

Dé Bryant, Ph.D.

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Leader of social justice initiatives with over 30 years of bringing community members with diverse mindsets together to enable equity for all people. Founded the Social Action Project (SOCACT), an arts-based, participatory research project to address systemic injustice. Teaches social justice, psychology, and interfaith dialogue at Indiana University South Bend.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Community Psychology/Urban Studies, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI (1990)

M.A., Community Psychology, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario (1985)

B.A., Clinical Psychology, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL (1982)

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SPECIALTIES

- **Social Justice:** Built platforms for social justice by establishing and leading dialogs between groups not accustomed to speaking with each other (e.g., all main faiths, atheistic, law enforcement, schools, and businesses). Expanded social justice initiatives in multiple U.S. states.
- **Community Building:** Founded Public Intellectuals program which increased public discourse on social justice; expanded it from South Bend to Michigan. Established youth art camps in South Bend. Led the bringing of classes on social justice from Indiana University to South Bend community members. Led building of library in Nigeria, West Africa.
- **Teaching:** Won Indiana University's highest teaching award (The FACET) and the highest award for linking teaching-research-community building (The Lundquist Award). Pioneered many ways to extend teachings beyond text books and into the community, giving students hands-on experience. Developed and taught courses from the undergrad to Masters levels.
- **Communication:** Co-wrote papers on social justice, hosted podcasts on healing arts and trauma, developed public education series. Essayist and blogger on emergent social issues in local media. Worked in Nigeria for 5 years; gained experience building communities in difficult political environments. Leveraged travel in Benin, Togo, Ghana, Rwanda, Uganda, South Africa, Ayiti, and Japan to understand many cultures and bridge mindsets. Presented in international conferences.

Volunteer Work: Production team for works performed at South Bend Civic Theatre, especially for its 10-year commitment to stage the August Wilson American Century Cycle. Further spread social justice and strengthened communities by leading volunteer projects in the U.S., Nigeria, and South Africa.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Social Action Project (SOCACT), South Bend, IN -- *Founder and President* (1990–Present)

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Founded SOCACT at Indiana University South Bend (IUSB) and expanded it into several U.S. states and African countries. Led many projects and programs to raise conscienceness, mobilize communities, and establish interfaith dialogues to bring about social justice in neighborhoods in the U.S. and Africa.

- ② Storytelling workshops to overcome trauma, the Ubuntu Spirit Project, held in Michiana and In KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (in collaboration with our community partner Umcebo Design). Citizens facing multiple, interlocking oppressions are invited to write their story, distill their story to fit onto a feather. The story-feathers will be woven into the cloak of the public art piece, Light Bringer. <https://southbendart.org/see/light-bringer>

Light Bringer was created by Umcebo Design in Durban, South Africa (Kwa-Zulu Natal) and since 2019 has traveled to different locations around Michiana. Each session includes interview/performance with a Feature Artist and time for participants to create their own art. Participants come from the many walks of life, races, identities, and belief traditions both locally and in Kwa-Zulu Natal. The goal is develop a collective vision how to work through personal and collective trauma.

The Ubuntu Spirit Project is made possible through the support of IUSB Women Initiative, Indiana University Racial Justice Fund, and local contributors.

- ② Established and led Public Intellectuals, which mobilizes local advocacy by arranging challenging conversations on public issues that affect social justice. Created a year-long series of workshops on Pauli Murray, a civil rights, women's rights, and labor activist overlooked by history. Arranged discussions in gatherings of resident activists, advocacy organizations, and students from IUSB, Notre Dame, St. Mary's College, and area community colleges.
- ② Organized and led 4-day interfaith symposium of people with diverse mindsets which ranged from conservative Christian to atheistic. Introduced many issues, including social justice, immigration, LGBTQ+ rights, racism, and gender equality. <https://www.interfaithsb.com/>
- ② Established and led initiatives to interrupt the School to Prison Pipeline as it manifests in the local school system. Worked with community partners to create a 3-week event of parents, educators, and bus drivers. Led to symposium at IUSB, collected and presented data to Department of Justice to document the status of compliance with desegregation order in South Bend, and worked with Community Action organization to elect school board members who will change policy.
- ② Helped establish library in Nigeria and led the collection and shipping of its 10,000-book collection.
- ② Instituted summer-long art camps for youths in Indiana and Michigan, and guided them for 5 years. Took inner city youths to rural camp, and led them to create sculptures and perform music, dances, plays, and poetry readings. Established a theme each year, including family relations and planning for the future. Also organized artistic activities in urban neighborhoods.

