

# KYAIEN O. CONNER, Ph.D, LSW, MPH

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**Business Fax:** (813) 974-9327

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## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### UNDERGRADUATE:

1998-2002	University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA	B.S. (2002) magna cum laude B.A. (2002) magna cum laude	Psychology Minority Studies
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### GRADUATE:

2002-2008	University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA	M.S.W. (2004) M.P.H. (2006) Ph.D. (2008) with distinction	Social Work Health Sciences Social Work
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### POSTGRADUATE:

2008- 2010 Postdoctoral Training Fellow, Clinical Training in Geriatric Psychiatry Program T32 (MH19986), Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic (WPIC), Program Director: Dr. Charles F. Reynolds III; Research Mentor: Dr. Charlotte Brown.

### TRAINING PROGRAMS:

03/2019	Advanced Research Institute in Geriatric Psychiatry, Cornell Medical Center, New York, NY
09/2016	NIH Grant Development Training (GUMSHOE) Detroit, MI
03/2016	Diversity Education Training, Tampa, FL
10/2014	Mental Health First Aid Certification/Instructor Certification, DC
9/2012	Minority Faculty Career Development Seminar, Chicago, IL
7/2011	Early Career Women Faculty Professional Development, Washington, DC
9/2009	American Society on Aging New Ventures in Leadership Training Program, Philadelphia, PA
7/2009	Summer Research Institute for Geriatric Psychiatry, University of Michigan, MI
3/2009	Career Development Institute for Psychiatry, Stanford University, CA
3/2009	American Society on Aging New Ventures in Leadership Training, Las Vegas,
6/2007	MCUAAAR Training in Older African American Mental Health

## **APPOINTMENTS AND POSITIONS**

### **ACADEMIC:**

- 1/21-current Special Assistant to the Dean of CBCS for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, USF
- 6/21-current Chair, Faculty Senate Council on Racial Justice, University of South Florida
- 8/20-current Tenured Associate Professor of Mental Health Law and Policy, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida
- 8/15-current Faculty Affiliate, Lois De La Parte Florida Mental Health Institute
- 8/13-8/20 Assistant Professor of Mental Health Law and Policy, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida
- 6/10-8/13 Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh
- 9/06-8/13 Adjunct Faculty, School of Social Work MSW Program, University of Pittsburgh
- 9/04-4/06 Graduate Research Assistant, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh

### **NON-ACADEMIC (Selected):**

- 09/22-current Clinical. Director and Provider Training and Outreach Coordinator, Boris L. Henson Foundation, Beverly Hills, CA
- 9/05- 8/13 Individual EAP Therapist, PERSOMA Psychiatric Services, Pittsburgh, PA
- 4/04-9/04 Psychiatric Specialty Counselor and Clinical Supervisor, Kidstep Residential Treatment Program, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, Pittsburgh, PA
- 8/03-4/04 Individual Child and Family Therapist, A Second Chance Incorporated, Community Mental Health Clinic and Non-profit Kinship Care Agency, Pittsburgh, PA.

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## **CERTIFICATION and LICENSURE**

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|----------------------------------|--|------|
| <b>SPECIALITY CERTIFICATION:</b> | Certificate of Child Welfare                             | 2004 |
| <b>PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE:</b>   | Licensed Social Worker<br>State of Pennsylvania SW125195 | 2004 |
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## GRANTS AND CONTRACT AWARDS

R01/CDC

9/1/2022-8/30/2025

*Developing & Evaluating an Extreme Risk Protection Order Implementation Protocol w/ Impacted Communities*

This research study involves developing and pilot testing a novel extreme risk protection order (ERPO) implementation strategy for impacted communities measuring the acceptability, feasibility, and sustainability of the strategy among stakeholders.

