

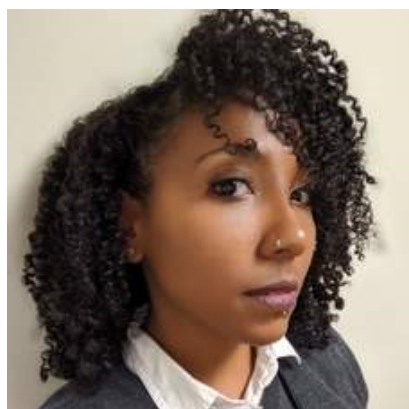
Microaggression & Self-Care Panel Participate Bios

Tory Blackwell, PhD (Biology Instructor at Clackamas Community College)



After serving in the U.S. Army and completing a bachelor of science degree, Tory Blackwell received his doctoral degree in molecular and cellular biology from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2006. He then spent 6 years in basic research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In 2012, he decided to move into higher education, becoming a biology instructor at Clackamas Community College. At Clackamas, Tory is a member of the Instructional Standards and Procedures committee, the STEM working group, has been on the faculty senate, and collaborates with Portland State University as the Clackamas faculty coordinator for the BUILD-EXITO program. Tory is passionate about making science education, especially high quality science education, accessible to all.

Isabel J. Rodriguez (Masters Student at Oregon State University)



Isabel J. Rodriguez (they/she) is a Master's student in Physics at Oregon State University, whose research combines data with statistical tools to study the properties of neutron star collisions. Isabel is the founder and host of a virtual coworking space for women of color in STEM, a public speaker, and challenges systems of oppression in higher education through a Black queer feminist lens.

Jackie Wirz, PhD (*Executive Director for Saturday Academy*)



Jackie works closely with the amazing Saturday Academy community of staff, instructors, students, parents, donors, and STEM professionals to nurture the spark of curiosity into a lifelong love of learning. Jackie's research career spanned 15 years and included topics such as DNA repair, collagen biophysics, fish virology, and data science. After completing her PhD in 2010 she transitioned into a career in education and advocacy at Oregon Health & Science University. There she found great joy in teaching topics as varied as biochemistry, data visualization, public speaking (for introverts!) and ethics. Always an advocate for students, she pioneered initiatives and programs designed to give learners the support, resources, and tools necessary to thrive. Whether explaining clock reactions to a state-wide convention of Girl Scouts or diving into the unique grossness of collagen with middle school students, Jackie believes that nothing can compare to the joy of sharing her love of STEM with others.

De'Sha Wolf, PhD (*Managing Director for Portland State University's BUILD EXITO Program*)



Dr. Wolf is the Managing Director of BUILD EXITO, where she has served as project manager and a member of the Executive Leadership Team since 2015. For nearly 10 years, she has worked in a variety of higher education settings to support the academic success and retention of marginalized student populations. A social scientist by training, Dr. Wolf's research interests have largely been focused on the experiences that promote success and persistence for underserved college students. However, since working for BUILD EXITO, she has developed a passion for health science research, and is in the beginning stages of transitioning into a career in public health.