

Crestcencia Ortiz-Barnett MA, MFA, Ph.D.

Educator | Director | International Education Strategist | Global Partnership Developer

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Education, Curriculum, Assessment, and instruction

University of Arizona Global Campus

Dissertation Title: A phenomenological exploration of sense of belonging in First-Generation African American Female Students and its Influence on persistence to Graduation.

MFA in Theatre Directing, Arizona State University

Research Focus: Belonging, Impostor Syndrome, and Community Building, and its Impact on Students of Color in Theatre.

MA in Theatre- Concentration: African American Theatre, University of Nevada Las Vegas

Thesis Title: African American Student Theatre Organization Involvement and the College Experience at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

BA in Theater Studies, University of Nevada Las Vegas

AA in Education, College of Southern Nevada

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2024 - Present

Assistant Professor of Theatre – Theatre Historian, North Carolina A&T State University

Theatre History I & II

African American Drama I & II

2025-2025

Semester At Sea- ISE

Education 172

Theatre Performance 150

2024- Present

Adjunct Professor – Humanities- Southern New Hampshire University

Humanities 102

Humanities 215

Humanities 260

2021-2024

Teaching Associate, Department of Music Dance and Theatre, Arizona State University

Introduction to Directing

African American Theatre

Acting Concentration

2016-2017

Instructor, Department of English (Okinawa Japan) Central Texas College

Beginning English for ESL learners

Intermediate English for ESL learners

Advanced English for ESL learners

2012-2013

Instructor, Geumchon Middle School, Paju S. Korea

Beginning English for ESL Learners

Intermediate English for ESL Learners

2011-2012

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Theatre, University of Nevada Las Vegas

Developed and delivered presentations once a week for Black Theatre and Performance Course.

Graded exams and aided professor with research.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2026- Present

NC A&T Richard B Harrison Players

Student Organization Advisor

2026-Present

NC A&T Theatre Department Curriculum

Committee Chair

2025-Present

NC A&T Theatre Program

Season Selection Committee Member

2026-2026

American Association for Theatre Education

Distinguished Awards Committee Member

2023-2023

Educational Outreach Student Services Intern

Arizona State University

2022-2023

Directing Mentor, Department of Music Dance and Theatre, Arizona State University
Arizona State University

2021-2023

Season Selection Committee Member
Arizona State University

2017-2021

Vice-President, Lady Ambassadors Softball Organization,
Armed Forced Dependents – Okinawa Japan

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

2026-Present

Founder & Director, International Theatre Exchange Program & Ghana Research Fellowship
North Carolina A&T State University – University of Ghana – Roverman Production Studios

- Designed and implemented an international university to university theatre exchange program supporting the continued study and research of African and African Diasporic Theatre Arts
- Facilitated a Professional collaboration with Roverman Production Studios to allow students an opportunity to work on a professional Ghanaian Theatre production.
- Facilitated a collaboration with four local Ghanaian high school Drama Programs where students and faculty from NC A&T will hold theatrical workshops and trainings.

2024-Present

Founder & Director, Theatre Exchange Program
North Carolina A&T State University - Arizona State University

- Designed and implemented a university-to-university exchange program supporting African American undergraduate theatre students.
- Facilitated cross-institutional collaboration to address accessibility, belonging, and graduate school preparedness.
- Coordinated week-long immersive exchanges between HBCU and PWI students to explore MFA pathways and artistic practices.

2022

Artistic Director, ASU Black Theatre Organization

Weigh in on decisions made by the organization's board, organize the season selection committee, and solidify the year's productions.

2021-2022

Founder and President, ASU Black Theatre Organization

Mentored undergraduate students in the formation of a student theatre organization. Created additional opportunities in the form of Monologue competitions, directing opportunities, productions, workshops, and community building outings.

2009-2012

Founder, President & Artistic Director, African American Student Associate Theatre and Film

Created Organization with the aim to create more opportunities for students of color in theatre.

PUBLICATIONS

Ortiz-Barnett, C. (2025). There's an imposter in the theatre: Belonging, impostor syndrome, and community building, and its impact on students of color in theatre. *ArtsPraxis*, 12 (2), pp. 23-43.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS / GUEST LECTURE

Ortiz-Barnett, C (2025, June). IDIERI Conference. *Rooting and Routing: Navigating Change, Trust, and Community Building as Junior Faculty*. Vancouver, BC Canada.

Ortiz-Barnett, C (2024, July). Black Theatre Network's Annual Convening, *Centering Blackness: Nurturing the Creative Spirit*. Winston-Salem, N.C.

Ortiz-Barnett, C (2024, June). Caribbean Philosophical Association, Decolonizing Epistemologies: *Arizona State University's Black Theatre Organization and Belonging*. Quintana Roo, Mexico

Ortiz-Barnett, C (2023, November). Black Excellence Experience Tour, Guest Speaker. Tempe AZ.

Ortiz-Barnett, C (2023, November). Black Acting Methods Workshop. Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ.

Ortiz-Barnett, C (2023, October). Black Student Union Network AZ Conference Keynote Speaker. Tempe, AZ.

Ortiz-Barnett, C (2023, July). *Transformative Myths: Arizona State University's Black Theatre Organization and Belonging*, University of Ghana, Accra.

Ortiz-Barnett, C. (2018, July). College Success 101. Second Annual MCCS Summer College Conference, Okinawa, Japan.