**Role: Co-I**

**Award Amount: \$1,778, 45**

University of South Florida College of Public Health

9/1/2022-8/30/2024

*Implementation Science as a Mechanism for Reducing Disparities in Food Insecurity among Black and Latinx College Students*

This research will utilize an implementation science approach toward addressing food security among under-represented college students at USF and will test the impact of key interventions with the goal of reducing disparities and enhancing equity in food insecurity.

**Role: Co-I**

**Award Amount: \$50,000**

Arts Schools Network Assistance for Arts Education Grants

1/1/2022-12/31/2027

*Race, Equity, Arts, and Cultural History (REACH)*

This project builds a National Arts Learning Laboratory to both strengthen the fiber of arts learning nationally and harness the learning and effectiveness of arts integration as a catalyst for increasing student engagement and reducing disparities in education for students of color.

**Role: Co-I**

**Award Amount: \$8,400,000**

Patient-Centered

RO1/NIMH

1/1/2021-12/31/2026

*Do More, Feel Better - an Examination of a Volunteer Led Behavioral Activation Intervention for Older Adults Living with Depression.*

This non-inferiority trial is designed to evaluate the ability of volunteer members of senior center communities to be trained to effectively deliver a brief behavioral activation intervention to improve psychosocial outcomes and depression in a sample of older adults with depression as compared to masters trained clinicians.

**Role: Co-I**

**Award Amount: \$2, 500, 000**

Ed and e Research Program 3/1/2019-2/28/21

*The Impact of an African Drumming for Dementia Intervention on Psychosocial Outcomes in s Disease and their Caregivers.*

Open trial methodology to examine the impact of a culturally sensitive music therapy intervention among older African Americans with early stage Alzhe caregivers.

**Role: PI**

**Award Amount: \$95,000**

USF Office of Research and Innovation 12 792 reW\* nBT/F2 12 Tf1 9/1/2020-8/31/2021 Tm0 g8m0 G( )67 Tm0

Grants for Understanding Blackness and Anti-Black Racism

*Storytelling Saves Lives: Challenging the Stigma of Mental Illness Through Stories from the Black Community.*

To address mental illness stigma in the Black community, we propose to deliver and evaluate a sequential, mixed-methods research design.

**Role:**

**Award Amount: \$10,000**

USF Office of Research and Innovation 9/1/2020-8/31/2021

Grants for Understanding Blackness and Anti-Black Racism

*Dismantling Drivers of Racial Disparities (DDoRD)*

The purpose of this pilot study is to develop and evaluate the effectiveness of a new racially-inclusive curriculum for middle school students that dismantles racially-historicized pedagogy

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College of Public Health Internal Award

1/16/19-1/16/20

*Exploring Factors that Influence Cost of Care Conversions Among the Elderly*

This study will examine incidence, preference and outcomes of cost of care conversions in different ethnic groups with the intent to better understand and address the burden of rising healthcare costs in the US.

**Role: Co-I**

**Award Amount: \$20,000**

Humana Foundation

1/1/2018-6/1/2019

*Community-Based Chronic Disease Self-Management Program*

This community-based wholistic health and wellness program will examine the impact of this 6 week health and wellness education program on the physical, psychological and nutritional health of community-dwelling older adult African Americans at risk for chronic medical disease.

**Role: Program Evaluator**

**Award Amount: \$150,000**

CBCS Internal Award

1/1/2016-12/31/2017

*Enhancing the Care Transitions Intervention to Facilitate Wellness and Reduce Hospital Re-Admissions among Older Adults with a Co-occurring Mental Health Diagnosis.*

This pilot project utilized randomized controlled trial methodology to examine the benefit of adding Peer Education supports to the Community Care Transitions Program (CTI), an evidence-based







Gum, A., Green, O., Conner, **K.O.**, & Schonfeld, L (2022). A Pilot Study of Brief, Stepped Behavioral Activation for Primary Care Patients with Depressive Symptoms. *J Clin Psychol Med Settings*, 27:1 11. doi: 10.1007/s10880-022-09864-x.

