

# Dr. LaVette M. Burnette

## Skills

- 20+ years of experience in higher education (advising, faculty, and staff)
- Creative problem solver and team builder
- Highly organized along with the ability to adapt to change
- Strong multi-tasking and interpersonal communication skills
- Proficient in Microsoft 365 applications

## Academic Achievement

**Doctor of Philosophy in Public Communication.** Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA.

**Master of Arts in Communication.** Western Kentucky University.

**Bachelor of Corporate and Organizational Communication** emphasis in Marketing. Western Kentucky University.

## Professional Experience

**Coordinator of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** for Gateway Community and Technical College, Florence, KY. (August 2021 to Current).

- Create student programming for minority and LGBTQIA+ students (monthly heritage celebrations and student engagement programs).
- Facilitates and presents educational content on implicit bias, pronouns, antiracism, cultural competence and more.
- Fosters community partnerships, along with collaborative intercampus teamwork by serving on multiple committees such as hiring, QEP, student engagement, success coaching, and student success.

**Associate Professor of New Media and Communication** for Middle Georgia State University, Macon, GA. *Cochran Campus*. (2006 to 2021)

- Served as academic advisor for Communication Studies AA, Media and Communication BA, and Interdisciplinary Studies BA.
- Facilitates training and development through an interdisciplinary approach to communication, diversity, inclusion, gender studies, and media studies.
- Taught courses via fully online or hybrid format to diverse student populations.
- Created and facilitated learning in communication, group communication, conflict management, intercultural communication, interpersonal communication, and media criticism.

**Adjunct Faculty** for ECore, University System of Georgia, Atlanta, GA (Fall 2019 to 2021).

- Facilitate fully online Human Communication course.

**Assistant Professor of Speech Communication** for Santa Fe Community College, Gainesville, FL. (August 2003 – July 2006)

- Served as academic advisor to at-risk students.
- Taught Public Speaking and Interpersonal Communication.

**Adjunct Instructor** for Santa Fe Community College, Gainesville, FL. (June 2002 – August 2003)

- Taught Public Speaking for adult learners.

**Blount Downtown Center Lab Manager.** Santa Fe Community College, Gainesville, FL. (June 2002 - August 2003)

- Served as first generation, college Prep academic advisement/registration advisor.
- Supervised, trained, and coordinated academic tutors in English and Math.
- Administered assessment services to support to Blount Downtown Learning Lab students.

**Adjunct Instructor** for Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY. (August 2000 – May 2002).

- Created and taught UC 101 (Freshmen Seminar) Course for First-Year At-Risk Students
- Taught Business and Professional Speaking and Fundamentals of Public Speaking

**Adjunct Instructor** for Bowling Green Community College, Bowling Green, KY. (January 2001 – May 2002).

- Taught Fundamentals of Public Speaking

**Office Associate** Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs at Western Kentucky, Bowling Green, KY.  
(January 1999 – January 2002)

- Assisted the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs with an "Action Agenda" grant as grant record keeper.
- Served as Administrative Assistant to the Provost with duties that included coordinated and executed all award recognition events for University-Wide Faculty Awards, Honorary Doctorate and other special programs and projects.

**Service**

**Student Engagement and Recruitment**

Middle Georgia State University

**Academic Advisor and Mentor** for New Media and Communication Academic Advisor. (August 2014 – 2021). Assists students to matriculate through the program in a timely fashion.

**MCA Representative and Advisor** for the Middle Georgia State University Open House. (July 2018 and July 2019). Greeting and advised incoming freshmen.

**Communication Representative** for the Interdisciplinary Open House (October 2019).

**Mentor and Presenter** for the Knights LEAD program. (August 2019 – May 2020). Mentored three Black women in academic, professional and personal development. Lead a workshop on critical thinking and creativity for 20 LEAD participants.

**Faculty Mentor and Presenter** for the RSO Gay Straight Alliance. (September 2019). Lead a workshop of club organization and outreach for the newly formed GSA on the Cochran campus.

**Attendee** to the Media, Culture, & Arts “Knight” at the Oscars (April 2019).

**Faculty Advisor** for the RSO Fashion Club and SWAY Dance Team. (August 2009 - May 2014). Orchestrated over 40+ students combined that produced two shows a year for at least 400+ students, faculty, staff, and community members.

