Rev. Zachary C. Wooten, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Updated October 2026

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Rev. Dr. Zachary C. Wooten is a bivocational leader, serving as a tenured Associate Professor of Leadership Studies at West Chester University of Pennsylvania (WCU) and as an ordained American Baptist pastor appointed to a United Church of Christ congregation. With over nine years of experience in higher education, and thirteen in professional ministry, he is an award-winning, student-centered educator known for transformative, experiential, community-engaged, and dialogical pedagogy. He directs the Leadership and the Good Life Project at WCU, seeking to encourage communities of practice committed to building trust across enduring differences while engaging questions of human flourishing. His scholarship spans ethics, leadership, digital culture, pedagogy, and grief, including peer-reviewed publications and published creative work in poetry. Committed to collaborative leadership, Dr. Wooten bridges academic rigor and compassionate care to cultivate purpose, flourishing, and belonging as a teacher, scholar, and leader.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Leadership, Alvernia University

- Graduated *summa cum laude* (4.0 GPA)
- Dissertation: "The Aim of Leadership Education: Spirituality and the Writings of Parker J. Palmer"
- Awarded Top Departmental Prize: Ph.D. Leadership Award for demonstrating leadership and superior academic performance.

Master of Divinity, Princeton Theological Seminary

- Thesis: "Leadership, Community, and Young Adults"
- Activities: Student Government Representative, Chapel Assistant, Deacon, Anam Cara Mentorship Leadership Team

Bachelor of Arts, West Chester University of Pennsylvania Honors College

- Major: Communication Studies – *summa cum laude*
- Deans' List - Honors College, School of Music, and College of Arts and Sciences

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

West Chester University of Pennsylvania (WCU) | August 2017 - Present

- Honors College, *Associate Professor*
- Honors College, *Assistant Professor*
- Honors College, *Instructor*

Teaching courses for the Honors College, Minor in Civic and Professional Leadership, and Department of Philosophy via in-person, remote synchronous, and asynchronous modalities. Courses include:

CPL 120: Theories of Leadership for Today's Societies | F26, F25, F24, F23, F22, F21, SP 21, SU20, SP20, F19

- *taught course using in-person and online (asynchronous and synchronous) modalities*
- *course-related initiatives financially supported by internal funding from WCU's Center for Civic Engagement and Social Impact* (Spring 2020)
- *regularly features WCU alumni representing diverse career sectors as guest speakers to offer networking opportunities and showcase real-world application of leadership theory*

CPL 300: Contemporary Challenges in Leadership | F26, F25, F24

- *taught as Individualized Instruction and asynchronous online*

HON 100: Self-Awareness and Development | F26, F25, F24, F23, F22, F21, F20, F19, F18, F17

- *team-taught with interdisciplinary team from departments including communication studies, economics, kinesiology, and dance*
- *class utilized to launch an Honors College First-Year Common read beginning Fall 2023*
- *community partnerships with Domestic Violence Center of Chester County*
- *campus partnerships with Center for Community Engagement and Social Impact*

HON 211: Decision-Making and Public Discourse | SP18, SP17

- *course-related initiatives included a partnership with the Frederick Douglass Society's Pennsylvania State System-wide Debate Tournament*

HON 212: Ethics and Moral Choice in a Technological Age | SP26, SP25, SP24, SP23, SP22, SP21, SP20
- *collaborated with the Center for Community Engagement and Social Impact and the Hickman Senior Living Community as part of an ongoing community engaged pedagogical practices (Spring 2025)*
- *co-taught with a founding member of the Honors College, Dr. Ruth Porritt, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, and Spring 2022*

HON 352: The Good Death | F26, F25, F24
- *designed and launched new course*
- *incorporated guest speakers and dynamic assignments to facilitate interdisciplinary inquiry on death, dying, and grief including but not limited to Chester County Coroner, a WCU Alum working as a Death Doula, and a local funeral director*

HON 352: Personal Leadership Development | F21, F20, F19, F18, F17
- *co-taught with Director of the Honors College*
- *focused on sustained institutional partnership with South African dialogue partners*

HON 382: Leadership and the Good Life | F26, F25, F24, F23, F22, SP22, SP21, F20, SP20, F19, F18, F17
- *initially developed in partnership with Yale University's Center for Faith and Culture*
- *course-related initiatives supported by external and internal grants from Yale's Center for Faith and Culture, Interfaith Youth Core (now Interfaith America), and WCU's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*
- *developed community-engaged service-learning experiences in partnership with WCU's Center for Civic Engagement and Social Impact; supervised an undergraduate Community Engagement Scholar in Spring 2025 and Spring 2022, building partnerships with The Hickman, a local senior citizen living community*

