

**Antwan Jefferson, PhD**  
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**Education**

University of Colorado Denver, 5/2013  
PhD, Educational Leadership and Innovation  
Emphasis: Family-School Interaction  
Dissertation: “(Un)Invited Families: Locating the Institutional Power of School at Work Against the Involvement of Families”

Brown University, Providence, RI, 05/2000  
MAT: Secondary English Education

Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA, 05/1999  
BA: English

**Current Professional Experience**

8/20 to present	<i><b>Clinical Associate Professor</b></i>	School of Education & Human Development (SEHD), University of Colorado Denver, Denver, CO
<p><b>Instruct</b> undergraduate and graduate courses in education, development, families and communities. <b>Create</b> new undergraduate and graduate courses. <b>Direct</b> research of 10-15 Doctorate of Education (Leadership for Educational Equity) students and 1-2 PhD students. <b>Secure</b> national grant funds to support community-university partnerships (\$100K) and other scholarly efforts. <b>Faculty leadership</b> to the SEHD Office of Partnerships to identify, cultivate and sustain partnerships with 30+ organizations in and near Denver. <b>Leadership</b> of University’s Equity Task Force (Oct 2020-May 2021), Core Curriculum Oversight Committee (2018-2021), Strategic Planning Steering Committee (Jan-May 2021)</p>		

Recent awards: SEHD Leadership in Service (2016); SEHD Leadership in Teaching (2017); CU Denver Chancellor’s Urban Engaged Scholars (2018); CU Denver Rosa Parks Diversity Award (2021)

**CU Denver Leadership for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

8/21 to present	Co-chair CU Denver Institutional Equity Advocacy Council (IEAC)	Co-lead team of 7 staff, faculty and students to move forward recommendations from Equity Task Force. Establish 5 priority goals for 2021-22 academic year and co-lead Council in accomplishing these goals.
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8/21 to present	Vice Chancellor for DEI - Equity Fellow	<p>During over the 2021-2022 academic year, the fellowship will include two primary responsibilities:</p> <p>1. To advise VCDEI and carry forward the next phase of the Equity Task Force’s work (now the IEAC) on issues of concern to underrepresented students, faculty, and staff as outlined in the ETF report (April 2021); and,</p>
		<p>2. To lead work on efforts that support equity, diversity and inclusion efforts at CU Denver as agreed upon in consultation with the VCDEI.</p>
10/20 to 4/21	Co-chair CU Denver Equity Task Force	<p>Lead team of 17 staff, students, and faculty, to examine the nature of equity-related challenges at CU Denver, including structural barriers to hiring and promoting underrepresented faculty and staff. Effectively expanded the group to nearly 100 through open invitation to the entire CU Denver community to facilitate broad input into equity issues at the university, particularly in areas of structural and environmental barriers to success of students, faculty, and staff.</p> <p>Develop targeted recommendations to CU Denver Chancellor Michelle Marks towards use of funds to move the campus toward its 2030 goal of being an exemplar equity serving institution.</p>

**National, Regional and State Leadership (2015-20)**

10/18 to Present	<a href="#">Denver Journal of Education and Community</a>	Founder, Editor in Chief
<p><b>Lead</b> development of community-based education journal. <b>Secure</b> \$165K operational funds. <b>Structure</b>, host, lead community-based dialogues. <b>Develop Journal</b> issue. <b>Copy edit</b> Journal content. <b>Contribute</b> to Journal issue.</p>		
6/15 to present	<a href="#">Urban Research Based Action Network (URBAN)</a>	Co-chair, Colorado Node
<p><b>Lead</b> development of statewide collaboration of community leaders, educators, and researchers interested in educational and social equity. <b>Secured</b> national foundation support (\$65K; Ford Foundation, Spencer Foundation) to host national community-university research conference (Denver, May 2018).</p>		

7/17 to present	<a href="#">Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education</a>	Commissioner; Executive Committee
<b>Represent</b> Colorado delegation of commissioners to ensure higher education access. <b>Partner</b> with commission delegation from 16 territories and states in Western US region. Executive Committee (2019-present), Programs and Services Committee (2017-19).		
5/2017-1/18	<a href="#">Denver Public Schools, Strengthening Neighborhoods Initiative</a>	Co-Chair
<b>Lead</b> committee of 40 community leaders. Develop, review, lead bi-monthly meetings. <b>Identify high-leverage priorities</b> to increase school integration in DPS.		
5/2015-5/2017	<a href="#">Grassroots Youth and Community Organizing</a>	Co-chair
<b>Lead</b> national network of university researchers, youth organizers, and community organizations. <b>Host</b> national conference events.		