**Academic Advisor** for Communication Studies AA. (August 2008 – July 2014).

Assisted students with academic advising, developed a standardized advising and registration process.

**Mentor** for the AAMI Faculty Mentor. (August 2011 – May 2012). Provided guidance in academic and career development through weekly meetings for three participants for the African American Male Initiative.

**Reviewer** for the Honor's Day Speech. (February 2010). Honored a direct request from the Vice President for Academic Affairs office to review Honor's Day student speeches.

**Presenter** for the Student Success. (February 2011). Co-presented with a student success mentor on the importance of communication with 16 participants that covered verbal, nonverbal, and electronic communication.

**Faculty Advisor** for the Collegiate Circle of Friends. (August 2008 – May 2010) – Served as founding club advisor to raise awareness of human-sex trafficking.

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### Culture Building

**Co-Founder** of the School of Arts & Letters Collective Action Series (Fall 2020 to 2021). Leads and facilitates monthly book club to address racial injustice for 50+ faculty, with the creation of reflection questions, one-on-one discussions on race and equity in the academy. Moderated college-wide panel on lived experiences and race.

**Faculty Mentor** of three Media, Culture, & the Arts faculty. (Fall 2008 to 2021). Mentored incoming faculty to provide guidance on course management, student relations, and other faculty concerns.

**Contributing Artist** for the Diversity & Inclusion Art Exhibition. (January 2020 to February 2020). *Be Dope and Free* painting and four others as part of the faculty, staff, and community art show focusing on diversity and inclusion.

**Member** of the Black History Programming for the School of Arts & Letters committee (February 2020). Organized Black History programming for the Macon and Cochran campuses.

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### Leadership Roles in Committee Work

**Chair** of the Academic Affairs Committee, Middle Georgia State University. (Fall 2020 -Present). Facilitates Faculty Senate standing committee to collaborate with the Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs to review formal academic policy petitions at the course, program, and institutional level.

**Campus Liaison and Conference Coordinator** for the 2018 Georgia Communication Association Conference, Macon, GA. (September 2017-February 2018). Liaised with GCA board and MGA to coordinate facilities, rooms, program details, and guest accommodations for the conference.

**Executive Director** of the Georgia Board of Regents Communication Advisory Committee, Atlanta, GA. (August 2012 - May 2017). Served as a member for one-year before appointed as Executive Director on a state-wide committee. Coordinated state-wide Communication advisory committee, meetings, agenda, programs, and participated in ongoing academic program reviews.

**Chair** of the Advising Committee for the School of Liberal Arts, Middle Georgia College. (October 2014 - October 2013) Served as Chair to review academic advising practices in the division that ultimately created a standard advising document for incoming faculty.

**Chair** of College-Wide Diversity Committee Chair, Middle Georgia College (August 2012 – May 2013). Served as Chair for the college-wide Diversity committee to encourage diversity efforts across campus. Committee recommended action items to administration to diversify administration and faculty.

**Chair** of the Humanities Assessment Committee, Middle Georgia State University. (August 2011 – May 2013). Served as Humanities liaison for assessment to facilitate the review and management of the Humanities course assessment process.

**Chair and Member** on various Faculty Search Committees, Middle Georgia State University. (August 2007 - May 2020). Served as chair for two communication faculty searches, and member of English, Flight Management/Aviation, Graphic Arts search committees.

**Chair** of the Assessment Committee, Middle Georgia College. (August 2007 - July 2008). Served as Chair to standardize the college-wide assessment process and reviewed documentation for the yearly program and course assessments

**Co-Chair** of the Academic Affairs Planning Council, Santa Fe Community College. (August 2005 - July 2006). Facilitated discussion with selected faculty and staff to create the strategic and operational plans for 2006 -2007 with the primary responsibility focused on managing meetings, documents, and soliciting information from faculty on issues that pertain to the future of Academic Affairs.

**Unit Coordinator** for Unit 6 at Santa Fe Community College. (August 2004 – 2006). Served as the Unit Coordinator to be the "point" faculty for Academic Affairs, as well as supervise and coordinate Office Support Assistants front desk coverage and unit social functions.

