

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DR. ANSLEY BOOKER



Ansley Booker, Ph.D. is a native of Eatonton, Georgia. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in biology from Georgia Southern University in 2008, where she was a Ronald E. McNair Scholar. She earned her Master of Science in pharmacy from the University of Georgia in 2013, and her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Mercer University in May 2019. Her dissertation focused on African American women who had obtained STEM graduate/doctoral degrees in computer science, engineering, and physical science.

Her goal was to unearth barriers and catalysts to their graduate and career success so that she could develop retention models to improve their college persistence. She has published and presented extensively on the experiences of African American women and minority students in STEM education and student affairs. Her writings are featured in the books *The Table*, *Gumbo Females of Color Book 2*, *Seeing The HiddEn Minority: Increasing the Talent Pool through Identity, Socialization, and Mentoring Constructs*, *Fraternal Organizations*, and *Mentoring: Valuable Compacts for Young Black Males*, and *Teaching Beautiful Brilliant Black Girls*. Her passion for STEM was highlighted in her 2019 TedTalk at the University of Georgia entitled *Unhidden Figures: Uncovering Our Cultural Biases in STEM*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rn1S7phYDMQ>

In addition to developing STEM curriculum for high school and collegiate students as an adjunct professor, she has served as a mentor and volunteer for numerous programs in the Macon community including Streets to Success and Real IMPACT Center, a local non-profit to ensure young girls 3rd-8th grade are exposed to STEM disciplines. Dr. Booker was the previous Director for the Mercer University Educational Opportunity Center (TRiO Programs) and is the newly appointed Director for Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives. She has served as an advisor for Mercer University's National Pan-Hellenic Council and Golden Key International Honour Society for several years.

Lastly, her awards and recognitions include being named among the Macon-Middle Georgia Black Pages Young Entrepreneurs and Professionals, the University of Georgia's College of Pharmacy Distinguished Service Award, Rural Leader Magazine's 40 under 40, Small Town America's Top 100 and both the University of Georgia's and Georgia Southern's 40 Under 40 as well as receiving Mercer University's Student Affairs Division STAR Award. Lastly, Ansley is a recent graduate of Leadership Macon 2019 and the Urban Leadership Academy Cohort 3.