

**Virginia's CROWN Act: It's the Law, So How Do We Use It?, P.I.: Cynthia Salley
Nicholson, Ph.D., School of Education (SESL)**

With the new legislation banning discriminatory practices based on hair, there needs to be literature on best practices in making the law work in favor of all. With courageous conversations that challenge the norms in hiring practices among teacher educators, the new law could have an adverse reaction if the silencing in hire practices continues. Based on initial research from another study, I learned that discriminatory practices can easily be upheld under the guise of professional attire and presentation. I am seeking to learn and share how teacher education practitioners can help to navigate the implementation of the new expansion of the Virginia's Human Rights Act in ways that will promote acceptance and tolerance for African American female identity. Additionally, I would like to learn more about the unwritten expectations on professional attire, including hair and what is perceived as acceptable among teacher education practitioners.