



Congratulations to our Spring 2024 Graduates!

(left to right) Cheniqua Arthur, D'Ayana Munley, Virginia Felton, Zion Moore, Alexis Harp, Karin Kimenker, Megan Marshall

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



The graduating students did an amazing job completing their oral comprehensive exams!

They are all working hard on job placements and transitions and we are so excited to see what is next for each of them!

Right: Current Students Joi Wilder, Sam Casseday, and Megan Marshall participate in the One Day for Western fundraising campaign.



This semester, all HESA students are taking Dr. Evatt's Emerging Issues in Higher Education class. The class has three foci: trauma-informed practices, crisis leadership, and inclusive supervision. Pictured here are HESA students working on group projects to develop action steps they will take to be more inclusive supervisors and leaders in the future.

Below: D'Ayana Munley received the 2024 Outstanding Graduate Student in HESA Award



Above: Alexis Harp received the 2024 Promising Practitioner in HESA Award



Left: HESA students volunteered two days at the Equity in Education Summit in February. Here we see Kaleb Ambrose, Caroline Parris, and Charles Olanipekun joining a drum circle to bring joy to the space.

Right: More pictures of current students from One Day for Western.

Below: Graduating students Karen Kimenker, Zion Moore, Alexis Harp, D'Ayana Munley, and Cheniqua Arthur were honored at the Intercultural Affairs graduation ceremony.



Above: Current student, Charles Olanipekun, represents Nigeria at the 43rd Annual International Festival hosted by the Office of Global Engagement.

Incoming Cohort

17 new students will join us in Fall 2024

Here are some facts about the incoming cohort:

14 of those students will be full-time and 3 will be part-time

6 of the incoming students are joining us from outside of the United States.

Prior institutions attended by the incoming cohort include: Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Catawba Valley Community College, Hubei University of Technology, Regent University Ghana, Southwestern Community College, Tidewater Community College, University of North Carolina Asheville, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, University of Port Harcourt, Western Carolina University, and Wingate University.

Note: we are still interviewing and considering admitting students for a Fall 2024 start on a rolling basis.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



Above: HESA alumni and faculty gathered at the NASPA Conference in Seattle in March to catch up with one another.



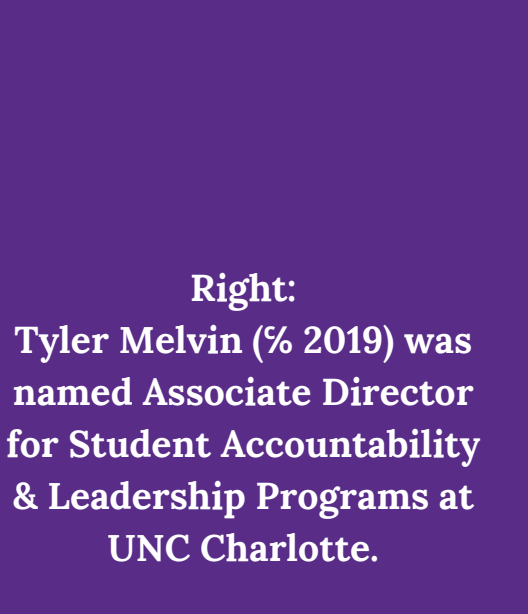
Left: Current and former HESA Students held a WCU meetup at ACPA in Chicago. Left to right: Gwyn Howard (% 2023), Emma Stubbe (% 2023), Hannah Durand (% 2023), Christian Beamguard, Keri Clark, D'Ayana Munley (% 2024)



