

# Sage D. Assiam

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## EDUCATION

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### Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education

Anticipated 2028

Florida International University

Miami, FL

- Dissertation (in progress): A phenomenological inquiry into self-efficacy development among Black international graduate students at a Hispanic-Serving Institution, using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA).
- Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kirsten Edwards, Department of Educational Policy Studies.
- Doctoral coursework includes qualitative research methods, college student development theory, higher education policy, and equity studies.

### Master of Science in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration

May 2024

Canisius University

Buffalo, NY

- Master's Thesis: Exploring the Role of Multicultural Centers in the Academic and Social Success of Black Male Students at a Predominantly White Institution.

### Bachelor of Education in Social Studies

October 2021

University of Cape Coast

Cape Coast, Ghana

- Undergraduate Dissertation: The Role of Community Resources in the Learning of Social Studies in Senior High Schools in the Cape Coast Metropolis.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Self-efficacy and academic resilience among Black and international graduate students; Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis and other qualitative methodologies; multicultural centers and student belonging at predominantly White and Hispanic-Serving Institutions; equity, diversity, and inclusion in higher education policy and practice; transfer student transition and persistence.

## HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

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- The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, Florida International University (2026)
- Ziff Education Fellowship, Florida International University (2025)
- DiGamma Honor Society, Canisius University (2024)
- Tri Alpha National Honor Society — Delta Gamma Chapter, Canisius University (2024)
- Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society, Canisius University (2024)
- Alpha Sigma Nu — The International Jesuit Honor Society, Canisius University (2023)
- Dean's Excellence Award, University of Cape Coast (2021)
- Certificate for National Service, Republic of Ghana (2021)

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Book Reviews

Assiam, S. D. (in press). [Review of the book *Transforming educational leadership: Non-traditional narratives to promote equity in uncertain times*, by A. Kundu]. *Critical Questions in Education*, 17(2).

### Manuscripts in Preparation

Assiam, S. D., & Kwenin, I. A. (in preparation). The Civic Self-Efficacy Transfer Model: A conceptual framework for understanding civic engagement among transfer students. Targeted journal: *Journal of Studies in International Education*.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- Enhancing Belonging: Multicultural Centers at Predominantly White Institutions** April 2026  
*ACPA — College Student Educators International, National Convention* Baltimore, MD
- Presented research on best practices that higher education institutions can adopt to enhance the academic and social success of minority students at predominantly White institutions.
- Enhancing Student Belonging at a Hispanic-Serving Institution** March 2026  
*Florida International University — SEHD Graduate Student Research Conference* Miami, FL
- Presented strategies through which Florida International University can strengthen student belonging to support academic and social success across diverse student populations.
- Multicultural Centers and Minority Student Success at PWIs** October 2023  
*College Student Personnel Association of New York State (CSPA-NYS)* Saratoga Springs, NY
- Examined the historical and contemporary impact of multicultural centers at predominantly White institutions on the academic and social outcomes of minority students.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- Doctoral Researcher** August 2025 – Present  
*Florida International University, Department of Educational Policy Studies* Miami, FL
- Designing a phenomenological dissertation study examining how Black international graduate students develop self-efficacy in racialized academic and social environments at a Hispanic-Serving Institution.
  - Applying Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) and grounding the study in Bandura's self-efficacy theory to capture lived experience and meaning-making.
  - Completed a qualitative interview project employing In Vivo and thematic coding, generating six analytic themes including transition anxiety, community and belonging, and cultural identity as asset.
- Teaching and Research Assistant** October 2021 – August 2022  
*University of Cape Coast, College of Education Studies* Cape Coast, Ghana
- Served as enumerator on the school-adoption project Community Collaboration for Improving the Performance of Schools: Our Responsibility, conducting an average of seven field interviews per day across a 14-day data-collection cycle.
  - Co-developed instructional materials for undergraduate courses in Research Methods and Teaching Methodology.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- Teaching Assistant — GRIFF 201: Griffin Transfer Experience** September 2023 – December 2023  
*Canisius University* Buffalo, NY
- Designed and delivered course content focused on the role of the Multicultural Student Center in the transfer experience, integrating experiential learning activities to support student transition.
  - Facilitated weekly classroom discussions and provided one-on-one academic guidance to incoming transfer students.
- Teaching Assistant — Research Methods and Teaching Methodology** October 2021 – August 2022  
*University of Cape Coast, College of Education Studies* Cape Coast, Ghana

- Developed and taught undergraduate course content emphasizing active learning, critical thinking, and inquiry-based pedagogy.
- Mentored undergraduate students in research design and academic writing during their final-year research projects.

## HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE

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### Area Coordinator — Pre-College Program

*June 2025 – July 2025*

*Brown University, Office of Residential Life*

*Providence, RI*

- Adjudicated student conduct cases for the Brown Pre-College Program, applying restorative-justice and reflective-learning principles.
- Led and mentored a team of seasonal residential staff, fostering collaboration and a strong residential community.
- Served in an on-call rotation, responding to emergencies and providing crisis intervention for residential students.

### Area Coordinator — Marshall Commons

*July 2024 – May 2025*

*Marshall University, Department of Housing and Residence Life*

*Huntington, WV*

- Supervised 17 student staff, including a graduate assistant, ensuring effective day-to-day operations across four residence halls housing more than 500 students.
- Directed residential programming, occupancy management, and logistical coordination for the Marshall Commons living-learning community.
- Partnered with campus stakeholders on student conduct, mental-health response, and community development initiatives.

### Program Coordinator — ALANA Student Center

*September 2022 – May 2024*

*Canisius University*

*Buffalo, NY*

- Designed and implemented programming that advanced understanding of diversity, equity, inclusion, and cross-cultural dialogue across the campus community.
- Founded the Global Griff Mentor Program, a mentoring initiative supporting international and historically underserved students.
- Developed the “We See You” student engagement model, a framework for inclusive student outreach that has been adapted across multiple institutions.
- Served as a campus-wide resource for students, providing support on academic, social, and financial matters.

### Graduate Intern — International Student Office

*August 2023 – December 2023*

*Canisius University*

*Buffalo, NY*

- Created a data-collection instrument to evaluate learning outcomes across 22 study-abroad programs, informing future program enhancements.
- Collaborated on orientation programming and excursion planning for international students.

### Student Living Summer College Intern

*June 2023 – August 2023*

*Syracuse University, Office of Student Living*

*Syracuse, NY*

- Managed daily operations of two residence halls accommodating more than 300 students.
- Coordinated, tracked, and assessed educational and social programming for residential students.

## SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

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- Executive Board Member, Future Education Association (FEA), Florida International University, 2025–Present.

- Served as Treasurer and oversaw the development of innovative programming in partnership with internal campus units and external stakeholders. Implemented educational programs designed to help FIU students view teaching as a viable and impactful profession through which they can contribute meaningfully to their communities. Will assume the role of President of the Future Education Association (FEA) beginning Fall 2026.

- Founder, Global Griff Mentor Program, Canisius University, 2023–2024 — established a sustained peer-mentoring program for international and underrepresented students.
- Architect, “We See You” Student Engagement Model — an inclusive outreach framework adopted across multiple institutions to strengthen student belonging.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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- ACPA — College Student Educators International

- Equity Officer, Coalition for Sexuality and Gender Identities (CSGI). Lead initiatives to expand access and equity for college students, including the implementation of a no-fee membership option for undergraduate and master's students seeking to join ACPA and benefit from its professional resources. Currently contributing to planning efforts for ACPA27, to be held March 15–18, 2027, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

- College Student Personnel Association of New York State (CSPA-NYS)
- The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi
- Alpha Sigma Nu — The International Jesuit Honor Society

## RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

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**Qualitative Methods:** Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA), phenomenology, In Vivo coding, thematic analysis, semi-structured interviewing, participant-generated visual artifact analysis.

**Theoretical Frameworks:** Bandura's self-efficacy theory; sense of belonging; critical and equity-oriented frameworks in higher education.

**Professional Practice:** Residence-life leadership and supervision; student conduct and restorative practice; multicultural programming; transfer-student support; crisis response; assessment and program evaluation.

**References:** Available upon request.