Schonfeld, L., Bell, J., Goldsworthy, M., Kip, K., Gum, A. M., **Conner, K. O.**, Green, O., Wagoner, F., Parkinson, K., Melling, K. A., & Markwood, S. (2022). Screening and priority-setting to determine home- and community-based aging services for older Floridians. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*. Advanced online publication, <https://doi.org/10.1177/07334648211012508>

**Conner, K.O.**, Gum, A., Schonfeld, L., Kosyluk, K., \*Baker-Douglas, J., Meng, H., Beckstead, J., Brown, C., & Reynolds, C. (2021) Enhancing care transitions intervention with peer support to improve outcomes among older adults with co-occurring clinical depression: a pilot study, *Home Health Care Services Quarterly*, 40:4, 324-339, DOI: [10.1080/01621424.2021.1967249](https://doi.org/10.1080/01621424.2021.1967249)

Hall, C., **Conner,**

Kosyluk, K.A., Marshall, J., Rivera Macias, D., Macias, S., **Conner, K.O.**, Beekman, B.M., Her, J. (2021). Challenging the Stigma of Mental Illness through Creative Storytelling: A Randomized Controlled Trial of This Is My Brave. *Community Mental Health Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10597-020-00625-4>

Liu, Y., Meng, H., **Conner, K. O.**, Qiao, M., & Liu, D. (2021). The Influence of Health Literacy and Social Support on Lon

**Conner, K.O.,** Rigg, K., Yu, L., Meng, H., Pilkonis, P., & Brown, C. (2018). Psychometric properties of the Attitudes toward seeking mental health treatment scale. *Journal of Cultural Diversity*, 25(1), 23-31.

**Conner, K.O.,** Cadet, M., Brown, M., & \*Barnett, J. (2018). The impact of peer support on risk of future hospital readmissions among older adults with a medical illness and co-occurring depression. *Social Science Research*, 77(1), 1-16. doi:10.3390/socsci7090156

**Conner, K.O.,** \*McKinnon, S., \*Roker, R., Ward, C. & Brown, C. (2018). Mitigating the stigma of mental illness among older adults with depression: The Benefit of Contact with a Peer Educator. *Stigma and Health*, 3

**Conner, K.O.,** Carr Copeland, V., Grote, N., Koeske, G., Rosen, D., Reynolds, C., & Brown, C. (2010). Mental health treatment seeking among older adults with depression: The impact of stigma and race. *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, 18*(6), 531-543. doi:10.1097/jgp.0b013e3181cc0366

**Conner, K.O.,** Rosen, D., Wexler, S., & Brown, C. (2011). It's like night and day: Shared stigmas between counselors and older adult methadone clients. *Best Practices in Mental Health: An International Journal, 6* (1), 17-32.

**Conner, K.O.,** Lee, B., Robinson, D., Mayers, V., Reynolds, C., Albert, S., & Brown, C. (2010). Attitudes and beliefs about mental health among African American older adults with depression. *The Journal of Aging Studies, 24*(4), 266-277. doi:10.1016/j.jaging.2010.05.007

**Conner, K.O.,** Koeske, G., & Brown, C. (2009). Racial differences in a

**Conner, K.O.,** & \*Anderson, E. (accepted). African American women and health issues. In V. Copeland (Ed) *Health and Wellness for People of Color: An Encyclopedia of Issues, Problems and, Solutions*, Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood

Rigg, K. K., \*Sharp, A., **Conner, K.O.,** Moore, K. (accepted). A new role for patients in community-based interventions. In Steven Arxer & John Murphy (Eds.), *Community-based Health Interventions in an Institutional Context*. New York, NY: Springer.

