

2022-2023 Assistant Professor Excellence (APeX) Speaker Series

“Supporting and Developing Future Scholars, Practitioners through Collaborative Leadership: Examining Critical Strategies of Social Justice to Meet Individual Needs through a Holistic Approach”



Wednesday, February 22, 2023

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

M.D. Anderson Library, Room 306
and via **Microsoft Teams**

Dr. Detra Johnson

Assistant Professor
College of Education

My research is primarily guided by sociological theories and understandings of education but is also informed by specific theoretical and conceptual frameworks including ecological systems theory, cultural competence, internationality, and resiliency. The research questions that I answer are best explored using multiple research methods and research designs such as qualitative methods (e.g., narrative inquiry, case study, auto-ethnography) and quantitative methods (e.g., descriptive and correlational statistics). To date, I have examined and investigated social justice issues in three areas: educational disparities, educational leadership (teacher and administrators), and diversity, equity, and inclusion. My scholarship, teaching, and service aligns with my research agenda that intersects with social justice practices to address systematic and institutionalized issues in PK-20 learning environments. Through the intersections of my research, teaching and service, my work informs our educational institutions of how to address social justice issues resulting from systemic and institutionalized disparities in PK-20 schools.

Speaker Biography

Dr. Detra D. Johnson, assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, centers her research on the implementation and critical analysis of educational policies, procedures, and practices particularly focused on race and equity that impact marginalized individuals, specifically students of color in PK-12 schools. Prior to the academy, Dr. Johnson served leadership roles at the school, district, regional, and post-secondary levels in Texas. She received her Bachelor's from Texas Southern University and Master's from both University of Houston (central) and University of Houston (Clear Lake) as well as her Ph.D. from Texas A&M University.

The Assistant Professor Excellence Lecture Series (APeX) is intended to showcase the breadth and depth of groundbreaking research, scholarship, and creative activity being undertaken by UH early career faculty across disciplines, as well as to offer opportunities for cross-disciplinary networking.