### Publications

- Jefferson**, A. and Kirshner, B. (2021). Inquiry in place: Collaborative research as strategy for resistance to displacement. The Assembly: [A Journal for Public Scholarship on Education](#). CU Boulder. Issue 3 - Special Issue Spring 2021
- Esquibel, T. & **Jefferson**, A. (2020). “DPS should develop family-based measurements of school quality.” The Denver Urban Spectrum, 10.
- Jefferson**, A., Gutierrez, C., & Silverstein, L. (December 2018, Urban Review). “Liberatory Public Education: A framework for centering community and democracy in public education.”
- Kirshner, B. & **Jefferson**, A. (2015) “Participatory democracy and struggling schools: Making space for youth in school turnarounds,” Teachers College Record 117(6).
- Jefferson**, A. (2015). “Examining Barriers to Equity: School Policies and Practices Prohibiting Interaction of Families and Schools,” The Urban Review, 1-17.

### Community Publications (2015-21)

- Salazar, M., **Jefferson**, A., Rodriguez, J., Mackey, J., Allen, B., and Trinidad, T., (Sept. 2021). Educational Quality and Equity in Denver Public Schools. RootED Foundation.
- Jefferson**, A. (Jan. 2021). Distinguishing School Work from Police Work: A Case Study of Aurora Public Schools Relationship to Aurora Police Department. Rose Community Foundation.
- Jefferson**, A. and McCune, P. (Mar. 2020). [Engagement Report: Family Decision-making](#).
- Jefferson**, A. (June 2019). [Aligning Denver Public Schools’ Equity Efforts](#). Report to Denver Public Schools Board of Education.
- Jefferson**, A. (Mar. 2019). Towards Racial Equity: Racial equity reflection and facilitation resource guide. Students for Sustainable Drug Policy.
- Jefferson**, A. (Mar. 2018). Open Response to A Plus Colorado Orange Paper: Learn Together, Live Together: A Call to Integrate Denver’s Schools.

**Jefferson, A., Romero-Campbell, D., & Sinden, J., (Jan. 2018).** [Strengthening Neighborhoods Committee report to the Denver Public Schools Board of Education.](#)

Schools, Our Voices, Our. (May 2018). Public Resolution of Support to Rise Up Community School response to uninvited Denver Police Department presence and action.

Centering Youth project (December 2015). In partnership with Anthony Grimes; James Roy, II; Nathan Carter; Joshua Ford. Facilitate and moderate youth dialogue with Denver Mayor Michael Hancock to address workforce development, public safety and education.

### **K-12 Classroom Experience**

English Teacher: Denver Public Schools, Montbello High School, Denver, CO 07/02 to 06/05

English Teacher: Norfolk Public Schools, Maury High School, Norfolk, VA 08/00 to 06/02

English Teacher: Central Falls School District, Central Falls High School, Central Falls, RI 05/00 to 07/00

### **Scholarly Service and Leadership**

#### National Service

- Co-Chair: Colorado Node of Urban Research Based Action Network ([URBAN](#)) (2015-present)
  - Planned 2018 national community-based collaborative research conference; secured funds from CU Denver, Spencer Foundation, Ford Foundation
- Co-Chair: Grassroots Youth and Community Organizing (GYCO) Special Interest Group (SIG) of American Educational Research Association (AERA) (2015-17)
- Urban Research-based Action Committee – National Planning Team (2017-2020)

#### Service: State of Colorado

- Commissioner: Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (2017-present)
  - Executive Committee (2019-present)

#### Service: University of Colorado Denver

- Equity Task Force; co-chair (2020-21)
- Core Curriculum Oversight Committee (2016-present; chair 2018-2021)
- Executive Committee: University of Colorado Denver Association of Lecturers and Instructors (UCDALI) (2012-2014)
- University of Colorado Denver Alumni Association, Board of Directors (2015-2019)