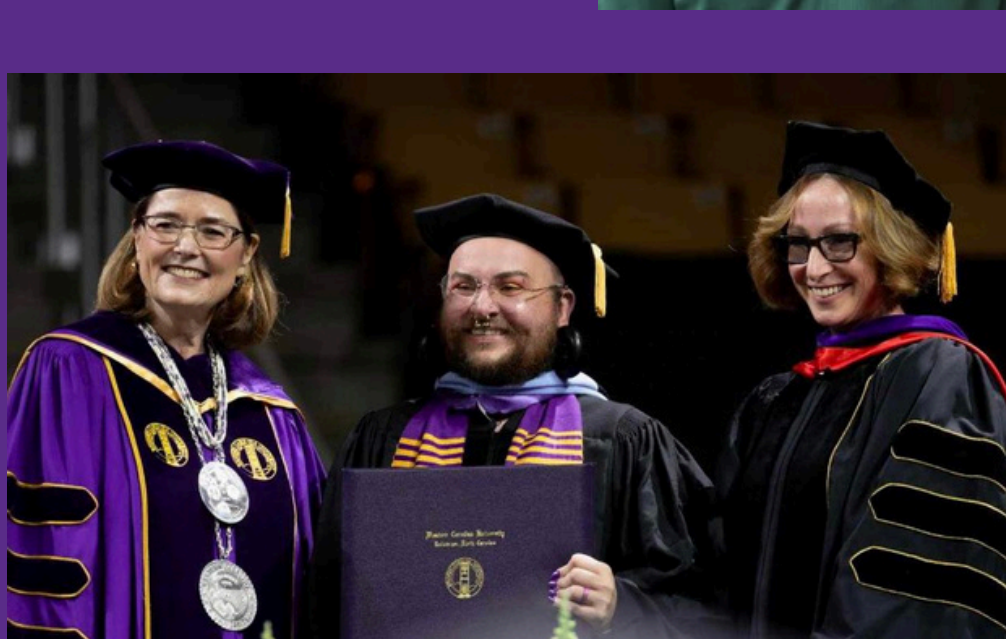
Right: In a recent trip to Richmond, VA, the Perrys caught up with Zach Mellon (% 2023), who currently works at Virginia Commonwealth University.



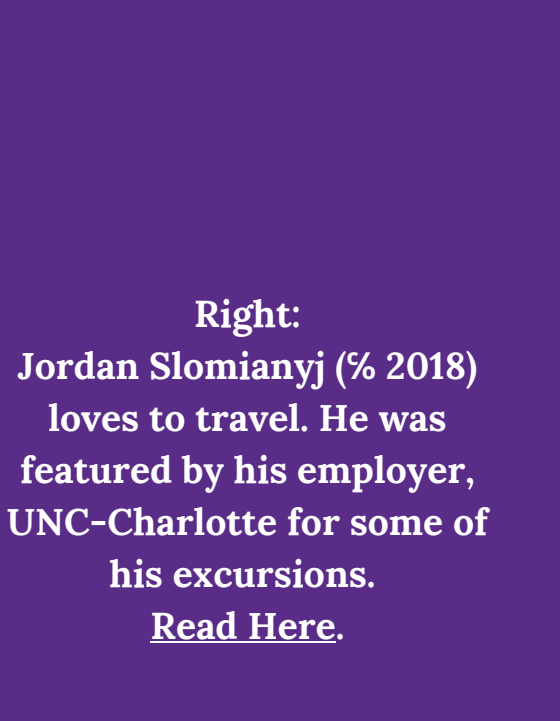
Left: Michaela Arthur (% 2018) Received the 2024 HESA Outstanding Alumni Award



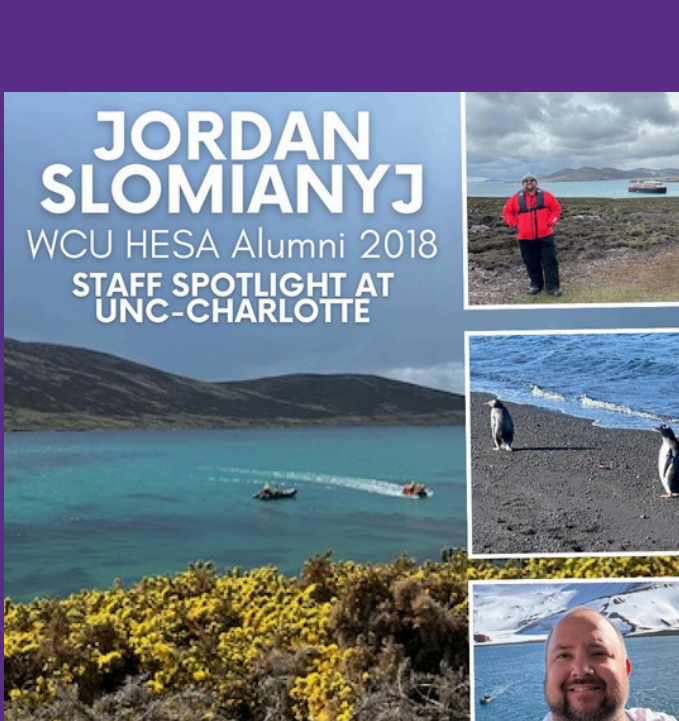
Right: Tyler Melvin (% 2019) was named Associate Director for Student Accountability & Leadership Programs at UNC Charlotte.



