

**Dr. Breshell Jackson-Nevels, PhD, MSW**  
**Associate Professor & MSW Program Director**  
**The Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work, Norfolk State University**

Dr. Breshell Jackson-Nevels has over 25 years of experience in social work, education and clinical practice. As the MSW Program Director at Norfolk State University, she has led transformative curriculum redesign, guided the program through a successful Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accreditation process, and doubled graduate student enrollment. She teaches across clinical and policy tracks with a focus on advanced generalist practice, assessment, family systems, and school social work. Her teaching reflects a commitment to culturally responsive pedagogy and evidence-based practice.

In addition to her academic leadership, Dr. Jackson-Nevels has served as a field instructor, doctoral mentor, and faculty advisor. Her research addresses the intersections of race, gender, mental health, and educational equity, with numerous publications and national conference presentations.

**EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

Norfolk State University  
Norfolk, Virginia  
Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work, 2014

Norfolk State University  
Norfolk, Virginia  
Clinical/Master of Social Work, 1996

Old Dominion University  
Norfolk, Virginia  
Major: Psychology Minor: Counseling  
Bachelor of Science, 1994

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:**

Council on Social Work Education  
National Association of Social Workers  
School Social Work Association

## PUBLICATIONS:

**Jackson-Nevels, B., Nevels, D. A., Copeland, B. A., Riddick, P., Epps, V., & Brown Meredith, E.** (2025, June 16). *Behind the frontlines: Black male social workers and the weight of structural bias. Journal of Medical Inventions and Clinical Case Reports*, 2, 1–5.

**Nevels BJ, Jones T, Nevels DA, Copeland B, Sutton T, Askew L.** Understanding Burnout Rates for Clinicians and Physical Symptoms of Allostatic Load. *Arch Case Rep*. 2025; 9(1): 011-015. <https://dx.doi.org/10.29328/journal.acr.1001122>

**Jackson-Nevels, Breshell & Davis-Wagner, Dianne & Chung, Insoo & Green, Gardenella & Ericksen, Kirsten.** (2024). An HBCU examination: flourishing and psychological well-being of college students during a pandemic. *Social Work in Mental Health*. 22. 1-19. 10.1080/15332985.2024.2314469.

El Moudden, I., Bittner, M., Karpov, M., Osunmakinde, I., Acheamponmaa, A., **Nevels, B., & Bahoura, M.** (2024). Machine Learning Analysis of Mental Health Disparities among African Americans in Southeastern Virginia: Predictive Modeling, Risk Factors, and Policy Implications.

Davis-Wagner, D., **Nevels, B.,** Livingston, V., Chung, I., & Ericksen, K. S. (2024). The intersectionality of race, gender, and low-wage work. *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15313204.2024.2390421>

Livingston, V., **Jackson-Nevels, B.,** Davis-Wagner, D., Chung, I., & Manley, C. K. (2024). The therapeutic accord: The impact of subjective religiosity on the utilization of mental health services among college students. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10911359.2024.2318446>

Livingston, V., **Jackson-Nevels, B.,** Davis-Wagner, D., Chung, I., & Manley, C. K. (2024). The therapeutic accord: The impact of subjective religiosity on the utilization of mental health services among college students. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10911359.2024.2318446>

Davis-Wagner, D., **Nevels, B.,** Livingston, V., Chung, I., & Ericksen, K. S. (2024). The intersectionality of race, gender, and low-wage work. *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15313204.2024.2390421>

Livingston, V., **Jackson-Nevels, B.,** Davis-Wagner, D., Chung, I., & Manley, C. K. (2024). The therapeutic accord: The impact of subjective religiosity on the utilization of mental health services among college students. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10911359.2024.2318446>

Livingston V, **Jackson-Nevels B,** Dinnerson QL. Avoiding Allostatic Load: Black Male Collegians and the Quest for Well-Being. *Trauma Care*. 2022; 2(2):298-306. <https://doi.org/10.3390/traumacare2020025>

Livingston, V., **Nevels, B.,** and Reddy, V. Social and Economic Determinants of Well-Being. *Encyclopedia* (2022), 2, 1183-1199. <https://doi.org/10.3390/encyclopedia2030079>

