

# Donald "DJ" Mitchell, Jr.



## EDUCATOR SCHOLAR DEI EXECUTIVE

Dr. Donald "DJ" Mitchell, Jr., is vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion at Molloy University in Rockville Centre, New York. An award-winning researcher and educator, Dr. Mitchell often presents on intersectionality within higher education contexts, Black Greek-lettered organizations, and historically Black colleges and universities, among other diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice topics.

### Select Speaking Topics

- Intersectionality & Higher Education
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- Recruitment and Retention of Diverse Populations
- Black Greek-lettered Organizations

Dr. Donald Mitchell is one of the preeminent scholars and thought leaders on experiences of students of Color, and the institutions that serve them. His fresh introspective on the historical contexts related to the subject matter is insightful and informing. I have had the pleasure of hearing his presentations in both small and large audience settings. In all cases, he is able to captivate the audience with facts, personal experiences, and perspectives that are deeply moving and inspiring.

Sean Huddleston  
President, Martin University



Let's CONNECT

Contact: Donald Mitchell, Jr.  
Email: [contactdonaldmitchelljr@gmail.com](mailto:contactdonaldmitchelljr@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.donaldmitchelljr.com](http://www.donaldmitchelljr.com)  
Please contact for information on booking



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## BIOGRAPHY


Dr. Donald "DJ" Mitchell, Jr., is vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion at Molloy University in Rockville Centre, New York.

Dr. Mitchell's scholarship and presentations focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education contexts. More specifically, he engages in critical conversations on race, gender, identity intersections, and intersectionality within higher education settings.

His scholarship has been recognized locally and nationally. He is recipient of the Diverse: Issues in Higher Education 2020 Emerging Scholar Honor; the Association for Fraternity/Sorority Advisors and Sigma Phi Epsilon's 2018 Dr. Charles Eberly Oracle Award (with Dr. John Gipson, Jakia Marie, and Tiffany Steele); the Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Conference's 2016 McGraw Hill Distinguished Scholar Award; the American College Personnel Association's 2015 Emerging Scholar Award; Grand Valley State University's 2015 Distinguished Early-Career Scholar Award; the Multicultural/Multiethnic Education Special Interest Group of the American Educational Research Association's 2014 Dr. Carlos J. Vallejo Memorial Award for Emerging Scholarship; the American College Personnel Association's Standing Committee for Men and Masculinities 2014 Outstanding Research Award (with Dr. Darris Means); and, the Michigan College Personnel Association's 2013 John Zaugra Outstanding Research/Publication Award. He was also awarded the Center for the Study of the College Fraternity's 2012 Richard McKaig Outstanding Doctoral Research Award for his dissertation, "Are They Truly Divine?: A Grounded Theory of the Influences of Black Greek-Lettered Organizations on the Persistence of African Americans at Predominantly White Institutions."

A native of Portsmouth, Virginia, Dr. Mitchell earned a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Shaw University, the first historically Black institution in the South, a Master of Science in educational leadership from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and a PhD in educational policy and administration with a concentration in higher education from the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities. He also holds a diversity and inclusion certificate from Cornell University and the Certified Diversity Executive credential from the Institute for Diversity Certification.

Dr. Mitchell is a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and a member of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York.



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## SPEAKING INTERESTS

Dr. Mitchell's speaking interests include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

### Intersectionality & Higher Education

Building upon Kimberlé Crenshaw's articulation of intersectionality, Dr. Mitchell advocates for an intersectional imperative to make sure all college students have the support they need to succeed. Dr. Mitchell served as lead editor for both editions of *Intersectionality & Higher Education: Theory, Research, and Praxis* published by Peter Lang Publishing.

### Historically Black Colleges and Universities

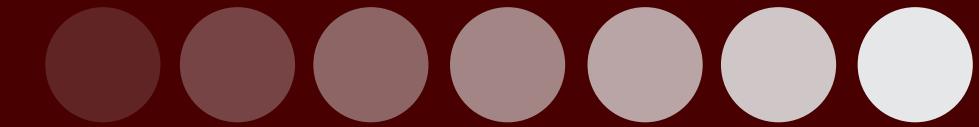
Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) are institutions that were established to provide African Americans with options for an education during years of overt racial discrimination when education and socioeconomic comforts were limited for the vast majority of Americans of African descent. While educational access has expanded, HBCUs are as relevant today as they were in the 19th century. Without these institutions, many national needs will be left unmet. Dr. Mitchell's research and talks introduce audiences to HBCUs using an anti-deficit lens.