Ortiz, C. (2012, May) Latino Heritage Commencement Speaker, Las Vegas, NV

Ortiz, C. (2011, July). A Roadmap to Student Success & Financial Preparedness. Multicultural Youth Leadership Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Ortiz, C. (2010, May). African American Heritage Commencement Speaker. Las Vegas, NV.

AWARDS

NC A&T CAHSS Excellence in Service Award	2026
GPSA JEDI Social Justice Spotlight Award	2024
ASU Gammage Fellowship	2023
GPSA JEDI Social Justice Spotlight Award	2023
Arizona State University Catalyst Award	2023
ASU Music Dance and Theatre Best Mentor	2023
ASU Music Dance and Theatre Best Mentor	2022
Presidential Graduate Assistant Scholarship	2021
UNLV alumni of Excellence Award	2018
Humanitarian Award from Delta Tau Lambda Sorority Inc.	2010
UNLV Roosevelt Fitzgerald Award	2011
UNLV Student Committed to Diversity Award	2010

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Drama League
Directors Gather
Delta Tau Lambda Sorority Inc.
Arizona State University Black Alumni Association
University of Nevada Las Vegas Alumni Association

RECENT DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

<i>Detroit '67</i> by Dominique Morisseau	Arizona State University
<i>Pipeline</i> by Dominique Morisseau	Black Theatre Organization
<i>NEAT</i> by Charlayne Woodard	Black Theatre Organization
<i>Who Made Robert Dinero King</i> by Jason Katmis	Arizona State University
<i>Miss Evers' Boys</i> by David Feldshuh	UNLV Student Theatre
<i>For Colored Girls...</i> by Ntozake Shange	UNLV Student Theatre
<i>Instructions on How to Love a Black Girl</i> by J. Rich	UNLV Student Theatre
<i>Aladdin Jr.</i> by Chad Beguelin	Shreveport Little Theatre

RECENT ASSISTANT DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

Bright Star by Steve Martin & Edie Brickell
Everybody by Branden Jacobs Jenkins
Seven Guitars by August Wilson
A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams
The Mystery of Irma Vep by Charles Ludlum
Blues for Mr. Charlie by James Baldwin

Arizona State University
 Arizona State University
 Nevada Conservatory Theatre
 Nevada Conservatory Theatre
 Auburn University Theatre
 Auburn University Theatre

DRAMATURGY EXPERIENCE

Detroit '67 by Dominique Morisseau
Kill Move Paradise by James IJames
Pipeline by Dominique Morisseau
Neat by Charlayne Woodard
Everybody by Branden Jacobs -Jenkins

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDING/FUNDRAISING

Research Grant	10,000	2024-2026
ASU Culture and Access	\$2,000	2024
Hayden Library Grant	\$1,000	2024
GPSA Jump-Start Grant	\$750	2024
Applied Project Grant	\$800	2024
Dean's Creative Council Grant	\$2,000	2024
ASU Gammage Herberger Scholarship	\$2,000	2023-2024
ASU Talent Award	\$4,000	2023-2024
Career Development Award	\$500	2023
Education Outreach Grant	\$500	2023
ASU Talent Award	\$4,000	2022-2023
Presidential Development Award	\$500	2022
Music Dance and Theatre Grant	\$500	2022
Presidential Graduate Assistantship	\$150,000.00	2021-2024

STUDENT SERVICES EVENTS & PRODUCTIONS MANAGED/PRODUCED

University wide Motown Block Party
Arizona State University

Undergraduate Monologue Competition
Arizona State University

Poetry Slam
Arizona State University

PIPELINE by Dominique Morisseau
Arizona State University

NEAT by Charlayne Woodard
Arizona State University

Alumni Celebration and viewing of *Miss Evers' Boys* by David Feldshuh
University of Nevada Las Vegas

For Colored Girls who Considered Suicide when the Rainbow was Enuf by Ntozake Shange
University of Nevada Las Vegas

Roast of Michael Tylo at
University of Nevada Las Vegas

UNIVERSITY LEVEL COURSES TAUGHT

Theatre History II	SP. 2025 - Present
African American Drama II	SP. 2025 - Present
Theatre History I	FALL 2024- Present
African American Drama I	FALL 2024- Present
Acting Concentration	SPRING 2024
African American Theatre	SPRING 2024
Acting Concentration	FALL 2023
Intro to Directing	FALL 2023
African American Theatre	SPRING 2023
Intro to Directing	SPRING 2023

Acting Concentration	FALL 2022
Intro to Directing	FALL 2022
African American Theatre	SPRING 2022
Intro to Directing	SPRING 2022
English as a Second Language	SPRING 2017
English as a Second Language	FALL 2016
Black Drama and Performance	FALL 2009

CERTIFICATIONS

SOLIYA Dialogue Training	AUG 2025
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REFERENCES

Dr. Karen Jean Martinson
Assistant Professor
Karen.jean.Martinson@asu.edu

Kristin Hunt
Asst. Director of Theatre
Associate Professor
Kmhunt7@asu.edu

Colleen Jennings-Roggensack
Vice president for Cultural Affairs &
Executive Director of ASU Gammage
cjr@asu.edu

Michael Reed
Senior Director of Programs and Organizational Initiatives ASU Gammage
Mreed@asu.edu