Cape Coast Castle in Accra, Ghana. He resides in Youngsville with his wife, Simonae, and son, Alexander.