HON 451: Myth, Morality, and the Media Machine | SP26
- *designed and taught course via asynchronous online instruction*

HON 399: Directed Study in Ecology, Spirituality, & Leadership |F20

PHI 206: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam | SP25, F23

University of Southern Maine, Lewiston-Auburn College, *Adjunct Instructor* | July 2022 - Present
Teaching asynchronous courses for the Master of Arts in Leadership Studies and the Ph.D. in Leadership Studies within the Department of Leadership Studies including:

LOS 501 and LOS 701: Foundations of Leadership II: Groups and Teams | SP23

LOS 740: Leadership and Applied Ethics | SP26, SP25, SP24

LOS 661: Ethical and Spiritual Dimensions of Leadership | SU25, SU24, SU23, SU22

Eastern University, *Adjunct Instructor* |September 2021 - Spring 2022
Taught hybrid courses for undergraduate leadership programs including:

LEAD 200: Introduction to Leadership | F21

LEAD 445: Leadership Strategies for Groups, Teams, and Organizations | SP22

SCHOLARSHIP

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Contributions

Wooten, Z. C., *Brown, J., *Miller, E., & *Straw, C. (2026). Mourning the planet and signs of hope: The role of grief and resilience in how undergraduate students in the United States understand climate change. *The Journal of Environmental Education*, 1-17. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00958964.2026.2631972

Wooten, Z. C. (2026). *Poems: "Before"; "After"; "Climbing and Falling"; "Mr. Wise and Prof. Wily."* The Wabash Center Journal on Teaching, Vol. 7 No. 1: "Spirit." Peer-reviewed multimodal journal on teaching in theological and religious studies. https://serials.atla.com/wabashcenter/article/view/4560/5839
Note: This collection explores themes of spirituality, pedagogy, and the teaching life, demonstrating the integration of creative expression with scholarly reflection for educators in theological and religious studies.

Wooten, Z. C., & Brown, J. R. (2025, December). The perception of leader identity: The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on interfaith hospital chaplains. *Interdisciplinary Journal of Leadership Studies, 4*, Article 3. https://scholarship.richmond.edu/ijls/vol4/iss1/3

Wooten, Z. C., & Brown, J. (2025, October). The leadership of interfaith hospital chaplains during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Health Care Chaplaincy*. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08854726.2025.2565114

Wooten, Z. C., & McDevitt, H. (2025, Spring). The digital pulpit and media influencers: Investigating forms of Christian leadership on TikTok. *Journal of Religious Leadership, 24*(1).

Wooten, Z. C., Pierlott, M. M., & Gittleson, E. (2024). Regina Jonas: A life of aspiration and inspiration. *Journal of Leadership Education, 23*(2), 221–227.

Wooten, Z. C. (2021, May). *Recast, still broken.* Poem published in Zephyrus, peer-reviewed award-winning literary and arts journal (Alvernia University).

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

Wooten, Z. C. (2023, March). Personhood in the tragic gap: Between reality and possibility. In *Personhood: On becoming a more relevant leader*. Bloomsbury. [Invited]

Wooten, Z. C., & McDevitt, H. (2022, September). COVID-19 and the ethics of grief and loss. In *The COVID-19 pandemic collection*. Ethics International Press. [Selected]

Books and Monograph Contributions

Dean, K. W., & Wooten, Z. C. (2025, November). Reflection in first-year honors courses: Why we can't take it for granted. *National Collegiate Honors Council Monograph Series.*

Martin, G., **Wooten, Z. C.,** & Camacho, S. (2024, November). *Interdisciplinary adventures: Navigating the honors experience.* West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

Academic Blogs

Wooten, Z. C. (2023, October). *The substitute teacher: A teacher's identity grounded in loss (Part 2).* Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Blog, Series on Embodied Teaching.

Wooten, Z. C. (2023, September). *The substitute teacher: A teacher's identity grounded in loss (Part 1).* Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Blog, Series on Embodied Teaching.

