

2021 DCCC Chair Candidate Biographies

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Vision for NASSS: With a bold mission to "...promote, stimulate, and encourage the sociological study of play, games, sport and contemporary physical culture," NASSS exists as a premiere professional and scholarly organization for many of us who live at the margins within academia. With divisiveness and ignorance running rampant, NASSS exists as an intellectual home for many. Transitioning from a doctoral student into the institutional DEI administrator realm, I recognize the importance for individuals such as myself to remain engaged within NASSS enabling our ideas, talents, and passion for change to be infused with that of the broader organization. As DCC Chair, my efforts will center on more than just diversity but that of inclusion and belonging. Specifically, I will identify opportunities for our membership to be more inclusive of members' social identities while weighing in on how our conference can offer more programs of interest to its BIPOC members. Only as strong as our membership, we must seek innovative ways to strengthen our long-term sustainability while advancing NASSS toward a future where the organization has a more prominent voice amongst society. I'm confident I can be a voice in supporting such initiatives.

Qualifications for Office: The diverse perspectives and distinct experiences I possess as a queer, Black, cisgender man with a background in collegiate athletics (coaching) and close to a decade of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging work, uniquely position me as a strong candidate. My scholarly research, teaching, leadership, and services experiences enable me to better empathize with members of various identities. Specifically, my practitioner experiences coordinating conferences, facilitating DEI programming, and engaging in strategic planning efforts utilizing a DEI lens uniquely qualify me to succeed in the role. Professionally, I have served on the membership committee for the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE), serve on the executive board for the Georgia Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (GADOHE), invited to present at the NCAA Inclusion Forum on opportunities institutions can utilize research to facilitate change, serve on UGA's Staff Diversity & Inclusion Council, as well as consulted with several intercollegiate athletic departments across the country. Within NASSS, I have evolved from a participant and presenter at conference meetings to membership on the Service Excellence Award, Communications, Gary Sailes Award, and Diversity Conference Climate Committees. From volunteer to session coordinator, I've done it all!

Summary of Publications: My work centers around the experiences and identities of Black male athletes, particularly those who are academically and athletically high achieving. My research investigates how their experiences impact their racial, athletic and academic identities. I have co-authored chapters in the edited book, *Recruiting, retaining, and engaging African-American males at selective prestigious research universities: Challenges and opportunities in academics and sports* and published several manuscripts within gifted education journals on supporting gifted Black male athletes. Lastly, I have given presentations and guest lectures at conferences and institutions across North America relating to sport, social justice & activism, masculinity, coaching, and many others.



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