Val Livingston, **Breshell Jackson Nevels**, Insoo Chung, Kirsten S. Ericksen, Ernestine Duncan, Cherrel K. Manley, Helen Merriwether & Jamie McCullar (2022). The enigma of resilience at an HBCU during a global pandemic, *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, DOI: [10.1080/10911359.2022.2100028](https://doi.org/10.1080/10911359.2022.2100028)

Dinnerson, Q., Lane, T. Neely-Goodwin, S., Williamson-Ashe, S., and **Jackson-Nevels, B.**, (2021). Strengthening Community Partnerships: Preparing Social Work Students for the Profession. *Practice Digest*. Vol 10.2

**Jackson-Nevels, B.**, Davis-Wagner, D., Livingston, V., and Neely-Goodwin. (2020). Navigating through the Pandemic at a Historically Black College University: Challenges and Opportunities. *International Journal of Social Policy and Education*, Vol. 2, No. 5; July 2020, pp. 67-74.

Val Livingston, Insoo Chung, Dianne Davis-Wagner, Kirsten S. Ericksen, Vanessa Jenkins, **Breshell Nevels** & Shebby Neely-Goodwin (2021) An examination of the help-seeking behaviors of HBCU students by gender, classification, referral source, and mental health concerns, *Social Work in Mental Health*, DOI: [10.1080/15332985.2021.2011823](https://doi.org/10.1080/15332985.2021.2011823)

Livingston, V., Davis-Wagner, D, Chung, I., **Jackson-Nevels, B.**, Gabriel, N., (2020). Trapped in Poverty: A Conceptual Framework to Evaluate the Culture of Poverty vs the Culture of Inequality Theses for Black Female-headed Families, *International Journal of Social Policy and Education*, Vol. 2, No. 5; July 2020, pp. 1-13.

#### **Book Chapter:**

**Jackson-Nevels, B.** (2021), *African American Women in Academia: Intersectionality of Race and Gender*. Motherhood and Academic Careers: Challenges Faced by African American Women in Academia Marriage, Parenthood, and the Tenure Clock. Nova Science Publishers

#### **In Press:**

**Jackson-Nevels, B.**, Kirsten S. Ericksen, and Marilyn Lewis. *Supervising Medical Social Work Interns in a Veterans Administration Hospital*. Reflections.

#### **Presentations Accepted 2025:**

**Jackson-Nevels, B.** & Russell, E. Hampton University 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Black Decolonizing Psychology Conference (February 6-8, 2025), “Healing Through Culture: The Role of Cultural Identity in Trauma Recovery.”

Riddick, P, **Jackson-Nevels, B.**, & Swedburg-Ericksen, K. 42nd Annual BPD Conference: Navigating BSW Education in a Time of Crisis: Teaching and Learning in a Politically and Philosophically Divided Nation (March 13-15, 2025). “Ethics in Action: Insights from BSW Students’ Breakdown of Politically Based Ethical Dilemmas “

Ericksen, K., Chung, I, & **Jackson-Nevels, B.** 42nd Annual BPD Conference: Navigating BSW Education in a Time of Crisis: Teaching and Learning in a Politically and Philosophically Divided Nation (March 13-15, 2025).

## **Presentations:**

Ericksen, K., **Jackson-Nevels, B.** & Vaughan-Eden, V. (May 23-25, 2023) 30th Annual APSAC Colloquium – Soaring to New Heights in Denver, CO “An Empowerment Framework to Prevent Child Maltreatment during Early Childhood” – Roundtable.

Ericksen, K., **Jackson-Nevels, B.** & Vaughan-Eden, V (June 27-29, 2023) Beau Biden Foundation National Conference to Protect America’s Children in National Harbor, MD “An Empowerment Framework to Prevent Child Maltreatment During Early Childhood.

Ericksen, K & **Jackson-Nevels, B.** (2023). Global Conference on Women and Gender, Title: Overcoming the Imposter Syndrome in Higher Education for Women of Color: Holistic student development for the women’s success, Newport News, VA. – March 16-18, 2023, mentoring student presenters.

**Jackson-Nevels, B** & Ericksen, K.S. (August 3, 2023). Help is on the way! A system approach to mental health: STORM Schools Towards Optimistic Response to Mental Health, Community for Students, Community Summit, Norfolk Public Schools, Norfolk, Virginia. Presentation.

