

Destiny Brown

317-292-0866 • browndes@usc.edu • www.linkedin.com/in/destinyabrown

EDUCATION

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Expected Graduation: May 2029

Ph.D., Urban Planning and Development

Advisor: Dr. Santana Conteras, Ph.D.

University of New Orleans New Orleans, LA

May 2025

M.S., Urban Studies

Thesis: The Role of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in Environmental Governance: A Comparative Policy Study

Thesis Co-Chairs: David Gladstone Ph.D. and Ryan Seidemann Ph.D., J.D.

The Ohio State University Columbus, OH

May 2021

B.A., Political Science, Concentration: Inequality and Justice

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Disaster Risk Reduction

Youth Development

Intergenerational Equity

Participatory Planning

PUBLICATIONS

Hurtado, P., & **Brown, D.** (2025). Decolonizing the future: An inclusive approach to futures. American Planning Association. <https://www.planning.org/publications/document/9303231/>

HONORS & AWARDS

2025 USC Graduate School Ph.D. Tuition Fellowship

2025 - 2029 USC Sol Price School of Public Policy Provost Fellowship

2025 John M. DeBlois Outstanding M.S. in Urban Studies Graduate Student Award

2024 American Planning Association – Louisiana Chapter Scholarship

2023 University of New Orleans Impact Scholarship

2021 Congressional Recognition, United States Representative Andre Carson

2021 Francis R. Aumann Award for Distinguished Senior Achievement

2021 Dr. Patty Legacy Fund Scholarship Award

2021 Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship

2021 Outstanding Senior Award for the Office of Student Life

2021 Student Organization Individual Contribution Award

2021 L. Lee Walker Award

2021 Shirley Chisholm Black Excellence and Leadership Award

2021 Keith and Linda Monda International Experience Scholarship

2020 U.S. Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

2020 Major General Raymond E. Mason Jr. Scholarship

2017 Morrill Scholarship Program: Prominence Scholarship

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Brown, D., Contreras, S., Solis, M., Chozick, L., Horstman, M., and Zarazua, D.

“Understanding the Role of Building Codes in Organizational Disaster Resilience Building Activities” [Poster Presentation], Natural Hazards Center, Natural Hazards Workshop, June 2026.

Brown, D., Orsini Arthur., Ricks, Aminah., Elkott, Fatima., and Weinfeld, Brian. “Youth Engagement for Planners” [Presentation], American Planning Association, National Planning Conference, March 2025.

Brown, D., Zeigler, Karaline. “Using Data to Assess Programmatic Impact and Inform Intervention” [Presentation], 2025 For Our Future Conference, University of Louisiana System, February 2025.

Brown, D., Zeigler, K., Le, C. “Using Data to Assess Programmatic Impact and Inform Intervention” [Presentation], Life After High School Convening, Tulane University, November 2024.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

“Understanding the Role of Building Codes in Organizational Disaster Resilience Building Activities” –United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Research Assistant

May 2026 - Present

- Assist in interviewing and recruiting study participants, adhering to ethical parameters for interviews
- Develop codebook through an iterative approach to thematically analyze 15+ interviews
- Transcribe interviews using [Otter.AI](#) and utilize [Atlas.AI](#) to analyze interview data through deductive thematic analysis
- Present abstract poster at the upcoming Natural Hazards Workshop to build interest in study’s findings

“Bridging the Data Gap: Capturing Ephemeral Data to Enhance Wildfire Resilience and Recovery after the 2025 Los Angeles Fires” –National Science Foundation

Research Assistant

January 2026 —Present

- Review and advance the codebook using interview protocol and recurring themes in data
- Conduct thematic analysis of 40 interview transcripts with [Atlas.AI](#) software
- Organize data to develop research deliverables for future manuscript submissions

“Descriptive and Predictive Analysis of College Persistence Data” [White Paper] –

College Beyond

Independent Contractor

May 2026 —July

2026

- Developed comprehensive descriptive and regression models utilizing STATA to analyze complex datasets
- Collaborated with nonprofit on research design, ensuring alignment with actionable steps
- Utilized Canva to effectively communicate rigorous data analysis to be used as a tool communicate nonprofit impact to potential partners and use for grants/funding

FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

William Averette Anderson Fund

BAF Fellow

September 2026 – Present

College Beyond, New Orleans, LA

Data Fellow

August 2025 — January 2025

- Analyzed persistence data from university partners and the National Clearinghouse to uncover socioeconomic trends of low-income college graduates in Southeast Louisiana, providing recommendations for organizational shifts
- Created surveys using SurveyMonkey for students and families to assess the socioeconomic and basic needs influences on college persistence and enrollment.
- Developed visually compelling reports to effectively communicate key findings and successful programmatic interventions to stakeholders, supporting partnership development and fundraising efforts.