**Conner, K.O.,** & \*Lesaca, N. (accepted) Latinos and health Issues. In V. Copeland (Ed) *Health and Wellness for People of Color: An Encyclopedia of Issues, Problems and, Solutions*, Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood

**Conner, K.O.** (accepted) Physical health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities. In R. L. Lawson (Ed) *Encyclopedia of Race and Ethnicity in America*, Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood

**Conner, K.O.,** & \*Monroe C. (accepted) Single-parent families: Racial, ethnic and class distinctions. In R. L. Lawson (Ed) *Encyclopedia of Race and Ethnicity in America*, Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood

**Conner, K.O.** (accepted) Mental health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities. In R. L. Lawson (Ed) *Encyclopedia of Race and Ethnicity in America*, Greenwood, Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood

**Conner, K.O.** (accepted) Affirmative action in higher education. In R. L. Lawson (Ed) *Encyclopedia of Race and Ethnicity in America*, Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood

**Conner, K.O.** (accepted) Physical health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities. In R. L. Lawson (Ed) *Encyclopedia of Race and Ethnicity in America*, Sa

**Conner, K.O.,** \*Patterson-Price, J. & Faulkner, N. (2020). The health benefits of culturally oriented forms of dance. In S. Lee, M.L. Morris & S. Nicosia (Eds). *Perspectives in Performing Arts Medicine Practice: A Multidisciplinary Approach*. New York, NY: Springer Publishing, pg. 127-143

**Conner, KO,** Copeland, V., Grote, N., & Brown, C (2015). Stigma: impact on mental health and people of color. In V. Copeland (Ed) *Contemporary Issues for People of Color: Surviving and Thriving in the U.S. Today*, Volume 4: Health and

**Conner, K.O.,** Kosyluk, K., & Tran, J. (1/13/22). *Impact of the This Is My Brave: Stories From The Black Community Intervention on Stigma and Attitudes about Mental Illness Treatment*. Oral Presentation at the Society for Social Work

Kosyluk, K., **Conner, K.O.**, Jeffries & Carver (03/09/2019). *Mental Illness Stigma and Suicidalty Among Younger Adults*. Oral Presentation at the Child, Adolescent and Young Adult Behavioral Health Conference, Tampa, FL.

**Conner, K.O.**, & Bugos J. (02/14/2019). *African Drumming for Dementia: Strategies for Initiation of Culturally Sensitive Intervention to Impact Behavioral Outcomes*. Keynote Presentation at the Vascular Dementia Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

**Conner, K.O.**, & Gum, A. (11/15/2018). *Behavioral Activation Through Peer Support as a Strategy for Reducing Hospital Readmissions Among Older Adults with Chronic Medical illness and Depression*. Oral Presentation at the 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Psychiatry and Mental Disorders, Cape town South Africa.

**Conner, K.O.**, & Gum, A. (11/16/2018). *Enhancing the Care Transitions Intervention with Peer Support to Improve Outcomes Among Older Adults with Co-Occurring Clinical Depression*. Oral Presentation at the 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Psychiatry and Mental Disorders, Cape town South Africa.

**Conner, K.O.**, & Patterson, J. (6/2/2018). *The psychological and physical health benefits of culturally-oriented dance*. Performance Art Medicine Conference, Tampa, FL.

\*Johnson, A., & **Conner, K.O.** (10/2/2016). *It Gets Better with Time: The Perception of Stigma in Older Adults who have experienced a Co-Occurring Mental Health Diagnosis*. Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference of Undergraduate Scholarship, Lynchburg, VA.

**Conner, K.O.**, \*McKinnon, S., \*Roker, R., & Brown, C. (10/10/2016). *The Mechanisms behind Internalized Stigma Reduction Through Contact with a Peer* (Poster Presentation). NIMH Health Services Conferences, Washington, DC.

**Conner, K.O.**, \*McKinnon, S.\* Roker, R., & Brown, C. (10/11/2016). *The Effect of Peer Education on Internalized Stigma Among Older Adults with Depression* (Poster Presentation). NIMH Health Services Conferences, Washington, DC.