Livingston, V. & **Jackson-Nevels, B.** (March 24,2023). National Association of Social Work-Virginia. Mediating Allostatic Load for African American Social Workers and Social Work Students.

**Jackson-Nevels, B.** & Ericksen, K.S. (October 27, 2023). Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia. *Overcoming Imposter Syndrome for Women of Color in University: A Holistic Student Success Approach.*

Ericksen, K & **Jackson-Nevels, B.** (November 11, 2022). Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Anaheim, California. *A Framework for a Holistic Approach to Student Academic Development.*

Livingston, V., **Jackson-Nevels, B.**, & Davis-Wagner, D., (March 18, 2022): Southeastern Social Work Conference: Social Justice - The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. *Allostatic Load Compensation and the Black Male Collegians’ Quest for Well-Being: A Social Justice Perspective*

**Jackson-Nevels, B. & Roberts, A.**, (March 18, 2021): CNU Global Women’s Conference-*Shades of Grades: The Adultification of African American Girls-virtual conference.*

**(November 2021)** Accepted Presentation Council on Social Work Education: Book Chapter: Motherhood and Academic Careers: Challenges Faced by African American Women in Academia Marriage, Parenthood, and the Tenure Clock

**(November 2021)** Accepted Presentation Council on Social Work Education-Poster Presentation: Racial Injustices During the Pandemic

**(November 14, 2020):** Council on Social Work Education-The Impartiality of Human Trafficking Policies: American Victims of Modern-Day Slavery

**(September 2020):** Next Up: NSU Successful Student: Superwoman Schema Tapped for the entire University.

**(September 24, 2020):** Parenting through the Pandemic-Healthy Families Partnership Podcast-virtual-panelist

**International:**

Canadian Nursing Conference: (March 22-24, 2022): A Critical Race Perspective on the Mental Health Characteristics of Nursing, Psychology, and Social Work Students

Rising Nurses World 2024 Conference: (October 14-15, 2024) 4<sup>th</sup> World Virtual Congress on Nursing Education (London, United Kingdom)

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

**MSW Program Director  
Associate Professor**

Norfolk State University  
Norfolk, Virginia  
August 2019-Present

- Collaborates with Department Chair to provide administrative oversight to all MSW faculty and adjunct faculty members.
- Directly supervises the MSW Field Director and works closely with the MSW Admissions Director.
- Accurately communicates to MSW program faculty the policies, procedures, and timelines that are outlined in the University catalogs, the Faculty Manual.
- Responsible for all aspects of the implementation of implicit and explicit curriculum. The Director adheres to CSWE accreditation standards and promotes adherence of The Standards within the MSW Program.
- Works autonomously and organize and administer a multi-faceted program requiring high levels of interaction with faculty, staff members, students, practitioners in the field, and community organizations.
- Further, the MSW Program Director is responsible for working with the Graduate Council to approve instructors through Graduate School.
- Communicates with faculty regarding adherence to the program standards for teaching, including assessment activities.
- Supports effective teaching and course development among faculty by communicating University resources and opportunities (i.e., Faculty Center for Innovation, Campus Center faculty meetings, etc.).
- Assisted and presented via the University Curriculum Committee the revamping of Social Work Specializations to include Child Welfare, Macro, Military, and School

Social Work.

- Assisting with Designing and onboarding new MSW Curriculum Advanced Generalist.
- Onboarded over 100 graduate students this Fall 2024.

### **Assistant Professor School of Social Work**

Norfolk State University

Norfolk, Virginia

August 2018-May 2019

- Classes taught included 690/790 Field Seminar I and Field Seminar II
- SWK 730 Differential Assessment Summer 2018 and Spring 2019
- Served as MSW Graduate Organization Advisor
- Served on various University School Wide Committees

### **Adjunct Teaching Experience**

Norfolk State University

Norfolk, Virginia

January 2018-August 2018

- Taught Graduate level classes to include Field Seminar and Differential Assessment for Clinical Practice (Advance Standing Students Summer 2018)
- Taught Undergraduate class in Social Welfare Policy and Services

### **School Social Worker**

Newport News Public Schools System

Newport News, Virginia

July 1998-August 2018

Provide direct support and interventions to students, consult with teachers, families, and other school-employed mental health professionals (i.e., school counselors, school social psychologists) to improve support strategies to promote student success. Work closely with school administrators to improve school-wide practices and policies and collaborate with community providers to coordinate needed services. Perform a myriad of services, including but not limited to:

- Provide counseling for at risk children/teenagers in special and general education populations.
- Provide In-home counseling.

