

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Contact: Advisory Council To Eliminate Anti-Black Racism
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Advisory Council To Eliminate Anti-Black Racism At the Brown University School of Professional Studies Launches

In August 2020, seven dedicated alumni of the Brown University School of Professional Studies (SPS) were selected by their peers and SPS administration to launch an advisory council focused on eliminating anti-Black racism. The Council will strive to improve the experiences of Black applicants, matriculants, students, alumni, faculty and staff.

There is heightened national awareness and attention to the real and pervasive systemic racism experienced by Black people now and throughout the history of the United States. Black professionals continue to face unique challenges to achieve vocational success. The Council's purpose is to make recommendations and hold SPS accountable for ensuring that systemic anti-Black racism issues within the Brown community, on and off campus, are addressed.

The Council will review, address and advise SPS on a variety of salient topics including, but not limited to:

- Recruitment of diverse staff and faculty
- Curriculum content
- Co-curricular experiences
- Alumni Engagement

The Council, in partnership with SPS administration is actively conducting a data-driven environmental and cultural evaluation to understand the experiences of present and past students, alumni, faculty and staff. The results of this evaluation will enable the Council to make informed recommendations to dismantle explicit and implicit anti-Black racism within the Brown community.

"We are remiss in our mission to educate our students and give them a truly transformative experience if we don't provide the tools to effectively navigate and dismantle racism in these spaces" -- Leah VanWey, PhD, Dean of Brown University School of Professional Studies

"School of Professional Studies students that face implicit bias during their studies, even if occasionally, can lead to feelings of uncomfortability and alienation within the cohort. Creating safe places for discussion on how implicit biases affect students is imperative for the growth and success of students and faculty" -- Shircara Stewart '20 Executive Master of Science in Technology Leadership

"The Brown School of Professional Studies curriculum content regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion should create a conducive environment for vulnerability and transparency about the Black professional experience. Brown SPS students expect their experience to prepare them to lead, and to advance diverse organizations facing complex ethical challenges" —Talya Parker '19 Executive Master of Cybersecurity

Signed Brown University School of Professional Studies Advisory Council to Eliminate Anti-Black Racism

- Jacqueline Ejuwa '17 Executive Master of Healthcare Leadership
 - Cynthia Henry '91, '17 IE Brown Executive Master of Business Administration
 - Lauren Johnson '20 IE Brown Executive Master of Business Administration
 - Gigi Palma '20 Executive Master of Science in Technology Leadership
 - Talya Parker '19 Executive Master of Cybersecurity
 - Ace Robinson '19 Executive Master of Healthcare Leadership
 - Shircara Stewart '20 Executive Master of Science in Technology Leadership
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Brown University School of Professional Studies Advisory Council to Eliminate Anti-Black Racism

Mission: To eliminate the impact of systemic anti-Black racism on prospects, applicants, students, and alumni of the African Diaspora, and to empower successful contribution to and enrichment of their individual communities.

Vision: The Advisory Council to Eliminate Anti-Black Racism will provide guidance to the Brown University School of Professional Studies to create within its academic environment, culturally responsive services, curriculum, and professional networking opportunities that are equitable and inclusive for Black students.

The Council will support the larger Brown University community in providing opportunity and growth by creating an inviting culture for prospects, applicants, students, and alumni as well as acknowledging the contributions, specific challenges, and vocational development of Black students and alumni.