- ② Worked with Church World Services and Giving Hope, using "found art" to help orphans of genocide in Rwanda to rebuild their lives and communities.
- ② Worked with several communities to hold conversations after the shootings which began in Ferguson. Established dialogs between neighborhoods and police, which found and mitigated root causes that had festered for decades. Brought in local artists to express people's feelings about law enforcement.

Black Lives Matter-South Bend, South Bend, IN <https://www.facebook.com/BlackLMSouthBend/>

- ② Core Group member since 2016 and when chapter was reorganized in 2018. Contributions include governance of the overall chapter mission and direction; leadership of the Restorative Justice Committee and the Political Education Committee.
- ② Developed five-part political education series entitled, Arts & Justice to address how the arts have been used to deal with burnout among activists. Each episode in the series includes a performance and Q&A with a Feature Artist to showcase local and area spoken word poets, musicians, painters, sculptors, dancers, etc. The series received financial support from BLM local chapter as well as BLM Global Network.

IUSB Civil Rights Heritage Center, South Bend, IN

Advisory Board Member (2008–2015)

Foundation Board, Treasurer/Secretary (2018–Present)

- ② Played significant role in extending the center's influence in the community as a force for social justice and public awareness. Worked with staff to establish CRHC as neutral ground to connect community and Indiana University South Bend.
- ② Taught university classes on social justice, human behavior, and spirituality.
- ② Led public forums to expand awareness of justice issues to intergenerational audiences and ethnic backgrounds who were not university students.
- ② Worked on the Advisory Board's search committee to find staff; gave perspectives from unique position of being embedded in both the South Bend community and the university faculty.

Indiana University South Bend, South Bend, IN <https://clas.iusb.edu/psychology/faculty-and-staff/dbryant.html>

Associate Professor, 1990-1996; Assistant Professor, 1997-2004; Professor (2005–Present)

Pioneered several ways to build connections between the university and community and to develop platforms to increase social justice. Earned the university's highest award for teaching (The FACET Award) and the Lundquist Award (which honors the impact of research, teaching, and service to the community).

Interfaith and Social Justice Initiatives

- ② Expanded core curricula requirements from classrooms into assignments for students to work in neighborhoods (a university first). Enabled them to collaborate with the Center for Homeless Women, a

restorative justice program in K-12 schools, a refugee resettlement program, Logan Center (for people with disabilities), and initiatives for registered sex offenders.

- ② Extended curricula beyond theory by including questions about ethics and social justice, including the first-ever course specifically designed around world religions and social justice. Created assessments that included actually talking to adherents of the world's religions.
- ② Played leading role to develop undergraduate nonexperimental research methods course, moved from the lab to the real world; course is now part of the required curriculum and has been taught by others on the faculty.
- ② Established Teaching Circles and led it for 3 years. Enabled the program to expand curricula beyond dominant cultures' assumptions, academic topics, canonical authors, thinking methods, lexicons, and student assessment.
- ② Worked as one of 5 people who visited Washington, D.C. in the Global Challenges initiative to expand curricula to international perspectives.
- ② Conducted faculty development workshops, including *Asset-based Community Development*, *Service-Learning; This is How We Do It*; and *Building Reciprocal Community Partnerships*.