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### Committee Membership

**Member** of the Interdisciplinary Studies BA Revision committee. Middle Georgia State University. (Fall 2020 – 2021). Volunteered to revise the interdisciplinary studies BA program.

**Member** of the New Media and Communication BA Revision Committee. Middle Georgia State University. (Fall 2019). Volunteered to revise the New Media and Communication BA

**Member** of the Faculty Senate, Middle Georgia State University. (Fall 2019 – May 2020). Served as Media, Culture & the Arts faculty liaison to the college-wide Faculty Senate. Submitted a college-wide proposal for faculty mentoring program that was approved.

**Senate Representative** on the Teaching Resources & Budgetary Allocation Committee, Middle Georgia State University. (Fall 2019 – Spring 2020). Appointed as Senate representative to create a bookstore satisfaction survey and gather information for media budget allocation needs from faculty.

**Member** of the Academic Policy Committee, Middle Georgia State University. (August 2018 – May 2019). Contributing member to college-wide academic policy committee that revised the 2018 Faculty handbook.

**Member** of the Adhoc Diversity Committee, Middle Georgia State College. (September 2016). Served as member to collect and review institutional diversity and inclusion policies.

**Member** of the Financial Aid Appeal Committee, Middle Georgia College. (August 2010 to May 2013). Reviewed appeals from students who were denied financial aid.

**Consultant** for the USG Review of Speech. (January 2010–March 2010). Served as a consultant for the University System of Georgia Public Speaking class review of the Technical College System of Georgia with Dr. John Gaston of the College of Arts at Valdosta State University.

**Reviewer** for the Syllabus Review Committee, Middle Georgia College. (August 2010 to August 2014). Reviewed and rated Humanities division syllabi for yearly faculty evaluations.

**Member** of the Diversity Committee. Middle Georgia College (January 2008 – May 2013). Provided recommendations to diversify administration, faculty, staff, and students. Served as Co-Chair for assessment efforts to measure diversity efforts.

**Member** of the QEP Learning Communities Subcommittee, Middle Georgia College. (August 2008 to May 2010). Served as a member to create and facilitate Learning Communities to fulfill the QEP goals and volunteered to teach in the only three course combination in the Fall 2009 semester.

**Member** of the Assessment Committee, Middle Georgia College. (August 2006 to August 2007). Served as a member to review documents for the yearly student assessment.

**Representative** on the College Senate Professional Standards Committee, Santa Fe Community College. (August 2005 – July 2006). Served as the Humanities and Foreign Languages representative with a charge to review and modify the faculty tenure process and student opinion survey.

**Member** of the Faculty Professional Development Committee, Santa Fe Community College. (August 2005 – July 2006). Served as a coordinating member of this committee charged by the Interim VP for Academic Affairs to identify and recommend professional development opportunities for diversity and inclusion efforts appropriate for faculty across all academic disciplines.

**Member** of the Psychology and Philosophy Screening Committees, Santa Fe Community College. (March – May 2006). Served as a member on two screening committees to review credentials and interview candidates for tenure-track positions in Psychology (Department of Social Sciences) and Philosophy (Department of Humanities and Foreign Languages).

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#### Community Service

- **Judge** for Black History Program and Martin Luther King essay contest (February 2020). Cochran, GA.
- **Financial Sponsor** for the two participants to the *For Real Change* Summit (September 2018). Bowling Green, KY.
- **Co- Coordinator** for Pleasant Hill Baptist Children Church Praise Team (October 2015 – May 2017). Eastman,

GA.

- **Judge** for the Bleckley County High School Dazzler Tryouts (April 2014). Cochran, GA.
- **Judge** for the Miss Bleckley County Pageant (October 2014). Cochran, GA.
- **Judge** for the Miss Bleckley County Pageant (October 2013). Cochran, GA.
- **Judge** for the American Legion sponsored High School Oratorical Scholarship Program (February 2011). Cochran, GA.
- **Judge** for the Literary Meet in the dramatic interpretation and extemporaneous contests. (February 2010). Cochran, GA.
- **Animal foster parent and volunteer** at Georgia Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation (January 2010 to January 2013). Cochran, GA.