Book Reviews for Peer-Reviewed Journals

Wooten, Z. C. (2021, March). *The productive online and offline professor: A practical guide*, by B. Stachowiak [Book review]. *The Wabash Center Journal on Teaching.*

Refereed Conference Proceedings

Hendon, C., Springer, S., & **Wooten, Z. C.** (2022, June). The influence of faith identity on leadership educator identity: The interwoven dimensions of human stories. *Association of Leadership Educators (ALE) Annual Proceedings* [Online publication].

Wooten, Z. C., & Dunham, E. (2022, June). Leadership and the good life across generations. *ALE Annual Proceedings* [Online publication].

Wooten, Z. C., & Pierlott, M. (2019, July). Leadership and the good life. *ALE Annual Proceedings* [Online publication].

Wooten, Z. C. (2018, July). The intersection of leadership studies and family communication theory: Implications for undergraduate pedagogy. *ALE Annual Proceedings* [Online publication].

SCHOLARLY PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Life Worth Living Project Scholar & Leadership Team Member | August 2022 - June 2026

Yale Center for Faith & Culture, Yale University (3-year grant-funded role, extended 1 additional year)

- *Selected to serve on the leadership team of an interdisciplinary initiative exploring moral, philosophical, and religious traditions to define and pursue the good life*
- *Supported evaluation of competitive international fellowship applications*
- *Facilitated pedagogy training sessions for new scholars as part of global fellowship training events*
- *Advised faculty and staff on strategic direction and growth of the program, supported by a multi-year grant*
- *Contributed to shaping the long-term vision of the project's international expansion and curriculum development*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

International Refereed Presentations

Wooten, Z. C., Camacho, S., & Brown, J. (2026, July). *Living and leading globally: Cultivating global citizenship in an era of isolationism.* Association of Leadership Educators. [Poster]

Brown, J. & **Wooten, Z.C.,** (2026, June). *"If You're Not Involved, You're Lost": International students in Sweden engaging in experiential leadership education through involvement in campus organizations.* Association of Leadership Educators. [Poster]

Wooten, Z.C., & Brown, J. (2025, April). *¡Sí se puede! Utilizing organizational religious leadership to create social change in migrant communities.* Academy of Religious Leadership. [Paper presentation]

Wooten, Z.C. (2023, March). *At the core of followership is personhood—We start there.* Global Followership Conference. [Panelist]

Wooten, Z.C. (2022, October). *The spiritual aims of leadership education.* Emerging Research Scholars Consortium, International Leadership Association. [Poster]

Wooten, Z.C. (2022, October). *Wisdom perspectives on personhood in leadership.* International Leadership Association. [Panel presentation]

Wooten, Z.C. (2022, October). *Ethical challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.* International Leadership Association. [Panel presentation]

Wooten, Z.C., & Eason, A.* (2022, October). *We have no gifts, but we are many: Ethically responsible leadership in Disney's Encanto.* International Leadership Association. [Paper presentation]

Wooten, Z.C. (2022, June). *A beautiful life: An alternative approach to teaching ethics in leadership education.* Association of Leadership Educators. [Practice/Application paper presentation]

Hendon, C., Springer, S., & **Wooten, Z.C.** (2022, June). *The influence of faith identity on leadership educator identity: The interwoven dimensions of human stories.* Association of Leadership Educators. [Panel presentation]

Pierlott, M., Priest, K., & **Wooten, Z.C.** (2022, June). *Exploring philosophy as method in leadership education.* Association of Leadership Educators. [Roundtable]

Wooten, Z.C. (2022, June). *The spiritual aims of leadership education: The writings of Parker Palmer and beyond.* Association of Leadership Educators. [Poster]

Dunham, E.*, & **Wooten, Z.C.** (2022, June). *Leadership and the good life across generations.* Association of Leadership Educators. [Award-winning poster]

Gittleson, E.*, & **Wooten, Z.C.** (2021, October). *Rabbi Regina Jonas: A life of aspiration and inspiration.* International Leadership Association. [Interactive poster]

Wooten, Z.C. (2021, March). *Leadership education, spirituality, and personhood.* ILA Philosophy, Religion, and Worldviews Conference. [Paper presentation]

Wooten, Z.C. (2020, November). Graduate student case competition project on equitable and inclusive education (United Nations Sustainable Development Goal). International Leadership Association. [Case competition participant]

Wooten, Z.C. (2019, October). *Parker Palmer, Thomas Merton, and courageous authenticity.* International Leadership Association. [Poster]

Pierlott, M., & **Wooten, Z.C.** (2019, July). *Leadership and the good life.* Association of Leadership Educators. [Innovative practice paper presentation]