- Present written and oral social history reports to the Department of Special Education Eligibility Committee.
- Promote positive behavior and mental health by reinforcing appropriate coping, problem solving, anger management, and conflict resolution skills. Assess students' emotional and behavioral needs. Perform individual and group counseling as needed.
- Create a safe and positive school climate by implementing and promoting positive discipline, preventing bullying, and other forms of violence. Assist with implementation of school-wide positive behavioral support and identify "at risk" students and school vulnerabilities. Provide crisis prevention and intervention services as needed.
- Strengthen Family–School Partnerships by helping families understand their child's learning and mental health needs. Enhance staff understanding and responsiveness to diverse cultures and backgrounds, while engaging families with school staff. Assist students during their transitions between school and community learning environments, such as residential treatment or juvenile justice programs.
- Improve school-wide assessment and accountability by monitoring individual student progress in academics and behavior, while collecting and analyzing data for "at risk" students.
- Work with a multi-disciplinary team which includes Principals, Teachers, Guidance Counselors, Psychologists, Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board, a member of Family Assessment Planning Team, and other Community Agencies.
- Work with the intellectually disabled, emotionally disabled, learning disabled, and multi-disabled populations.
- Provided in services and professional development seminars for school system staff.

### **Doctoral Teacher's Assistant**

Norfolk State University  
Norfolk, Virginia  
8/2002- 5/2003

- Assisted with class discussion of research for Master's level students
- Assisted with class preparation materials
- Taught research to include evaluative procedures to assess effectiveness of planned intervention as well as usefulness.

### **Medical Social Worker**

Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
Hampton, Virginia  
3/1997-7/1998

- Worked on the Medicine and Surgical floors which served approximately 60 Veterans.
- Served on a Multi-Disciplinary Team which consists of Medical Doctor,

Psychologist, Chaplain, Social Worker, and Nurse Practitioner.

- Collaborated with the Treatment Team to locate appropriate placement for the
- Veterans, contract Nursing Homes, Community Residential Care Facilities, Palliative Care Unit, Home Health, and Substance Abuse Treatment Program.
- Provided counseling for the Veterans' families including families with adolescents that are dealing with bereavement issues, domestic violence, sexual assault, substance abuse issues, and anger/abandonment issues.
- Facilitated health groups to include medical and psychosocial concerns.

### **Client Services Coordinator**

Peninsula AIDS Foundation  
Newport News, Virginia  
6/1996- 3/1997

- Provided individual, group, and family counseling.
- Facilitated support/educational groups for HIV positive and AIDS diagnosed clients.
- Served as a client advocate and liaison between client, physician, and other agencies.
- Provided daily case management for a caseload of over seventy clients.
- Developed and maintained evaluative procedures to ensure services match clients' needs.

### **Social Worker Trainee**

Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
Social Work Service  
Hampton, Virginia  
8/1995-5/1996

- Provided terminally ill patients and their families an opportunity to explore bereavement issues, which included unresolved issues or concerns.
- Helped to coordinate community resources and activities for HIV/AIDS patients as well as terminally ill patients on the Palliative Care Unit.
- Member of the Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Program Team, which focused on the patients and their families' issues, or concerns. The team consists of a Social Worker, Psychologist, Medical Doctor, Nurse Practitioner, Pharmacist,



and Chaplain.

### **Adult Facilitator**

Healthy Families Partnership Hampton, Virginia  
9/1994-9/2020

- Conducted parent training programs, utilizing knowledge of child rearing techniques, child management and assertive parenting.
- Facilitated self-help and support groups for parents, children, and military families. growth and development and other parent skills.
- Worked with the parents of at-risk youth to improve their coping and communication skills with their children.

