

Vocations in Racial Justice:

Trans-disciplinary Activist/Practitioner/Scholar (TAPS)

ViA Award, Cycle 2016



What We Do:

- The TAPS mission is to prepare students to center racial justice in their vocations and in their careers.
- The TAPS team is developing a curriculum that brings together students from across disciplines with community mentors for structured, praxis-based educational programming that cultivates students as Trans-disciplinary Activist/Practitioner/Scholars, agents of racial justice.
- This curriculum will seed current undergraduate and graduate degree programs and trans-disciplinary efforts on campus.

Why We Do It:

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail"

An educational and experiential regimen preparing students to work for racial justice within and through their fields is unprecedented; most people doing racial justice work have labored throughout their careers to teach themselves how to apply their expertise specifically to racial concerns. We are designing a robust toolkit that equips students to understand and address racism through the lens of their particular studies.

Who's Involved?

TAPS is led by Primary Investigator Rev. Dr. Dale P. Andrews, and employs two Program Fellows, Casey Miller, MDiv, and Carlin Rushing, MDiv, as well as an HBCU qualitative researcher from Fisk University, Rodrigo Robles, and three Vanderbilt research assistants: Robyn Du, Malik Hollingsworth, and Chukwukpee Nzegwu. The TAPS team is also collaborating with a host of campus partners and Nashville community organizations.

Campus Partners

Sandra Barnes, Professor and Associate Chairperson, Peabody College of Education and Human Development

Frank Dobson, Assistant Dean and Director, Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center

Dennis Dickerson, Professor of History, College of Arts & Science

Rolanda Johnson, Assistant Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing

Matthew Walker III, Associate Professor of the Practice of Bioengineering, School of Engineering

Daniel Sharfstein, Professor of Law, Law School

Gretchen Person, Associate University Chaplain and Associate Director of Religious Life, Office of the University Chaplain and Religious Life

Community Partners

Children's Defense Fund, Family of Abraham, Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center, Scarritt Bennett Center, Tennessee Alliance for Progress, The Social Justice Program at Vanderbilt Law School and the Wond'ry

Trans-Institutional *Programs*