

Elavie Ndura, ED.D.
Biographical Sketch

Dr. Elavie Ndura is a dedicated professional with 30+ years of leadership, scholarship and practice, blending passion and policy to create and implement effective programming and innovative Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs in diverse and complex academic settings. She is a collaborative communicator in English, French, Kirundi, and Swahili who continually enhances relationships and effectively engages stakeholders by breaking barriers to promote diverse yet cohesive, DEI approaches. A talented educator who is well-versed in curriculum design, instruction, research, and student support programs, she is a strategic visionary executive leader, with extraordinary management skills and a keen ability to bring together creative and technical talent to yield impressive results. She is a trusted innovator and mentor who leads cross-functional teams, including colleagues from across the organization, as well as external stakeholders and contractors.

Dr. Ndura's areas of expertise include academic programming; diversity, equity and inclusion; equity program and policy development; community outreach; research; curriculum design; program design and management; communication; stakeholder engagement; cross-functional team leadership; change management; coaching and mentoring; intercultural competency training and development; budget management; external partner cultivation and relationship management; visioning and strategic planning; employee diversity training and cultural competency development; conflict management and transformation; and restorative justice practices.

Dr. Ndura boasts many notable career accomplishments. She engaged 3,000+ employees, students, alumni, and Board of Trustees members in diversity and implicit bias training, cross-cultural conversations, mindful facilitation training, and culturally responsive curriculum development and teaching in just three years at Gallaudet University where she served as Vice President for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer. She designed and delivered innovative Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training for more than 1,000 employees and students, guiding conversations effectively at George Mason University while serving as Presidential Fellow for Diversity and Inclusion. As tenured Professor of Advanced Teacher Professional Development and International Education at George Mason University, her professional home for 12 years. She bolstered teaching and learning and elevated social cohesion by engaging 5,000+ educators and community members in professional development and peacebuilding activities in Burundi, Africa. Her signature interdisciplinary research, scholarship, and practice that integrate intercultural peace education and conflict prevention and transformation have been featured in six books; more than 40 book chapters and professional journal articles; as well as over 200 invited presentations, workshops, and keynotes, including two testimonies to United States Congress. She has transformed the lives of thousands of students through diversity-focused teaching in secondary schools and higher education in the United States and Burundi, Africa.

A Fulbright Scholar and Senior Specialist for education, peace education, and conflict prevention & transformation, Dr. Ndura is the recipient of many awards including the 2010-2011 Woodrow Wilson Fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the Peace and Justice Studies Association's 2011 Peace Educator of the Year Award, the 2008 United Burundian Community Association Imboneza Award, and the 2004 Reno-Sparks NAACP Brown v. Board of Education 50th Anniversary Award.

An Alumna of the American Academic Leadership Institute's Executive Leadership Academy, Dr. Ndura holds a Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction with emphasis in Bilingual and Multicultural Education from Northern Arizona University, USA; a Masters of Education in Teaching English for Specific Purposes from the University of Exeter, England; a Bachelor's degree in Humanities and Social Sciences with emphasis in English Language and Literature from the University of Burundi, Africa; and a Graduate Certificate in Conflict Resolution Advanced Skills from George Mason University. She is currently pursuing a certificate in Mindful Facilitation from StirFry Seminars & Consulting based in Berkeley, California.

Christopher Manning Biography

Christopher Manning received his PhD from Northwestern University in 2003. Currently, he is an associate professor of history and the associate provost for academic diversity at Loyola University Chicago. He has written on African American political development in the 20th century and is completing an oral history of social justice movements in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina (forthcoming LSU Press).

As the associate provost for academic diversity, his work includes staying abreast of diversity issues, researching best practices, and weaving those lines of information into policy/programming that can improve the climate for diverse faculty, staff, and students. As such his programming ranges from executing qualitative interviews, to diversifying faculty hiring, to the facilitation of curriculum development, to working with academic leaders on unit specific issues, and to supporting partners in areas such as Student Academic Services and the Division of Student Development. Most recently, Manning enhanced these skills as a 2019-2020 American Council on Education fellow at San Diego State University, where he focused on diversity, student success, and innovation.

Outside of higher education, Manning was a semi-professional Latin dancer and the executive director and founder of the non-profit company *Inspiración* Dance Chicago, which offered free youth and adult Latin dance training in Chicago from 2011-2017. He is also currently revising a memoir which humorously explores so-called race and identity, entitled *Army Brat*.

Dr. Regina Dixon-Reeves

Dr. Regina Dixon-Reeves is Assistant Provost at the University of Chicago. In this role, she provides leadership for diversity and inclusion programs, faculty development initiatives, and strategic planning across the University. She is coauthor of the University's diversity strategic plan and serves as the University's diversity liaison to the Marine Biological Laboratories. Dixon-Reeves is an engaging lecturer, astute researcher and published author. Previously, she served as the Executive Director of Diversity & Inclusion at the University of Chicago Medicine and Biological Sciences. Dr. Dixon-Reeves has a doctorate in Sociology with a concentration in higher education from the University of Chicago and a BA in Journalism from Marquette University.

Her areas of expertise include mentoring of early career faculty and graduate students, strategies that increase academic productivity, and student support programs that increase college retention of first-generation students. Her research focuses on mentoring, and in particular the use of peer mentoring work groups; mentoring of graduate students and early career academics; mentoring and support programs for first generation scholars of color in higher education institutions; effective programs that increase freshman retention; effective STEM pipeline programs; and qualitative descriptions of the academic experiences of women, ethnic minorities, and early career academics.

Dr. Dixon-Reeves is a trained *Entering Mentoring* facilitator through the Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research (CIMER) at UW-Madison. She is also a trained facilitator through the NIH-funded *National Research Mentoring Network - CIC Academic Network (NRMN-CAN)*. (PI, Nancy Schwartz, PhD, University of Chicago)