



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

TEAIRRA Z. EVANS, ASHA WINFIELD & DEQUINTEN GLENN | LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BRILLIANT MINDS | BRILLIANT STORIES: UNDERSTANDING YOUTH DECISION-MAKING, SELF- IMAGE, AND MEDIA LITERACY IN NEW ORLEANS EAST

ABSTRACT:

In the summer of 2024, The Evans Lab and The Storytellers Lab partnered with Click Four Help, LLC to launch the inaugural research institute, Brilliant Minds | Brilliant Stories, as part of our Black Joy & Identity Summer Collective, focusing on students in New Orleans East. This week-long program featured activities aimed at exploring identity-based narratives through the arts and meaningful dialogue. We will explore the collaboration between the researchers and community partner.

THEMATIC FOCUS: LISTENING CLOSELY | SURPRISING COLLABORATIONS | LEARNING THE CHORDS

BIO(S):

TEAIRRA Z. EVANS

Dr. Teairra Z. Evans is an Assistant Professor at Louisiana State University, holding joint appointments in the Departments of Psychology and African and African American Studies. She earned her Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from the University of Alabama. Dr. Evans' research explores cognitive factors such as working memory and decision-making, with a focus on how these processes are influenced by race, age, and sociocultural factors. She teaches a service-learning course that connects students with local communities, fostering practical applications of classroom knowledge. Dr. Evans is dedicated to conducting community-engaged research that is mutually beneficial for the researcher and community.

Nashville, TN | March 26-28, 2025

ASHA WINFIELD

Asha S. Winfield, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor at LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication. Winfield is a critical/cultural media scholar with a focus on the stories (creation, rituals and practices) of Black individuals and groups occurring in the media, culture and society. As a researcher and filmmaker, she aims to use intersectionality, counternarratives, and Black feminist thought to frame and center the experiences of Black people as they relate to audience reception through meaning-making and identity-making. Ultimately, Winfield uses storytelling as a historical and contemporary tool of research and resistance.

DEQUINTEN GLENN

DeQuinten Glenn is a Mansfield, Louisiana native that received his Bachelors and Masters degree from Louisiana State University. As the CEO of Click Four Help he specializes in creating community programs with the aim of improving students academic experiences.
