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Benika Dixon is a Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) candidate in the School of Public Health at Texas A&M University. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from Southern Connecticut State University and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Spelman College in Atlanta, GA. Benika is a founding fellow of the William Averette Anderson Fund and previously served as the secretary and vice chairperson of the student advisory council.

Prior to attending Texas A&M University, Benika was enrolled in the DrPH program at Morgan University where she served as a research associate for the *Why Culture Matter Disaster Studies Project*. Her work as a research associate included the development of the Morgan State University Campus Emergency Response Team as well as partnering with the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and several HBCUs to develop the HBCU Emergency Management Consortium. Her research interests include disaster related public health impacts on racial and ethnic minorities, cultural diversity in the hazards/disaster workforce and more.

Benika is currently employed as a preparedness epidemiologist with the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department. Previously I worked for Baltimore City Health Department Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (OPHPR) as the public health emergency planner.