**Conner, K.O.**, \*Ward, C., \*McKinnon, S., & Brown, C (1/30/2016). *Peer Education as a Strategy for Reducing Internalized Stigma among Older Adults with Depression* (Poster Presentation). Research That Matters Conference, Tamp



**Comner, K.O., & Brown, C** (1/27/2014). *Peer Education: Strategies for Enhancing Productive Aging and Community Engagement among Depressed Elde*

**Conner, K.O.;** Brown C (3/29/2011). *Health and Mental Health Disparities among Older Adults: The Impact of Race*. American Society on Aging Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

**Conner, K.O.,** Brown, C., McMurray, M., Lee, B., Reynolds, C. (3/09/2010). *Giving Back to Their Communities: Peer Educators as a Civic Engagement Opportunity for Depressed African American Older Adults*. American Society on Aging Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

**Conner, K.O.,** Rosen, D., Wexler, S., & Brown, C. (3/10/2010). *Like night and day: Experiences between Counselors and Older Adult Methadone Clients*. American Society on Aging Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

**Conner, K.O.,** Brown, C., McMurray, M., Lee, B., Reynolds, C. (4/13/2010). *Peer Educators as a Bridge to Treatment for Depressed African American Older Adults*. (Poster Presentation). Quality of Behavioral Health Care Annual Conference, Clearwater, FL.

**Conner, K.O.,** Brown, C., McMurray, M., Lee, B., Reynolds, C. (4/13/2010). *Giving Back to Their Communities: Updates on the Depression Peer Educator Project*. Quality of Behavioral Health Annual Conference, Clearwater, FL.

**Conner, K.O.** Copeland, V., Grote,

*Adults With Depression.* (Poster Presentation), NIH Summit: The Science of Eliminating Health Disparities, National Harbor, Maryland.

Castillo, E., **Conner, K.O.**, & Brown, C. (12/17/2008). *Racial Identification and the Impact of Stigma.* Poster Presentation at the NIH Summit: The Science of Eliminating Health Disparities, National Harbor, Maryland.

**Conner, K.O.**, Rose  
*Experiences Of Stigma in an Aging Met*

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Singer, J.B., Maguire, L., **Conner, K.O.** (10/28/2006) *How to Hire and Recruit New Faculty: Utilizing Students in the Process*. Oral Presentation at the 52nd annual program meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Chicago, Illinois.

~~Conner~~, **K.O.**

**Conner, K.O.** (2020). *Why Should we Celebrate Juneteenth?* Keynote address and training for Wellcare (Centene Corporation), Tampa, FL.

**Conner, K.O.** (2020). *Cultural Competency Training* (level 2:3-hour training



## **TV AND MEDIA APPEARANCES**

- 2022- Spectrum News 9 (social Justice Series) Interview, *The Crown Act*
- 2021- Spectrum News 9 interview, *This is My Brave: Stories from the Black Community*
- 2021- Spectrum News 9 (social Justice Series) Interview, *The rise of Black Santa*
- 2020- Spectrum News 9 interview, *How to Reduce Disparities in Communities of Color*
- 2020- Spectrum News 9 interview, *The Impact of New Legislation on Health Disparities*
- 2020- Spectrum News 9 interview, *Significance of the New Purple Alerts*

## **THESIS AND DISSERTATION COMMITTEES**

- 2022- Dissertation Committee Member, Alexandra Albizou-Jacob, PhD student in the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy, USF
- 2021- Dissertation Committee Chair, Ana Aluisy, PhD student in the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy, USF
- 2020- Dissertation Committee Chair, Erica Anderson, PhD student in the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy, USF
- 2020- Dissertation Committee Chair, Juanita Patterson-Price, PhD student in the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy, USF
- 2019- 2022 Dissertation Committee Member, Sarah S

2015- 2016 Chair- Honors Thesis, Semhal Redda, candidate for a BS in Psychology,  
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. Thesis title: International Perspectives  
on Cultural Differences