## Scholarship

## Publications

Burnette, L. (2019). *The love of my sisters: Exploring Black women academics' narratives on the uses and benefits of sister circles*. Doctoral Dissertation, Georgia State University, 2019.  
[https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/communication\\_diss/95](https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/communication_diss/95)

Burnette, L. (Spring 2019). *The politics of black hair: An autoethnographic analysis of a hair journey* (88). Georgia Communication Association Proceedings. <https://gacomm.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Proceedings-Journal-2019-Final.pdf>

Burnette, L. (Winter, 2020). Reframing Tropes: Black Women Professionals on Television. *Culture in Focus: An International eJournal of Educational, Literary and Cultural Studies* (3)1, 62-77.

Burnette, L. (Forthcoming). Creating a network circle: Exploring black women academic's narratives of life in the academy. In Ronksley-Pavis, M. (Ed.) *Women in academia: Resilience narratives*. Springer.

## Conference Presentations and Participation

Burnette, L. (January 2020). *Retwisted and Loc'd: An autoethnographic analysis of a hair journey*. Presented at the International Association of Autoethnography and Inquiry in Tampa, FL.

Burnette, L. (February 2020). *Creating a network circle: A practical approach*. Presented at the Georgia Communication Association in Cartersville, GA.

Burnette, L., Keith, S. Nicholson, A., Edward, R. (February 2020). *Best practices for teaching online*. Presented at the Georgia Communication Association in Cartersville, GA.

Burnette, L. (February 2019). *The politics of black hair: An autoethnographic analysis of a hair journey*. Presented at the Georgia Communication Association Convention in Morrow, GA.

Burnette, L. (February 2016). *Warming the chilly classroom climate: A feminist perspective*. Presented at Georgia Communication Association Convention in Milledgeville, GA.

Burnette, L. and Tyler-Boucebci, M. (April 2016). *Hair and hijab: (Dis)covering identity*. at the Presented at the 2016 Georgia Women's Conference in Atlanta GA.

Burnette, L., Keith, S. Nicholson, A., Edward, R., Linder, P. (February 2014). *WTH: How can I say that? Understanding how code-switching affects the classroom*. Presented at Georgia Communication Association Convention in Statesboro, GA.

Burnette, L., Nicholson, A., Linder, P., Thompson, M. (February 2013) *Help me: My students don't care: Engaging reluctant and apathetic students*. Presented at the Georgia Communication Association Convention in Dalton in Georgia.

Burnette, L. (February 2012). *Incorporating New Technologies into Teaching*. Presented at the Georgia Communication Association Convention in Tifton, Georgia.

(February 2011) Attended the Georgia Communication Association Conference at Brenau University in Gainesville, GA.

Burnette, L. (March 2007). *Engaging reluctant and apathetic students*. Presented at the On-Course National Conference in Dallas, TX.

Burnette, L. (March 2006). *Passion of the Teacher: A Critical Reflective Thinking Approach*. Presented at the Innovations 2006 hosted by the League of Innovations in Atlanta, GA.

Burnette, L. (September 2000). *Aiming for Multicultural Networking: Diverse Women Making Connection in Education and Business*. Presented at the Annual Conference and Meeting hosted by the American Communication Association in Louisville, KY.

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### Scholarship Activities

- Manuscript Blind Reviewer (May 2020 to current). *Journal of Autoethnography*.
- Dissertation Examiner (November 2020 to 2021). *University of Pretoria, South Africa*.
- Participant (October 2020) University System of Georgia Diversity Summit at Macon, GA.
- Participant (October 2019) University System of Georgia Diversity Summit at Macon, GA. Participant (October 2012) University System of Georgia Diversity Summit at Macon, GA.
- Participant (October 2009) University System of Georgia Diversity Summit in Atlanta, GA.
- Participant (March 2008) Assessment Review Conference participant in Raleigh, NC.

### Professional Organizations

- International Association of Autoethnography and Narrative Inquiry, Founding Member (January 2020 to Current)
- Georgia Communication Association, Member (January 2011 to 2021)

### Awards and Honors

- Diversity Awards Recipient (2013)
- Middle Georgia State MVP (March 2014)

- Student Government Association Teacher of the Year Award Affairs (2008 and 2011)