Academics

- ② Taught undergraduate courses, including General Psychology, Principles of Mental Health, Gender and Ethnicity, Psychology of Women, Nonexperimental Methods, Community Psychology, Advanced Lab in Community Psychology, Psychology & Social Justice, Spirituality Meets Social Justice, and Art, Film, & Social Change. Taught graduate seminar in community psychology and directed practicum placements.
- ② Developed undergraduate course on the seven main global challenges that will transform the world over the next 30+ years (population growth, advancing technology and who gets access, global economic integration, governance, resource scarcity, information and knowledge, and the nature of conflict).
- ② Developed course that increased students' skills in research beyond the lab. Taught survey methods, techniques, correlational research, longitudinal studies, data analysis, qualitative research, sociometric techniques, needs assessment, program evaluation, and case studies.
- ② Developed undergraduate capstone seminar that guided students in developing their own non-experimental, justice-based research studies.
- ② Created pioneering undergraduate course that studies the influence of race, gender, and class on personality development. Taught identity formation, sexuality, spirituality, death & dying, psych assessment and services.
- ② Developed undergraduate class that explores the ways that art and film have been tools for social justice and social change.
- ② Created graduate course that examines the impact of economic, political, and social systems on the dynamics between individuals and groups. Explored society's physical and social institutions, and encouraged students to ask how change can take place.

- ② Developed graduate class that examines social scientists' and practitioners' accountability in the psychology field. Examined social service delivery, participation & empowerment, community change, and the responsible use of power.
- ② Supervised independent applied research and master's theses in Psych and related fields for students from Indiana University South Bend and Notre Dame. Gave students practical training in designing and implementing their own community-based studies.
- ② Worked as faculty advisor to the Black Student Union, Sigma Beta Step Team, Social Karma, Psychology Club, and Rwandese Student Association.
- ② Serve as Board of Directors member for the Global Center for School Counseling Outcome Research, Evaluation, & Development (GCSCORED) since 2013. Partnered with GCSCORED in the Ubuntu Spirit Project with sites in Barbados to develop arts education programs to foster social-emotional health.

VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY-BUILDING WORK

- ② Officer of Community Action for Education, a non-profit dedicated to breaking the school-to-prison pipeline as it manifests in local public schools. Working with BLM-South Bend and NAACP-South Bend on the struggle to remove student resource officers (SROs) from local schools.
<https://www.southbendtribune.com/story/news/education/2020/07/16/south-bend-activists-call-for-police-to-be-removed-from-schools-ask-for-more-social-workers-and-nurses/43984097/>
- ② Worked as member of South Bend Heritage Foundation's executive committee, 1995-2020. Helped the foundation coordinate services for inner city residents, develop suitable housing, and provide representation in the political process.
- ② Worked in the American Association of University Women (AAUW), South Bend Branch, 2002-2017. Planned and implemented a college prep workshop for high school girls.
- ② Served as member of Board of Directors of Reach One, Teach One, Too since 2013. Helped the organization inspire children to be better educated, and to secure local company donations for back-to-school backpacks.
- ② Developed programs for Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership at St. Mary's College. Mentored women of color and women from under-represented groups in building leadership capacity.
- ② Worked as Redbud Community Retreat (RCR) Board of Directors member. Provided teams of scientists and practitioners to evaluate programs for community development education in Northern IN and Southern MI.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- ② African-American Legacy Award, Center for History, South Bend, IN (2024)
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/d-bryant-named-history-museums-091023621.html>
- ② Indiana University Racial Justice Research Award (2020)
<https://education.iusb.edu/symposium-on-educational-inclusion/speakers.html#bryant>
- ② Black History Award, City of South Bend (2018)
<https://southbendin.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/City-of-South-Bend-Black-History-Month-Program-Booklet-2021.pdf>
- ② Ambassador, Parliament of World Religions (2016 to 2020)
<https://parliamentofreligions.org/tag/ambassador-program/>
- ② Woman of the Year Award, Human & Civil Rights, YWCA of St. Joseph County (2007)
- ② Eldon Lundquist Award, Indiana University South Bend (2006)
<https://academics.iusb.edu/aa-faculty-resources/aa-faculty-awards/award-lundquist.html>
- ② Inducted into the Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching (FACET) (1999)
<https://facet.iu.edu/index.html>
- ② Ladies of Distinction Award (1999)
- ② Thomas Erlich Service Award, Indiana University (1998)
<https://honorsandawards.iu.edu/awards/teaching/thomas-ehrlich-service-learn.html?keyword=&campus=12&year=all&living-deceased=all&letter=B>
- ② S.T.A.R.R. Random Acts of Kindness Award, IUSB advocacy group for students with disabilities (1998)