### **Research Mentorship:**

- 2021-Current Kayla Nemhard, Doctoral Student School of Public health, USF
- 2021-Current Ana Aluisy, Doctoral Student CBCS, USF
- 2019-Current Nicole Crawford, Doctoral candidate School of Public Health, USF
- 2018-Current Erica Anderson; Doctoral student CBCS, USF
- 2017-Current Juanita Patterson Price; Doctoral student CBCS, USF
- 2016-Current Helenda Davis; Candidate for a BS in Behavioral Healthcare, USF
- 2016-Current, Tiffany Obrien; Candidate for a BS in Behavioral Healthcare, USF
- 2016-Current, Angela Johnson; Candidate for a BS in Psychology, Mary Baldwin University,
- 2015-2018, Semhal Redda; Candidate for a BS in Psychology, USF
- 2014-2018 Rosalyn Roker; PhD Candidate in Aging Studies, USF
- 2014-2018 Stephanie A. McKinnon; Summer Research Institute Mentee, University of San Diego, CA.

### **Clinical Mentorship:**

- 2020-2022 Nathalie Marecelin, MSW Candidate in Social Work, USF, Tampa, FL
- 2016-2018 Elenor DeJesus, BS Candidate in Behavioral Healthcare, Tampa, FL
- 2012-2015 Jackie Peters, LSW, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2012-2015 Alicia Haley, LSW, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2012-2015 Gena Burke, LSW, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2012-2015 Jasmine Wilson, LSW, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2012-2015 Curtis Miller, LSW, Pittsburgh, PA

### **SERVICE**

- 2022-current Chair, Faculty Senate Council on Racial Justice, USF
- 2022-current Faculty Senate Executive CoET41-0009120141-000(-000912]-5(vi)-4(ra)-792 re.0592 r

2021-current	Advisory committee, Vice President for Research and Innovation, USF
2021-current	MHLP Liaison to the CBCS PhD in Behavioral Healthcare Program
2021-2022	IPEP Task Force on Racial Bias and Diversity Task Force
2021-current	Board Member, This Is My Brave, Inc.
2021-current	Ad-Hoc Reviewer for NIH, Dementia Grants Programs
2020-2021	Ad-Hoc Reviewer Florida Criminal Justice Reinvestment Grants
2019-current	Board Member, Partnership for Arts Integrated Teaching (PAINT)
2019-current	American Psychiatric Association, Technical Expert Panel member
2019-2021	M

## **MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES**

National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI)	2013-
American Society on Aging (ASA)	2009-
Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGE-SW)	2006-
National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW)	2004-
Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)	2004-

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## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

2022	School of Social Work Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Pittsburgh
2022	Community Partner Award, Tampa Heights Junior Civic Association, Tampa, FL
2021-2022	Chancellors Award For Excellence in Civic and Community Engagement, USF
2020-2021	Outstanding Black Faculty Member of the Year, USF
2018-2019	McKnight Junior Faculty Fellowship Award
2018	College of Behavioral and Community Sciences International Travel Award
2015-2016	Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, USF
2013	Travel Award to attend the Advanced Research in Geriatric Psychiatry Institute
2012	Travel Award to attend the ASCP Randomized Controlled trial workshop, NY
2011	Travel Award to attend the Early Career Women Faculty Professional Development Seminar, Washington, DC
2009	Travel Award to attend the Summer Research Institute for Geriatric Psychiatry, University of Michigan
2009	Travel Award to attend the Career Development Institute for Psychiatry, Stanford University, CA
2009-2016	NIH Loan Repayment Program Recipient
2009	Scholarship for the ASA New Ventures in Leadership Program
2008	GIAging Fellowship Award
2008	Graduation with Departmental Honors, Dissertation passed with Distinction
2006-2008	Recipient of the Hartford Doctoral Fellows Award
2007	Travel Award to attend the MCUAAAR Training Fellow in Older African American Mental Health, University of Michigan
2006-2007	Recipient of the ASAgings Graduate Student Research Award
2006	Institute on Aging Graduate Student Presenter Award
2005-2006	Recipient of the Hartford Doctoral Pr