#### Service: School of Education and Human Development, University of Colorado Denver

- Student Committee (2018-2022)
- Leadership and Finance Committee (2015-2017)
- Diversity Committee (2012-2015)
- Non-tenure track faculty Merit Review Committee (2012-2014)

#### Service: Local Community

- Denver Public Schools

- Strengthening Neighborhoods Initiative (2017-18, co-chair)
- Family and Community Engagement Advisor (2019-2021)
- Office of Equity and Engagement - Advisor (2019-2021)
- Near Northeast Community Engagement School, Founding Team (2014-2016)

### **University Teaching Experience**

University of Colorado Denver, School of Education and Human Development

#### Human Development and Family Relations Program

- HDFR 3020: Black and Latino Children (Developed, 2015)
- HDFR 3002: Preparing to be a Helping Professional
- HDFR 4010: Family and Cultural Diversity (Developed, 2015)
- HDFR 4260: Family Systems and Social Justice (Developed, 2015)
- HDFR 7260: Family Diversity and Social Justice (Developed, 2017)

#### Doctorate in Education (EdD), Leadership for Educational Equity

- EDFN 7410: Power and Privilege: The Social Construction of Difference
- EDFN 7420: Foundations of Education in Urban and Diverse Communities
- DSEP 8994 Seminar: Urban and Diverse Communities (Developed, 2015)

#### Urban Community Teacher Education Program

- UEDU 5010: Social Foundations and Cultural Diversity in Urban Education
- UEDU 5020: Co-Developing Culturally Responsive Classroom Environments
- SPED 5030: Data-Informed Decision Making for Diverse Learners
- CLDE 5180: Working with Families and Communities (Developed, 2014)
- FNDS 5180: History of Schooling in the US (Developed, 2014) ● UEDU 1930: Community-based Internship Seminar ● Site Professor: UEDU 5933:
  - Internship and Site Seminar- George Washington High School (Denver, CO)
  - Internship and Site Seminar- Montbello High School (Denver, CO)

### **Publications in Preparation**

**Jefferson, A., Zion, S. Nagib, N., & Weiss, K.** (in preparation, Review of Research in Education).  
 “Critical Meta-synthesis of Family Engagement Literature.”

**Silverstein, L., Gutierrez, C., & Jefferson, A.** (in preparation, Teaching and Teacher Education).  
 “Shifts in identity: Developing a critical community identity in pre-service teachers.”

### **Other Forms of Scholarship**

#### Collaborative Research

PEACE Collective Research Group. Research Emphasis: Education experiences of Black, Brown, and Indigenous children and families (2020-present)

Community-based Education/Teacher Education Research Community. University of Colorado

Denver, School of Education and Human Development. Research Emphasis: Intersection of Community and Public Education (2016-2018)

Qualitative Metasynthesis Research Community. In partnership with Rowan University Center for Access, Success, and Equity. Research Emphasis: Educator implications in Family Engagement Scholarship: Analysis of Power, Capital and Intersectionality (2018-2019)

#### Community Scholarship

- Editor/Founder: Denver Journal of Education and Community.
  - Scholarly Emphasis: Diverse community perspectives of education in the Denver metro region.

#### Practitioner Tools and Reports

**Jefferson, A. & McCune, P.** (February 2020). Family Engagement Landscape Analysis. Report to RootED Foundation (Denver, CO)

**Jefferson, A.** (June 2019). Aligning Denver Public Schools' Equity Efforts. Report to Denver Public Schools Board of Education.

**Jefferson, A.** (Mar. 2019). Towards Racial Equity. Students for Sustainable Drug Policy.

**Jefferson, A.** (Mar. 2018). Open Response to A Plus Colorado Orange Paper: Learn Together, Live Together: A Call to Integrate Denver's Schools.

**Jefferson, A., Romero-Campbell, D., & Sinden, J.,** (Jan. 2018). Strengthening Neighborhoods Committee report to the Denver Public Schools Board of Education.