Wooten, Z. (2018, July). *The intersection of leadership studies and family communication theory: Implications for undergraduate pedagogy.* Association of Leadership Educators. [Roundtable]

National Refereed Conference Presentations

Wooten, Z. (2019, November). *Self-awareness and development: Identity, authenticity, and vocation through the writings of Parker Palmer.* National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference. [Faculty poster]

Pierlott, M., & **Wooten, Z.** (2018, November). *Leadership & The Good LIfe.* National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference. [Faculty poster]

Regional Refereed Conference Presentations

Wooten, Z.C. (2026, May 1). *I saw it on TikTok: Christian leadership on TikTok*. Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion–Northeast Regional Meeting, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, United States. [Paper presentation]

Wooten, Z.C. (2026, May 1). *Interfaith chaplaincy and [insert exact paper title if different]*. Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion–Northeast Regional Meeting, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, United States. [Paper presentation]

Pierlott, M., & **Wooten, Z.C.** (2022, January). *Creating and structuring religiously inclusive classrooms in divisive times: Cultivating trust.* American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, session sponsored by the APA Committee on the Teaching of Philosophy and the Teaching Hub ("Religion in the Philosophy Classroom"). [Paper presentation]

Brown, J.*, & **Wooten, Z.C.** (2020, April). *Leadership theory in The Terror.* Mid-Atlantic Leadership Studies Conference. [Paper accepted; conference canceled due to COVID-19]

Pierlott, M., & **Wooten, Z.C.** (2020, January). *Visions of the good life: Leadership anthology project.* American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting. [Faculty poster]

Wooten, Z.C. (2019, April). *Teaching courage and the courage to teach: Parker Palmer, higher education, and leadership pedagogy.* Pennsylvania Leadership Studies Conference (2nd Annual). [Paper presentation]

Wooten, Z.C. (2018, April). *Addressing political and social division in higher education, the complications of religion and freedom, and the wisdom of Frederick Douglass and Parker Palmer.* Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Interdisciplinary Conference. [Paper presentation; panel chair]

Munz, E., & **Wooten, Z.C.** (2015, April). *Family systems theory: Evolution, practical application, and limitations.* Eastern Communication Association Conference. [Paper presentation]

* Undergraduate student coauthor

INVITED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Wooten, Z. (2026, September). *Living and leading globally: Cultivating global citizenship in an era of isolationism.* Association of Leadership Educators Mini-Grant Symposium. [Webinar[

Wooten, Z. (2026, April). *The Leadership of Interfaith Hospital Chaplains During the COVID-19 Pandemic*. West Chester University of Pennsylvania Research and Creative Activities Day. [Lightning Talk]

Wooten, Z. (2024, October). Keynote address for Omicron Delta Kappa induction ceremony. West Chester University of Pennsylvania. [Keynote address]

Wooten, Z. (2024, October). *Teaching the life worth living.* Yale University Life Worth Living Teaching Forum. [Invited presentation]

Pierlott, M., & **Wooten, Z.** (2022, October). *Philosophy as method in leadership studies.* Kansas State University Staley School of Leadership Studies, Ph.D. Leadership Communication Seminar. [Invited guest lecture]

Wooten, Z. (2022, June). Paper exploring spirituality, memoir, and poetry. Academic Theology Conference. [Invited paper and respondent]

Wooten, Z. (2021, December). *Spirituality and the pain of disconnection.* West Chester University Department of Philosophy Forum. [Invited campus lecture]

Wooten, Z. (2021, August). Introduction to the pedagogy of the good life. West Chester University Honors College Retreat. [Invited presentation]

Wooten, Z. (2020, July). *Leading with integrity.* Red Lion Area Student Leadership Training, Red Lion Area Senior High School (PA). [Invited keynote/guest speaker]

Wooten, Z. (2017, November). Presentation and roundtable participation on leadership pedagogy and collegiate emergent adults. Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils. [Invited presentation and panelist]

Wooten, Z. (2015, May). Participant, High School Theology Program Think Tank. Princeton Theological Seminary Institute for Youth Ministry. [Invited participant]

ACADEMIC GRANTS

External Grants

Principal Investigator, *Mini-Grant,* Association of Leadership Educators ($1,500) (January 2026 - December 2026)
Selected for a competitive mini grant to design and launch an innovative leadership education initiative, aligning with values of collaboration, inclusion, curiosity, and rigorous scholarship; Project titled "Living & Leading Globally"

Principal Investigator, *Life Worth Living Leadership Studies Hub*, West Chester University of Pennsylvania in partnership with the Yale Center for Faith and Culture ($122,000) (Sept. 2023–Present)
Awarded a grant from Yale University to establish West Chester University as the Leadership Studies Hub for the Life Worth Living Initiative. Serves as PI with Co-PI Dr. Matt Pierlott. The project supports student employment and programmatic development related to leadership and the good life.