### Recruitment and Retention of Diverse Populations

Dr. Mitchell's co-edited volume, *Student Involvement and Academic Outcomes: Implications for Diverse College Student Populations*, brings together several dynamic authors to explore how various forms of involvement (e.g., work, family, high-impact practices, student organizations, institutional) impact education outcomes. He helps audiences reflect on what they are doing well and highlights specific areas where institutions can improve educational outcomes for diverse students.

### Black Greek-lettered Organizations (BGLOs)

In his award-winning dissertation, "Are They Truly Divine?: A Grounded Theory of the Influences of Black Greek-Lettered Organizations on the Persistence of African Americans at Predominantly White Institutions," Dr. Mitchell found BGLOs provide students with social support, connect students to campus, and helped students persist.

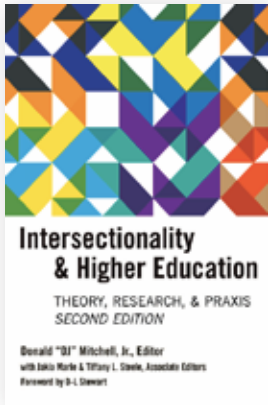


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## SELECT PUBLICATIONS



### Edited Books

Mitchell, D., Jr., Marie, J., & Steele, T. L. (Eds.). (2019). *Intersectionality & higher education: Theory, research, and praxis* (2nd ed.) New York, NY: Peter Lang.

Mitchell, D., Jr., Soria, K., Daniele, E., & Gipson, J. (Eds.). (2015). *Student involvement and academic outcomes: Implications for diverse college student populations*. New York, NY: Peter Lang.

### Journal Special Issue

Mitchell, D., Jr., & Sawyer, D., III. (Eds.). (2014). Informing higher education policy and practice through intersectionality. *Journal of Progressive Policy & Practice*, 2(3).

### Refereed Journal Articles

Bailey-Fakhoury, C., & Mitchell, D., Jr. (2018). Living behind the veil: How Black mothers with daughters attending predominantly White schools experience racial battle fatigue when combating racial microaggressions. *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race*, 15(2), 489-515.

Mitchell, D., Jr., Gipson, J., Marie, J., & Steele, T. (2017). Intersectional value? A pilot study exploring educational outcomes for African American women in historically Black sororities versus non-historically Black sororities. *Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors*, 12(2), 44-58.

Greyerbiehl, L., & Mitchell, D., Jr. (2014). An intersectional social capital analysis of the influence of historically Black sororities on African American women's college experiences at a predominantly White institution. *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*, 7(4), 282-294.

Mitchell, D., Jr., & Means, D. (2014). "Quadruple consciousness": A literature review and new theoretical consideration for understanding the experiences of Black gay and bisexual men at predominantly White institutions. *Journal of African American Males in Education*, 5(1), 23-35.

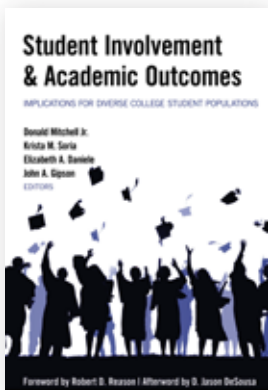
### Report

Mitchell, D., Jr., Weathers, J., & Jones, M. (2013). *A 20-year history of Black Greek-letter organization research and scholarship*. Bloomington: Indiana University.


### Editorials

Mitchell, D., Jr. (2016, May 31). How to start a revolution: Use intersectionality as a framework to promote student success [Web log post].

Mitchell, D., Jr., & Hilton, A. (2016, November 29). Historically Black for whom? A challenge for 21st century historically Black colleges and universities to embrace Blackness, just Blackness [Web log post].



