

Briana R. DeGrate, MPA

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EDUCATION

Texas A&M University, College Station

2016- Present

College of Architecture

College Station, Texas

Doctor of Philosophy in Urban and Regional Science

August 2022- Present

Research interest in Equitable Housing, Housing Policy, Hazard Mitigation, and Home Buyout Programs

Fellow of the Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center & Center of Hispanic Housing Studies

Chair: Dr. Shannon Van Zandt

Bush School of Public Service and Administration

College Station, Texas

M.P.A in Public Policy Analysis

May 2022

Concentrations in Housing Policy and U.S. State and Local Government

Certifications: Social Justice & Public Management

Capstone Project: Incorporating Social Determinants of Health in Medicaid: Lessons for Texas

Chair: Dr. Laura Dague

Mays Business School

College Station, Texas

B.S in. Human Resource Management

August 2020

Minors in Business Administration & Communications

Certifications: Texas BAR Certified Mediation & Communication Leadership and Conflict Management

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

2024-2025 Tornado Ready Research Grant, Awarded by the Natural Hazards Center (\$14,440), Project with Dr. Shannon Van Zandt and Faith Jacobs

2024-2025 Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy's - Thrope Fellow, Detroit, Michigan

2023-2024 R. Joseph Reeves Endowed Memorial Scholarship, College Station Texas

2023-2024 George & Mary Lewis Merit Endowment Scholarship, College Station, Texas

2022 Texas A&M Buck Weirus Spirit and Leadership Award, College Station, Texas

2020-2022 George Bush School of Public Service Scholarship Recipient, College Station, TX

2017-2020 Texas A&M Race, Identity, and Social Equality Scholar, College Station, Texas

2017-2021 Texas A&M Foundation Excellence Scholar, College Station, Texas

2016-2022 Texas Scottish Rite Hospital Scholarship Recipient, Dallas, Texas

2016-2020 Bill Gates Millennium Scholar, Dallas, Texas

2016-2020 Texas A&M Century Scholar, College Station, Texas

2016-2019 Dallas Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Recipient, Dallas Texas

2016-2018 Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Recipient, Dallas, Texas

2016-2018 United Negro College Fund Scholarship Recipient, Washington, D.C.

2016-2018 Delta Sigma Theta Sorortiy, Inc. Scholarship Recipient, Dallas, Texas

TEACHING & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2023-Present Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, Texas A&M University, College of Architecture. Research: Harris County Home Buyout Program, Houston, Texas, and Gordons Plaza, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2022-2023 Graduate Assistant, Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, Texas A&M University, College of Architecture.
- 2021-2022 Graduate Assistant. George Bush School of Public Service and Administration, Texas A&M University, College of Political Science.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

George W. Bush School of Public Service and Admin **College Station, Texas**
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Specialist **June 2021 – August 2022**

- Assisted the Assistant Dean for Diversity and the student-led DEI Committee in developing initiatives to foster a more inclusive and diverse student body, showcasing collaborative and leadership skills.
- Conducted research to advance DEI efforts at the Bush School, demonstrating the ability to engage with complex issues and contribute to institutional growth.
- Designed and implemented data collection activities to evaluate and address climate issues, highlighting my analytical skills and commitment to improving the academic environment.
- Analyzed new and existing DEI data and programs to assess their effectiveness and guide the development of sustainable initiatives, showcasing my ability to evaluate and enhance program impact.
- Spearheaded recruitment strategies to attract faculty, staff, and students from diverse backgrounds, emphasizing my dedication to fostering an inclusive academic community.

Brazos County, Texas Human Resources Department **Bryan, Texas**
HR Assisstant **June 2019 - May 2022**

- Managed job openings and descriptions, coordinated administrative functions, and spearheaded community service projects, demonstrating strong organizational and leadership skills applicable to academic settings.
- Collaborated with Payroll and Benefits to set up employee direct deposit, inform employees about their benefits, and manage sick days, highlighting my ability to handle detailed administrative tasks and support staff effectively.
- Managed and processed FMLA paperwork, keeping employees informed of their rights and privileges, and ensuring compliance with federal regulations, which translates to a thorough understanding of institutional policies and procedures.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Posters

DeGrate, Brieana R. “What is Climate Gentrification?” Analyzing Distrust Amongst Minority Populations in Climate Adaptation Efforts” Poster presented at the Department of Landscape and Architecture Symposium, College Station, Texas, 2022.

DeGrate, Brieana R.” Manage Retreat or Gentrification? A Historical Analysis of Minority Distrust in Government” Poster presented at the 2023 Natural Hazards Workshop, Broomfield, CO, 2023

DeGrate, Brieana R.” Manage Retreat or Gentrification? A Historical Analysis of Minority Distrust in Government” Poster presented at the School of Architecture at Texas A&M Annual Showcase’23, College Station, Texas, 2023

DeGrate, Brieana R. “How is Managed Retreat Implemented in Major Metropolitan Areas?: A Case Study of Harris County Home Buyout Program” Poster presented at the Disaster PRIMR 2024: Interfaces of Disaster Conference, College Station, Texas, 2024

Capstone Project

Carrillo, E., Christensen, C., Curry, C., Davis, V., **DeGrate, B.**, Hinojosa, V., ... & Zwahl, R. (2022). Incorporating SDOH in Medicaid: Lessons for Texas.

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

2024-Current President, Black Graduate Student Association, Texas A&M

2024-Current Student Speaker, Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center Student Org, Texas A&M

2022-Current Ph.D. Chair, National Association of Minority Architects, Texas A&M

2022-Current Member, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Texas A&M

2020-Current Grant Coordinator, Edens Place: Foster Home for Girls, Dallas, Texas

2020-Current Community Coordinator, Thurman Perry Foundation, New Orleans, Louisiana

2019-Current Member, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Texas A&M / Dallas, Texas

2017-2022 Community Outreach Chair, Matthew Gaines Statue Society, Texas A&M

2017-2021 Studnet Senator, Student Government Association, Texas A&M

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

2024- Current Fellow, William (Bill) Averette Anderson Fund Fellowship

2022- Current Member, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning

2022- Current Member, National Association of Minority Architects

2022- Current Member, American Planning Association - Texas

2019-Current Member, Texas City Managers Association

2019- Current Member, National Forum of Black Public Administrators - Houston