

JCSCORE

Journal Committed to Social Change on Race and Ethnicity

The Journal of the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Cristobal Salinas Jr., Editor-in-Chief
Florida Atlantic University

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Letter from the Editor

Cristobal Salinas Jr., Editor-in-Chief
Florida Atlantic University

Every time I begin writing the opening letter for an issue of JCSCORE, I reflect on the racism, exploitation, and violence to which Black, Indigenous, and People of Color continue to be subjected. Specifically, in the wake of the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, along with countless acts of racism and violence perpetrated on Black communities, I have invited Black scholars and JCSCORE Editorial Board Members to write the opening of JCSCORE's Volume 6 with the purpose to center and amplify Blackness in academia. Drs. Cameron Beatty, Tenisha Tevis, Lorraine Acker, Reginald Blockett and Eugene Parker have agreed to write the opening remarks. In their letter titled: "Addressing Anti-Black Racism in Higher Education: Love Letters to Blackness and Recommendations to Those Who Say They Love Us", they share their stories with the hope that readers will open their minds and hearts to engage in action-based movements towards establishing and integrating anti-racist practices and policies in our institutions. Their words move us in a direction that models systematic change and equity for Black students, staff, faculty, and leaders.

Cameron, Tenisha, Lorraine, Reginald and Eugene, I see You, I am grateful for You, You are loved, and You matter. To all Black students and colleagues in the academy, *You matter*. Your live matters. Black Lives Matter.

JCSCORE continues to be committed to individual, institutional and systemic-level change and to have a profound impact in our scholarly communities. This is the first special issue (Volume 6, Issue 1) published in JCSCORE that celebrates innovative formats of scholarly work and approaches including research, narrative, poetry, art, and a video-article. Lissa D. Ramirez-Stapleton and Lisette E. Torres, Guest-Editors, coordinated and led this special issue titled “Disability Justice, Race and Education.” Lissa, Lisette, and authors centered race, disability, and Deaf life in higher education to serve as a starting point to expanding the academic conversation of disabled and Deaf communities’ lives.

Today, JCSCORE continues to grow as an open-access scholarly peer-review journal that is published twice per year. Since 2015, we have published 5 volumes, a total of 46 papers including research articles, art, and NCORE Speakers’ monographs. JCSCORE is committed to serving as the forum for scholars, practitioners, activists, policymakers, and communities to promote an exchange of ideas that can transform lives, enhance learning, and improve human relations in higher education. As JCSCORE continues to make an impact at the national and international levels, it has seen tremendous growth for its readership, contributing authors, reviewers and editorial board.

I extend my gratitude to all our reviewers and JCSCORE Editorial Board for the review of manuscripts. Thank you to all JCSCORE Editorial Board members for your service and commitment to advancing JCSCORE and research on race and ethnicity in higher education.

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Lastly, thank you Dr. Belinda Biscoe, JCSCORE Co-Founding Editor, for your mentorship and always supporting me. Thank you for agreeing to join the efforts of JCSCORE and NCORE. Ajia Meux, JCSCORE Managing Editor, thank you for all your countless hours working with me to improve JCSCORE's mission and website. Thank you Jane Irungu, NCORE's Executive Director, for your support of NCORE's partnership with JCSCORE. Alonso R. Reyna Rivarola, thank you for your continued support and always editing my work.

And, thank you, Bruce S. Busby, JCSCORE Co-Founding Editor, for your mentorship and support. Thank you for serving as the first Editor-in-Chief for JCSCORE. I have learned so much from you. I know that you will continue to serve and support of JCSCORE. Both, you and Belinda Biscoe have been instrumental in creating JCSCORE. With your leadership and vision, we have created an impactful interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal committed to published scholarship that focus on race and ethnicity in higher education.