Black Education for New Orleans, New Orleans, LA

Black is Brilliant Institute Fellow

January 2025 — May 2025

- Participated in monthly professional development opportunities to develop a community connected praxis and gain expertise on skills to support students holistically
- Fostered relationships for cross-sector investment in elevating Black history in New Orleans primary, secondary, and postsecondary institutions

John Glenn College of Public Affairs at the Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

John Glenn College of Public Affairs Fellow

August 2019 — December 2019

- Engaged in monthly professional development opportunities and skill-building workshops
- Developed a policy brief through training by researchers at the Congressional Research Service

TEACHING AND FACILITATION EXPERIENCE

PPD 300: Social Justice Issues in Policy and Planning—University of Southern California, Sol Price School for Public Policy

Teaching Assistant, Dr. Levonna Lewis

August 2026 - Present

- Assist in delivering lectures, leading discussion and practice sessions, and hosting weekly office hours
- Support in managing attendance and paperwork, grading assignments, and developing curriculum, homework, and exams.

“Advocacy 101: Training for Youth-Led Advocacy” Workshop— College Beyond, Ambassador Program

Facilitator

June 2026

- Equipped students with the necessary skills to effectively address social issues across micro-, meso-, and macro- levels of advocacy.
- Supported students develop strong communication skills to effectively communicate with various stakeholders

AFS Intercultural Programs, New Orleans, LA

2023 - 2024

Qualified Facilitator

- Contracted by Tulane University's Cowen Institute to train 12 New Orleans-based college access and persistence practitioners on cultural competency and leadership development, resulting in the issuance of ten certifications upon successful program completion.
- Facilitated dialogue sessions focused on group collaboration and discussions to improve student- facing communications and conflict resolution, connecting the material to participants' current roles.

- Managed administrative tasks including tracking progress, conducting outreach, and scheduling.

Teach for America, New Orleans, LA

June 2021 – July 2022

AP World History Teacher, KIPP New Orleans

- Adapted the AP World History curriculum to create culturally relevant lessons that account for learner variability for 117 students.
- Organized events such as a nationwide panel discussion with college students and a poetry showcase for the Black History Month program.
- Demonstrated proficiency in administrative tasks, including lesson planning, grading, and organizational management.
- Sustained a classroom management rate of having classroom participation at 88% or above, consistently delivering engaging lessons across four class periods.

INVITED TALKS, GUEST LECTURES, & FACILITATION

- “Advocacy 101: Training for Youth-Led Advocacy” Facilitator, College Beyond, Ambassador Program, June 2026.
- “Six Generations. One Workplace” Moderator, American Planning Association, Career Center, October 2025.
- “APA Trend Scout Talk” Panel, American Planning Association, APA Foresight, March 2025.
- “Youth, Globalization, and Supply Chains” Guest Lecturer, University of New Orleans, Urban Studies Department, October 2024.
- “O-H-I-Organizing: A Student Perspective on Community Organizing.” Panel, Ohio State University, OSU Votes, March 2021.
- “Activism in Politics.” Panel, Indiana Young Democrats, February 2021.
- “Restoring Faith in American Democracy.” Moderator, The Ohio State University, Education for Citizenship Series, February 2021.
- “40 Acres and a Mule: Wealth, Legacy, and Social Change.” Moderator, The Ohio State University, Department of Social Change, January 2021.
- “Social Activism in Government.” Panel, The Ohio State University, Department of Social Change, October 2020.
- “Grassroots Conversation on Voting.” Panel, Ross Foundation, October 2020.
- “Time and Change: Social Movements on Campus.” Panel, Ohio State University, Alumni Association, September 2020.
- “Panel, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. at Ohio University, September 2020.
- “Our Voice, Our Vote: Black Womxn & Voting Rights.” Panel, New Voices Reproductive Rights Ohio, October 2020.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent Contractor

August 2025 - July 2026

Success Coach

- Lead targeted programming and provide trauma-informed success for students in the McCollum Scholars
- Deliver up to 10 hours of weekly coaching, including one-on-one sessions and group meetings, to advise students on academic, social-emotional, and postsecondary success strategies.

- Support the Executive Director of College Beyond with the administration and allocation of \$80k scholarships for individual students, ensuring critical financial support for their education.
- Document student progress and key milestones in the Overgrad system, utilizing data to support continuous student success and program evaluation.

College Beyond, New Orleans, LA

July 2022 – July 2025

Success Coach, College Program

- Provided trauma-informed success coaching for 150+ Pell-Eligible and DACA students throughout their college journey
- Managed the student ambassador program, redesigning it to integrate student voices into decision-making processes, supervising the social work intern facilitating the program, and making strategic budget decisions.
- Facilitated engaging community circles and workshops, to foster open dialogue among students to share experiences, acquire healthy coping mechanisms, and enhance their sense of belonging. Advocated for expanded basic needs access for college students and improved FAFSA processes by coalition-building at city, state, and federal levels to drive policy change.
- Coordinated and partnered with the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance to provide FAFSA completion support and workshops for the Greater New Orleans area.