Above: Dean Paulk (% 2019) earned their Ed.D. from the Educational Leadership program WCU.



Right: Jordan Slomianyj (% 2018) loves to travel. He was featured by his employer, UNC-Charlotte for some of his excursions. [Read Here.](#)



Left: Several HESA Alumni attended the 2024 HESA Hooding Ceremony. From left: Lucas Beal (%2023), Kayla Patterson (%2023), Isaiah Lunsford (%2023), Roslyn Gowens (%2019), and Emma Stubbe (%2023).

HESA Faculty Updates

Dr. Dustin Evatt

Selected Highlights:

- Recipient of the 2023-2024 Dale Carpenter Faculty Service Award for the College of Education & Allied Professions. This award recognizes outstanding service from a faculty member through their involvement in college, campus, and community involvement.
- Served as Co-Chair of the Equity in Education Summit sponsored by WCU's College of Education & Allied Professions. The Summit brought together nearly 350 K-12 educators and community leaders from across the region to discuss pressing issues related to DEI in education.
- Presented two workshops at this year's NASPA Conference in Seattle: "Why Civic Engagement?: Exploring Civic Engagement and Meaning-Making Among LGBTQ+ College Students in the South, and "Recruiting, Supervising, Teaching, and Supporting Gen Z Graduate Students."



Dr. Yancey Gulley

Selected Highlights:

- 2023-2024 Chair of the Faculty
- Promoted to the rank of full Professor, effective July 1, 2024.
- Presented the closing plenary workshop of the biennial conference of the Australian New Zealand Association of Leisure Studies along with his husband, Dr. Corey Johnson. The session was on publishing and knowledge mobilization.
- Published a case study entitled, "The ropes course activity might not be the metaphor you think it is" which focused on challenge courses in relation to racial histories.



Dr. April Perry

Selected Highlights:

- Honored in March with NASPA Faculty Council's Award for "Outstanding Publication" for her recent book.
- Wrapping up year 2 as department head for Human Services.
- Presented "Recruiting, Supervising, Teaching, and Supporting Gen Z Graduate Students" along with Dr. Evatt at this year's NASPA Conference in Seattle.



Alumni & Stakeholder Opportunities for Involvement

Take our **Community & Engagement Survey** to give us feedback on the HESA student experience [HERE](#).

Sign up to be a **Mentor** to a HESA Student [HERE](#).

Help us **Recruit!** PRIORITY ADMISSIONS DEADLINE:

MARCH 1st.

View our social media infographic [HERE](#)

View our Fact Sheet [HERE](#).

Recommend a student for us to reach out to [HERE](#).

Sign up for an Open House event [HERE](#).

Admissions Application available [HERE](#).

Need a Summer **Intern?**

If you have an available placement or would like more information,

contact Yancey at HESA@wcu.edu.

Anytime you have **news**, please share it with us for future newsletters. See news and updates in real time by

following the

HESA Faculty Facebook Page and on Instagram

[@wcuhesa](#)

[**Donate!**](#)

Please consider donating to the HESA Student Professional Development and Research Fund!

This fund allows us to financially support students in the program in a variety of ways. With support of donors we can provide students with funding to attend conferences, participate in webinars, conduct research projects, and more. While student registration rates for conferences are typically lower than the costs for professionals, they are still costly. Also, students attending conferences still have the high costs of travel, lodging, and food in particularly expensive conference locations. Any support you can provide by donating to this fund, is greatly appreciated!

Use the hyperlink "Donate!" above or use the url here.

<https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/21212/donations/new>