Co-Principal Investigator, *Provost's Research Grant*, West Chester University of Pennsylvania (Aug. 2023–Present)
Project: *"Power, Persecution, and Progress: Stories of Religious Leadership in Chester County."* Working with Co-PI Dr. Matt Pierlott, conducting narrative inquiry (thematic biographical narrative) to produce a public-facing scholarly podcast series

examining the history of interfaith and religious leadership in Chester County, Pennsylvania, with emphasis on themes of power, progress, and persecution.

Principal Investigator, *Project Grant for Researchers*, Louisville Institute ($29,000+) (Jan. 2023–May 2025)
Funded research project: *"I Saw it on TikTok: The Nun, the Mormon, and the Ex-vangelical."*

Cohort Lead, *Faith and Health Grant Program*, Interfaith Youth Core ($1,000) (Jan. 2022–Feb. 2023)
Led a national cohort of educators exploring the positive role of religion in personal and community health. Responsibilities included facilitating monthly cohort sessions, curating resources with IFYC staff, leading project workshops, providing individual consultations to cohort members, and reporting outcomes to IFYC.

Principal Investigator, *Faith and Public Health Grant*, Interfaith Youth Core ($7,000) (Feb. 2022–Dec. 2022)
Conducted a study on the leadership of interfaith chaplains during the COVID-19 pandemic. Supervised four funded undergraduate research assistants.

Principal Investigator, *Campus Innovation Grant*, Interfaith Youth Core ($4,000) (Aug. 2019–May 2020)
Supported the course *"Leadership and the Good Life"* at West Chester University and implemented initiatives addressing cultural, political, and religious divides while advancing interfaith cooperation on campus.

Graduate Research Fellow, Alvernia University ($3,000) (Fall 2019–Summer 2020)
Fellowship supporting research on leadership education as part of an initiative promoting innovative graduate scholarship.

Recipient, *Life Worth Living Grant*, Yale Center for Faith and Culture, Yale Divinity School (Fall 2017)
Mini-extension grant through the Honors College at West Chester University (with support from the Templeton Foundation) to develop academic programming and dialogue around joy and the good life.

Internal WCU Grants
Principal Investigator, *WCU ORSP Campus Sustainability Research and Creative Activity Grant*, West Chester University of Pennsylvania (September 2026-May 2027)
Developing a research and creative project entitled *"Between the Flood and the Flower: Student Poetry for a Warming World"*

Principal Investigator, *WCU ORSP Campus Sustainability Research and Creative Activity Grant*, West Chester University of Pennsylvania (Jan. 2023–May 2023)
Completed a research project entitled *"Mourning the Planet and Signs of Hope: The Role of Grief and Resilience in How Undergraduates Understand Climate Change."*

Principal Investigator, *Innovation in Diversity & Inclusion Grant*, West Chester University of Pennsylvania Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ($5,000) (Aug. 2022–May 2023)
Launched the *WCU Interfaith, Meaning-Making, and Spirituality Project*.

Recipient, *Center for Civic Engagement & Social Impact COVID-19 Community Engagement Mini-Grant*, West Chester University of Pennsylvania ($500) (Fall 2020–Spring 2021)
Supported undergraduate student projects addressing COVID-19-related community challenges. Funds were used in *CPL 120: Leadership Theories for Today's Societies* to connect leadership theory with community engagement initiatives.

