

Corliss Wilson Outley, PhD

BIO



Dr. Corliss Outley has spent her career advocating for equity and inclusion for underrepresented, first generation and low-income youth in all areas of society. Dr. Outley is a Full Professor in the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management Department and the Director of the [Race, Ethnicity, Youth & Social Equity \(REYSE\) Collaboratory](#) at Clemson University. In her current role she teaches and conducts research designed to explore, create and share knowledge that contributes to understanding how social inequalities influence the development of youth populations during out-of-school time hours.

Her scholarly work includes over 75 publications, several book chapters, over 250 presentations and trainings, over \$5 million in research dollars, and a PBS DragonFly TV spotlight [episode](#) on “real scientists” as an Urban Play Researcher. Many of her projects focus on using community-based research methods that prioritizes the participation of residents, especially youth, via community mapping, life histories, photovoice, and art as data collection methods. She is recognized as a community engaged scholar for her expertise regarding social justice, diversity and inclusion/belonging in youth development programming, curriculum development, staff training, and research and evaluation. February 2023 she was honored as the first Black woman to be inducted into the Academy of Leisure Sciences.

Outley earned her B.S. in Biology at Grambling State University in 1992, her M.S. in Forestry from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 1994 and in 2000 her Ph.D. in Recreation and Natural Resources Development from Texas A&M University.

A native of Los Angeles, CA, Corliss is married and has a daughter in college. She enjoys reading mystery and Afro/Africanfuturism books, collecting elephants and Disney Dumbo (1941) artifacts, serving the community as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and enjoying the outdoors.