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

March 2019 – May 2021

Social Change Ambassador, Department of Social Change

- Supervised the facilitation of Grow. Explore. Mentor programs and Power Hour programs at KIPP Columbus for three semesters and plan curriculum for the Grow. Explore. Mentor Program for 75 K- 12 students, focusing on literacy, science, and wellness.
- Recruited and onboarded over 20 volunteers to contribute to the facilitation of activities within mentoring programs.
- Adjusted to the needs of the Columbus community during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing tutoring and mentoring to middle and high school students at Learning Extension Centers.
- Moderated panel discussions on community concerns such as the Black wealth gap and the role of social activism in government with local nonprofits and the Columbus City Council.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Aug 2020 – Dec 2020

Civic Engagement Organizer

- Utilized the VAN program to reach potential Black voters via phone banking and SMS messaging.
- Mobilized Black voters throughout the country to participate in the general election by making at least 240 phone calls and sending 20,000 text messages daily.
- Spoke on panels and recorded videos for the NAACP Youth and College social media about the importance of voting and ways to combat voter suppression to spread awareness to potential Black voters nationwide.

Ohio Democratic Party, Columbus, OH

January 2020 – April 2020

Intern, Party Engagement Department

- Mobilized citizens to register to vote and go to the polls to ensure the victory of Democratic candidates throughout Ohio.
- Compiled data for several rural counties across the state to boost civic engagement and voter turnout for the upcoming general election.

- Communicated with potential voters across the state to educate them on the civic engagement process.
- Recruited volunteers for different voter engagement events at the state headquarters.

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

February 2019 – January 2020

Diversity Ambassador

- Created an inclusive environment for diverse populations of people on campus
- Extended authentic advice and experiences to prospective college students who are unsure about college processes.

Federal Judicial Center, Washington, D.C.

August 2019 – December 2019

Intern, Education Division

- Compiled data from 9 different programs and developed visualizations with various software to analyze participation by court type, job title, geographical location, and previous affiliation with the FJC.
- Assisted staff in the development of program guides, teaching material, seating charts, and learning tools needed for educational programming across 5 court units, training court unit executives on management and leadership skills.
- Diversified the Executive Edge podcast's lineup of potential guests in collaboration with the assistant director of the education division by creating outreach strategies to include different perspectives and elevate programming.
- Designed and distributed program evaluation questionnaires for 75+ new chief judges, chief deputies, and deputy chiefs across multiple seminars and conferences, with employees synthesizing responses to generate and implement feedback.

United States Senate, Columbus, OH

January 2019 – May 2019

Intern, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown

- Researched necessary information to assist caseworkers with constituents' concerns, handling 20+ cases daily.
- Maintained order of the office by executing tasks such as checking voicemails, faxes, and mail
- Communicated directly with 60+ constituents weekly and represented the Senator's stances on policy issues.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Student Support Co-Chair, The Ohio State University Black Alumni Society	Present
Secretary, Price Ph.D. Student Association	Present
American Planning Association, APA Foresight Community	2024 –Present
Mock Trial, Chartier and Nyamfukudza, PLC	2024
Invest in Louisiana, Louisiana Opportunity Youth Advocacy Day	April 2024
National College Attainment Network Hill Advocacy Day	March 2024
National College Attainment Network State Policy Workgroup	2022–2023
Indiana Representative, College Student Congress	2020
Co-founder, Undergraduate Black Caucus	2020
Director of Governmental Relations, Undergraduate Student Government	2020 – 2021
Student Advisory Council, Morrill Scholarship Program	2018 – 2019

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mental Health First Aid Certification, NAMI New Orleans	2023
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Certified Facilitator, AFS Intercultural Programs	2022
Global Competency Certification, AFS Intercultural Programs	2022
Florida State University, College Life Coaching Institute Training	2022
Culturally Relevant Teaching Pedagogy Training, Adaptive X	2022
Trust-Based Relation Intervention Certification, Crossroads Nola	2022
She Should Run Incubator Program, She Should Run	2019
New Leadership Ohio Program, John Glenn College of Public Affairs	2019

SKILLS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPSS • STATA • Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) • Overgrad CRM • SurveyMonkey • Mailchimp SMS Campaign | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google Suite • ArcGIS • VAN Texting Platform • Atlas.AI • NiVivo • Dedoose |
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PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning	2026 - Present
American Planning Association (ID#: 420663)	2024 – Present
National College Attainment Network	2022 – Present
New Orleans College Attainment Network	2022 – 2025
Louisiana Opportunity Youth Coalition	2024 – 2025