Principal Investigator, *Innovation in Diversity & Inclusion Grant*, West Chester University of Pennsylvania ($750) (Fall 2020)
Awarded by the Innovation in Diversity & Inclusion Grants Council to send 30 undergraduate students to the Interfaith Youth Core Leadership Institute. Selected through a competitive RFP process administered by the Office for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

ACADEMIC/SCHOLARLY PODCASTS

Featured Guest

"Continuing Conversations Amidst the Pandemic" - Leadership Educator Podcast (March 2021)
interviewed with Dr. Nyasha GuramatunhuCooper to discuss building scholarly community to enhance teaching and scholarship of leadership in times of crisis and digital innovation (podcast sponsored by the International Leadership Association)

"Equipping Young Leaders" - Uncovered Dish Christian Leadership Podcast (March 2017)
interviewed about involvement in Mosaic Ministries, a cohort program that appointed young seminary students to lead churches in need of revitalization

Hosted and Produced
"How can we address issues of privacy in the world of AI?" - NHC (July 2021)
selected by the National Humanities Center to serve as a podcasting intern; developed, wrote, produced, and recorded as part of the center's conference, "In Our Image," examining issues surrounding the integration of artificial intelligence and our daily lives; President of the NHC, Dr. Robert Newman, called the podcast "thoughtful and provocative," saying we "established the contours of this difficult and complex topic [and] encapsulated its nuances well"

"Caretaking Conversations" - National Humanities Center (January 2021)
worked with an interdisciplinary team of graduate students enrolled in the NHC Digital Residency program to discuss the role of caretakers and how to move towards greater flexibility and acknowledgment of caretaking and family leave

OTHER RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

West Chester University Teaching and Learning Center, E-Textbook Initiative (October 2023–May 2024)
Selected, with Dr. Gerardina Martin and Spencer Camacho, for a training program focused on developing high-quality, free, interactive electronic textbooks.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Annual Seminar on Ethics, Religion, and the Holocaust — "Theological Encounters of Race, Antisemitism, and the Holocaust in Transatlantic Context" (June 2022)
Selected participant in a scholarly seminar examining encounters between Black American Christians and Jews in the U.S. and Europe from the 1920s to the present, fostering dialogue among scholars and religious leaders.

National Humanities Center, Scholarly Podcasting Intern (January 2021–July 2021)
Collaborated on an interdisciplinary graduate student team producing a podcast series exploring the impact of artificial intelligence on themes such as privacy, education, art and film, and morality. Podcasts complemented the conference *In Our Image: Artificial Intelligence and the Humanities*.

West Chester University, Research Scholars Program — Leadership Studies Undergraduate Research Lab (Spring 2020; Spring 2021; Spring 2022)
Founded and led a Leadership Studies undergraduate research lab through the Honors College and Office of Research and Sponsored Programs to support interdisciplinary student-faculty research collaborations. Students developed a database of leadership education literature (2020), instructional materials for CPL 120 leadership theory courses (2021), and foundational content for an interactive multimedia course pack for *HON 382: Leadership and the Good Life* (2022).

West Chester University, Leadership Education Course Pack Project (January 2019–December 2019)
Mentored six undergraduate students in developing pedagogical materials for introductory leadership theory courses, including weekly research and curriculum development meetings.

Alvernia University, O'Pake Institute of Ethics, Leadership & Public Service — Graduate Research Assistant (January 2019–December 2019)
Conducted research on student retention, organizational culture, developmental education, and executive-in-residence programs in higher education; contributed research supporting a successful Title III grant application.

Scholarly Journal Reviewing
Journal of Healthcare Chaplaincy, *Manuscript Reviewer* (November 2025–Present)
Journal of Leadership Education, *Manuscript Reviewer* (June 2025–Present)
Journal of Leadership Studies, *Manuscript Reviewer* (August 2022–Present)

Association-Level Reviewing
Association of Leadership Educators, *Conference Proposal Reviewer* (March 2026)
Association of Leadership Educators, *Conference Proposal Reviewer* (March 2022)
Association of Leadership Educators, *Conference Presentation Reviewer* (June 2021)
International Leadership Association, *Conference Proposal Reviewer* (April 2022)

Student Mentorship of Research Activity
Graduate Student Dissertation Committee Member

Janice Thompson – West Chester University of Pennsylvania (April 2026–Present)
Provided guidance on methodology, analysis, and theory development. Participated in proposal and defense presentations, ensuring academic rigor and clarity in theoretical framework and writing.

Joseph B. Kroculick – *Igniting Hearts and Minds for Sustainable Design*, Alvernia University (August 2024–Present)
Provided feedback on research methodology, data analysis, and theoretical development. Participated in proposal and final defense presentations, ensuring academic rigor, alignment with research goals, and clarity in the dissertation's theoretical framework and writing.