### **Youth and Family Advocate**

C. Waldo Scott Center  
Newport News, Virginia  
8/1994-5/1995

- Extensive contact with youth to help plan and coordinate activities.
- Lead organized groups concerning self-esteem issues.
- Worked with "at risk" and emotionally challenged youth and their families.
- Provided counseling for severely emotionally disturbed children from toddlers to age eighteen.
- Provided resources and assistance to the entire "at-risk" family to include, parent(s), and siblings who receive mental health care.
- Designed a self-esteem workshop for adolescents and teens entitled, Mirror Image.

### **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE:**

Provided supervision for several social work graduate students as well as practicum students. Currently, MSW Program Director. Faculty advisor for MSW-GO graduate organization at Norfolk State University for 2 years. Also, served as a committee member doctoral student's dissertation committee.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CERTIFICATIONS:**

Earned Tenure and Promotion May 2024-Associate Professor

Accepted and Completed the Academic Leadership at Pennsylvania State University (June 2023)

Accepted to the Council on Social Work Education: Program Director's Academy (2020-2022 and graduated in November 2022)

Instrumental in MSW the successful Accrediting of the MSW Program at Norfolk State University 2022

Certified as an Online Instructor

ACUE certified Online Instructor

Certified in Conflict Resolution

Trained in Crisis Intervention

### **Courses Taught – BSW and MSW Programs Norfolk State University | School of Social Work**

- **Spring 2018**
  - SWK 207 – Social Welfare Policies (BSW)
  - SWK 690B – Field Seminar I (MSW)
- **Fall 2018**
  - SWK 690 – Field Seminar I (MSW)
- **Spring 2019**
  - SWK 207 – Social Welfare Policies (BSW)
- **Summer 2019**
  - SWK 730 – Differential Assessment (MSW)
- **Fall 2019**
  - SWK 730 – Differential Assessment (MSW)
  - SWK 775 – Social Work with Families (MSW)
- **Spring 2020**
  - SWK 730 – Differential Assessment (MSW)
  - SWK 771 – Social Work with Individuals (MSW)
- **Fall 2020**
  - SWK 626 – Human Behavior and the Social Environment (MSW)
- **Spring 2021**
  - SWK 714 – Differential Approaches to Treatment (MSW)
  - SWK 591 – Independent Study (MSW)
  - SWK 730 – Differential Assessment (MSW)
- **Summer 2021**
  - SWK 730 – Differential Assessment (MSW)
  - SWK 651 – Social Welfare Policy and Services (MSW)
- **Fall 2021**
  - SWK 626 – Human Behavior and the Social Environment (MSW)
  - SWK 775 – Social Work with Families (MSW)

- SWK 690/693 – Field Orientation I (MSW)
  - SWK 790/793 – Field Orientation II (MSW)
- **Spring 2022**
  - SWK 714 – Differential Approaches to Treatment (MSW)
  - SWK 730 – Differential Assessment (MSW)
- **Summer 2022**
  - SWK 753 – School Social Work (MSW)
- **Fall 2022**
  - SWK 771 – Social Work with Individuals (MSW)
  - SWK 775 – Social Work with Families (MSW)
  - SWK 529 – Social Work with Military Families (MSW)
  - SWK 626 – Human Behavior and the Social Environment (MSW)
- **Spring 2023**
  - SWK 591 – Independent Studies in Social Work (MSW)
  - SWK 730 – Differential Assessment (MSW)
- **Summer 2023**
  - SWK 730 – Differential Assessment (MSW)
- **Fall 2023**
  - SWK 730 – Differential Assessment (MSW)
  - SWK 591 – Independent Studies in Social Work (MSW)
- **Spring 2024**
  - SWK 753 – School Social Work (MSW)
- **Summer 2024**
  - SWK 651 – Social Welfare Policy and Services (MSW)
- **Fall 2024**
  - SWK 779 – Advanced Generalist Practice with Individuals (MSW)
  - SWK 780 – Advanced Generalist Practice with Families (MSW)
- **Spring 2025**
  - SWK 781 – Advanced Generalist Practice with Communities, Groups, and Organizations (MSW)
  - SWK 753 – School Social Work (MSW)
  - SWK 779 – Advanced Generalist Practice with Individuals (MSW)
- **Summer 2025**
  - SWK 639 – Diversity, Inclusion, and Oppression (MSW)