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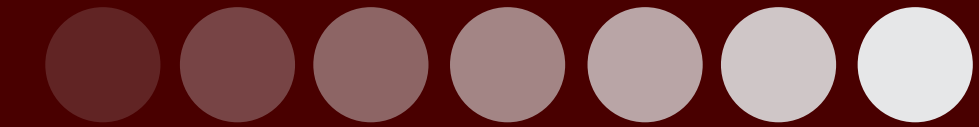


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## SELECT HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2022 40 Under 40  
Blank Slate Media
- 2020 Emerging Scholar  
Diverse: Issues in Higher Education
- 2018 Dr. Charles Eberly Oracle Award  
Association for Fraternity/Sorority Advisors and Sigma Phi Epsilon
- 2017 Outstanding University Service Award  
Grand Valley State University
- 2016 Graduate Faculty Kimboko Inclusion Award  
Graduate Student Association, Grand Valley State University
- 2016 McGraw Hill Distinguished Scholar Award  
Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Conference
- 2015 Distinguished Early-Career Scholar  
Grand Valley State University
- 2015 Distinguished Young Alumni Award  
Minnesota State University, Mankato
- 2015 Emerging Scholar Award  
American College Personnel Association
- 2014 Dr. Carlos J. Vallejo Memorial Award for Emerging Scholarship  
Multicultural/Multiethnic Education Special Interest Group, American Educational Research Association
- 2014 Outstanding Research Award  
Men and Masculinities Standing Committee, American College Personnel Association
- 2014 Outstanding Young Alumnus Award  
United Negro College Fund
- 2014 Rising Alumni Honoree  
College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota
- 2014 Solidarity Award  
Pride Awards, LGBT Resource Center, Grand Valley State University
- 2013 Graduate Outstanding Faculty Mentor  
Graduate Student Association, Grand Valley State University
- 2013 John Zaugra Outstanding Research/Publication Award  
Michigan College Personnel Association
- 2013 Outstanding Faculty Member  
Student Life Awards, Grand Valley State University



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## TESTIMONIALS

### Higher Education Executives & Administrators

"Dr. Mitchell is a thoughtful and committed scholar whose passion for high-quality education for all students is clear in his research and practice. With a kind insistence, he urges educators to develop policies and practices that allow for higher education to live up to its potential in leading and serving a diverse world."

Rebecca Ropers, PhD  
Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academics  
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

"Dr. 'DJ' Mitchell is an extremely knowledgeable presenter who is committed to a mission of social justice. He is passionate about his work and is able to convey that passion to his audience. With an easy conversational style, Dr. Mitchell consistently delivers a substantive and compelling message."

Elaine Collins, PhD  
Former President  
Northern Vermont University

### Faculty Colleagues

"Dr. Donald 'DJ' Mitchell is an exceptional professor with a deep knowledge and understanding of diversity issues in higher education. He is well-published and a highly respected scholar in the field."

John Shinsky, PhD  
Professor and Associate Dean for Community  
Impact, College of Education  
Grand Valley State University

"Dr. Mitchell is a superb scholar on diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education contexts. He challenges individuals to reconsider their understanding of diversity while providing an environment for people to grapple with today's issues of diversity and equity in higher education."

Darris R. Means, PhD  
Associate Professor, Department of Educational  
Foundations, Organizations, and Policy  
University of Pittsburgh

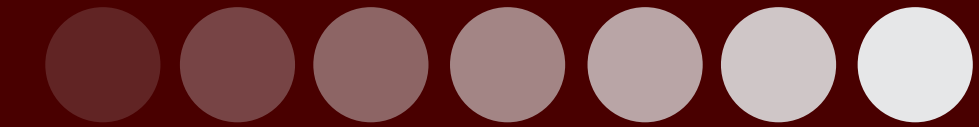
### Students

"As soon as I expressed an interest in research, I was directed to Dr. 'DJ' Mitchell. And it was clear why after reviewing his work. Yet, while his scholarship is impressive, his dedication to his students and passion for diversity, equity and inclusion in education impresses me more. As an educator, he fosters learning experiences that you remember and for me, he has become a very important mentor."

Nicole Rombach  
Former Master's Student

"Dr. Mitchell's approach to student learning is simple, yet profound at the same time. By providing consistent support and developing personal connections, he's someone who inspires students and professionals to be the best version of themselves."

Kyle Martin  
Former Master's Student



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## HEADSHOTS

These headshots are available to download in full resolution at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fcr7o7zt36l5n95/AACXvqURdALrxwUNS1zxcyPCa?dl=0>



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