Centering Youth project (December 2015). In partnership with Anthony Grimes; James Roy, II; Nathan Carter; Joshua Ford. Facilitate and moderate youth dialogue with Denver Mayor Michael Hancock to address workforce development, public safety and education. **Jefferson, A. & Grimes, A.** (2014). Our vision for a new US society. 99th State.

#### Research Presentations

April 2020

**Jefferson, A.** AERA Presidential Session: Centering Communities in Education Reform. 2020 meeting of American Educational Research Association. San Francisco, CA.

April 2017

**Jefferson, A.** Centering Community Towards a Liberatory Public Education, roundtable presentation at 2017 meeting of American Educational Research Association. San Antonio, TX.

February 2017

**Jefferson, A., Gutierrez, C. & Silverstein, L.** Centering the Community in Public Education (accepted). Critical Questions in Education conference. New Orleans, LA.

October 2016

**Jefferson, A.** Community, Family, then School. Circle Conference. Denver, CO.

June 2016

**Jefferson, A. & Peralta, A.** Investigating Social Justice for Family Systems. Family Science Association Conference. Estes Park, CO.

April 2014

Abel, Y., Catone, K., Galindo, C., Hong, S., **Jefferson**, A. (convener), McAlister, S., & Sanders, M. Critical Perspectives on Family Engagement: A Forward-Thinking Dialogue. 17th International Roundtable on School, Family and Community Partnerships. Philadelphia, PA.

- **Jefferson**, A. Schools of Thought: Finding variations in family and school understandings of the purpose of school.

October 2013

**Jefferson**, A. Individuals vs. Institution: Family involvement in a colonizing school environment. Black Doctoral Network Conference. Philadelphia, PA.

July 2013

Sobel, D., Elliott, L., **Jefferson** A. Intentional Planning That Moves Beyond Appended Special Education Content and Practices. OSEP Project Directors' Conference. Washington, D.C. April 2013

**Jefferson**, A. Exploring the Currents and Collisions of Families and Local Communities and Schools, for Presentation at 2013 Annual Meeting of American Educational Research Association (San Francisco, CA). Division G – Social Context of Education: Section 5: Social Context of Research on Schools and Communities

April 2012

Arnold, S. Gutierrez, C. **Jefferson**, A., Sobel, D. Enriching the student's world through school, family, and community partnerships, for Presentation at CEC (Council for Exceptional Children) 2012 Annual Convention and Expo (Denver, CO) April 2012

**Jefferson**, A., Zion, S., Sands, D. Searching for Socially Just Practices in Schools: A Self-Study and Planning Process, for Presentation at CEC (Council for Exceptional Children) 2012 Annual Convention and Expo (Denver, CO)

April 2012

**Jefferson**, A. Reconceptualizing Family-School Interaction using Thirdspace Theory, for Presentation at 2012 Annual Meeting of American Educational Research Association (Vancouver, BC). Division G – Social Context of Education: Section 5: Social Context of Research on Schools and Communities

November 2011

Sobel, D., Elliott, L., **Jefferson**, A., Daily, N. Maximizing a wealth of online resources with culturally responsive graphic organizers. Presented at Teacher Education Division (TED) Conference (San Antonio, TX)

October 2011

**Jefferson**, A. & Zion, S. Exploring Teachers' Perceptions of the Families of Urban and Diverse Students: Connecting Perceptions to Practice. Presented at Colorado Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) Fall 2011 Conference (Denver, CO)

July 2011

**Jefferson**, A. Theorizing the Thirdspace of Family-School Interaction. Presented at Sixth International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences 2011 (New Orleans, LA)

April 2011

**Jefferson**, A., & Zion, S. Uncovering Teachers' Perceptions of Family: How Engaging with Urban and Diverse Families Can Affect Professional Practice. AERA Division K – Teaching and Teacher Education (New Orleans, LA)

## Invited Presentations

March 2019

**Jefferson, A.** From radical, to reflective, to redemptive. A presentation to the International Conference of Students for Sustainable Drug Policy. Chicago, IL.

January 2019

Sampson, D. & **Jefferson, A.** Stop and you won't get killed. A presentation to the Engaging Children of Color Summit and Conference, Colorado Springs, CO.

June 2018

**Jefferson, A.** Racial justice as a guiding framework in the War on Drugs. A presentation to the Students for Sustainable Drug Policy. Denver, CO.

January 2014

**Jefferson, A.** Engaging young men of color to diversify pedagogy and strategies to enact culturally responsive classroom communities. A presentation to education professionals. Denver Public Schools. Denver, CO.

August 2013

**Jefferson, A.** The implications of Race and Gender on the Learning Experiences of Black and Latino Male students. A presentation to the staff of the Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Denver. Denver, CO.

April 2013

**Jefferson, A.** Locating a Phenomenon: Working with Boys of Color. A presentation to Ponderosa PASS. Cherry Creek School District, Aurora, CO.

March 2013

**Jefferson, A.** Learning While Black: How to Support African American Boys in Schools from the lens of Resilience. Culturally Responsive Speakers Bureau, Denver Public Schools. Denver, CO.

January 2013

**Jefferson, A. & Bohanan, B.** Dismissing the Myth of Disinterest: Acknowledging and Building on the Contributions and Potential of Families of Color to Advocate for their Children. Educating Children of Color Summit. Colorado College. Colorado Springs, CO.

October 2012

**Jefferson, A.** Away from engagement: Enacting socially just practices toward decolonized family-school interaction. National Network for Educational Renewal. Denver, CO.

July 2011

Zion, S. & **Jefferson, A.** Exploring the Opportunity Gap. Summer Migrant Youth Leadership Institute. Regis University, Denver, CO.

April 2011

Zion, S. & **Jefferson, A.** Transforming Education, Empowering People. Colorado Department of Education Language, Culture, and Equity Department Annual Conference. Denver, CO. April 2011

**Jefferson, A.** Empowering Parents Toward Critical School Engagement. Anschutz Medical Campus Health Professional Opportunity Day. Denver, CO.

## **Organizational Leadership**

01/07 to 08/10

**Director, Christian Vocational Training School - Aurora, CO**



-Developed community-based school for non-traditional adults; established fiscal sustainability model for school, focused on affordability and accessibility; identified, hired, evaluated staff; developed course evaluation and full course schedule (60 courses in total); co-managed \$2+mil budget of parent organization; led all branding and marketing efforts; managed volunteers and supervised staff.

### **Board Service and Leadership**

Build a Better Colorado (11/20-5/21)

Ednum: The Alumni Collective

- Board of Directors (2020-present)

Colorado Youth Congress

- Board of Directors (2021-present)

Mile High Ministries

- Board of Directors (2014-present; chair 2016-18)
- Budget: \$5.2mil

Park Hill Collective Impact

- Board of Advisors (2015-2017); Board of Directors (2018; chair 2018-2020) ● Budget: \$1.6mil

Denver Metro Community Impact

- Board of Directors (2020-present; chair 2020-21)
- Budget: \$500,000

Near Northeast Community Engagement School

- Board of Directors (2014-16; chair 2014-16)
- Budget: \$465,000

Denver Public Schools

- Family and Community Engagement Advisor (2019-present)
- Office of Equity - Advisor (2019-present)

University of Colorado Denver Alumni Association

- Board of Directors (2015-2019)

Colorado Christian Fellowship

- Board of Directors (2007-11)
- Budget: \$2mil

Global Change Network, USA

- Board of Directors (2010-14; chair 2012-14)

Highline Academy, Advisory Board (2014-2016)

Northern Corridor Coalition (2013-2019; vice-chair 2015-18)

Denver African American Philanthropists (DAAP) (2012-present)

Leadership Denver (2017; class project – Race Relations)

## Other Indicators of Scholarship

### Special Projects

Founding Editor: Denver Journal of Education and Community. Community-sourced education publication.

Co-Founder: Near Northeast Community Engagement School (Denver, CO). Approved (2014) Denver Charter Middle School

### Funded Grants

**Jefferson**, A. (2021). The Wend Collective. \$50,000.

**Jefferson**, A. (2020). The Denver Foundation. \$15,000.

**Jefferson**, A. (2020). RootEd Foundation. \$30,000.

**Jefferson**, A. (2019). Gates Family Foundation. \$25,000.

**Jefferson**, A. (2019). RootEd Foundation. \$15,000.

**Jefferson**, A. (2019). Donnell-Kay Foundation. \$5,000.

**Jefferson**, A., Kirshner, B. (January 2018). Ford Foundation, \$15,000.

**Jefferson**, A., Kirshner, B., (May 2018). Spencer Foundation. \$50,000.

Sirakavit, R., **Jefferson**, A. (November 2016). Colorado Department of Education. \$469,500.

**Jefferson**, A. (August 2016). Faculty Development Grant. \$1000.

Stickney, D., Zion, S., **Jefferson**, A. (November 2015). Colorado Department of Education. \$405,000.

**Jefferson**, A. (October 2014). Denver Foundation. \$2000.

**Jefferson**, A. & Zion S. (June 2014). Buck Foundation. \$20,000

Zion, S., Arnold, S., **Jefferson**, A., & Ream, J. (November 2011). “Better Together: Engaging Stakeholders at the Convergence of Education and Health in Urban Communities”. UCD Diversity and Excellence grants, \$2300.

Mitchell, K., Gutierrez, C., **Jefferson**, A., Matias, C., & McDermott, J. (November 2011). “Recruiting, Supporting and Retaining Students from Diverse Backgrounds in Urban Community Teacher Education.” UCD Diversity & Excellence grants, \$3000.

Zion, S., Arnold, S., **Jefferson**, A., & Ream, J. (October 2010). “Narrative and Counter Narrative in the Debate about Urban School Reform.” UCD Diversity and Excellence grants, \$3000.

### Grants Under Review

**Jefferson**, A. CEO Funders Collaborative. Denver, CO. (requested 10/21). CEO Funders Collaborative. Denver, CO. “Development of Denver-Regional Education Research and Data Hub. \$943,000.

### Unfunded Grants

Zion, S., Espinoza, M., & **Jefferson**, A. (October 2010). Education as the Practice of Freedom Certificate Development Grant, Colorado Department of Higher Education, \$18,000. **Jefferson**, A & Sirakavit, R. (November 2016). Anschutz Foundation. \$125,000.

### Invited Panels

September 2015: NAACP: Denver Education Conference

September 2013: Colorado Black Round Table: Losing Ground Community Conference

November 2011: Denver Justice Conference

September 2011: Center for Culturally Responsive Urban Education: Equity in Education Film Festival

### Facilitated Trainings

2020

CEO Funders Collaborative. Denver, CO.

Develop and facilitate leadership retreat for local, education focused non-profit organizations and funders in the Denver metro area.

2018

Juvenile Services Planning Continuum. City and County of Denver.

Develop and facilitate leadership retreat for aligning juvenile services planning for multi-agency continuum.

Transformational Leadership. Buck Foundation.

Co-organized and co-facilitated retreat for 20 community organization leaders in the Denver metro area.

Social Equity in STEM. Colorado Education Initiative.

Co-facilitated grant-funded training for secondary computer science teachers in rural Colorado, focused on racial and gender equity.

2017

From Respect to Action: Exploring the merits of social justice on campus and in society.

University of Denver. Housing and Residential Education Winter Training. Facilitated Professional Development training for residence life staff at local, private university.

2012-2013

Teachers Working Together to Develop and Implement Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Practices.

Co-Facilitated multi-day Professional Development training for faculty at Bruce Randolph Middle-High School.

2010-2012

Transforming Schools for Social Justice Self-Study Team

Facilitated several full- and one half-day trainings for Professional Development School self-study teams

2010

Littleton High School (Littleton, CO)

Co-Developed and led 3-day training for all high school faculty (75) on Culturally Responsive Practices. With Shelley Zion, Suzanne Arnold, Jenna Ream

2007-2010

Christian Vocational Training School (Aurora, CO)

Developed training materials and delivered training through facilitation of six full-day volunteer faculty training and orientation meetings.

### **Professional Organizations**

#### Current

AERA: American Educational Research Association (2010)

Past Co-chair: Grassroots Youth and Community Organizing SIG (2015-2017)

URBAN: Urban Research Based Action Network (2016)

Co-chair: Colorado Node

Former

AACTE: American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education (2015)

National Black Doctoral Association (2013-16)

Council for Exceptional Children (2010-13)

International Society for Interdisciplinary Social Sciences (2011-12)