Monica Reeves – *Title TBD*, Kansas State University (November 2024–Present)
Advised on research methodology, theoretical development, and data analysis. Participated in proposal and final defense presentations, ensuring rigor and alignment with research objectives, and refined the dissertation's theoretical framework.

Marie Rim – *Title TBD*, West Chester University of Pennsylvania (April 2025–Present)
Provided guidance on methodology, analysis, and theory development. Participated in proposal and defense presentations, ensuring academic rigor and clarity in theoretical framework and writing.

Undergraduate Research Mentorship
Jolie Bolognini – WCU Summer Undergraduate Research Institute (Summer 2026)
Mentored student researching undergraduate interfaith engagement. With my recommendation, student was competitively selected for a full-time funded research experience.

Layla King – WCU Summer Undergraduate Research Institute (Summer 2025)
Mentored student researching undergraduate self-awareness. With my recommendation, student was competitively selected for a full-time funded research experience.

Joseph Blaney – WCU Summer Undergraduate Research Institute (Summer 2022)
Mentored student researching alt-right political extremism and youth pathways in online communities. Recommended for competitive, full-time funded research experience.

Abigail Boquist – WCU-CARES Mentee (Spring 2021)
Collaborated on a literature review on the impact of student leadership camps and leadership education. Supported development of critical thinking and scholarly collaboration skills.

Julia Edwards – Tournier Research in Ethics Award, First Place (Spring 2020)
Mentored student on applied ethics paper, *Ethics of Care and the Good Life*, originally written for HON 382. Paper won a competitive departmental award and $300 scholarship judged by faculty committee.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CONTINUING EDUCATION IN PEDAGOGY AND TEACHING
External to WCU: Competitively Selected or Invited

Wabash Center Journal on Teaching (JoT) Writing Colloquy, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, Online; invited participant (January 2025)
Selected to participate in a collaborative peer-review writing colloquy for the *Journal on Teaching*, engaging in plenary sessions, small-group workshops, and individualized editorial feedback focused on scholarly writing about teaching and the teaching life. Colloquy led by Sophfronia Scott and Donald Quist.

Fred Rogers Educators' Neighborhood, Fred Rogers Institute (September 2023 – May 2024)
Selected to participate in a monthly program building a community of educators who learn together inspired by the work of Fred Rogers and his commitment to community care.

Sacred Design Lab & Princeton Theological Seminary Public Discourse Event, Princeton Theological Seminary (August 2022)
Invited to attend an interfaith event focused on the public discourse of religion and spirituality, bringing together scholars, authors, journalists, digital creators, and community leaders.

Seminar on Ethics, Religion, and the Holocaust, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies (June 2022)
Accepted to participate in the seminar *"Theological Encounters of Race, Antisemitism, and the Holocaust in Transatlantic*

Context," examining encounters between Black American Christians and Jews in the U.S. and Europe from the 1920s to the present.

Podcasting the Humanities: Creating Digital Stories for the Public, National Humanities Center Institute for Graduate Studies, Digital Residency (December 2020)
Alvernia University nominee for a five-day institute providing hands-on training for humanities Ph.D. students to develop public-facing digital scholarship.

Future of Joy and the Good Life Conference, Yale Center for Faith and Culture; fully funded participant (August 2018)
Selected to attend an international conference focused on the future of joy, flourishing, and teaching these themes in universities and public contexts.

External to WCU: Self-Elected Participation

Leadership Education Academy, *International Leadership Association* (August 2021)
Two-week immersive training program designed to advance the teaching of leadership through enhanced knowledge of leadership theories and pedagogical strategies.

Annual Conference, *Association of Leadership Educators* (June 2021)
Attended week-long conference on best practices and research in leadership education; facilitated graduate student conversations as Student Focus Area Network Coordinator and served as workshop reviewer.

Interfaith Leadership Institute, *Interfaith Youth Core, Virtual* (September 2020)
Participated in educator training on interfaith leadership.

Critical Conversations Series, *International Leadership Association* (July – August 2020)
Participated in an interactive series addressing leadership education in times of uncertainty, including conversations on anti-racism and pedagogy.

Annual Conference, *Association of Leadership Educators, Virtual* (July 2020)
Participated in a week-long virtual conference on leadership education pedagogy and research.

Internal to WCU
Online/Blended Faculty Development Program, *West Chester University* (January 2020, Updated January 2025)
Completed a two-week online training on best practices for online and blended teaching.

Developing Research Agendas Through Mentoring Program, *West Chester University Research & Sponsored Programs* (August 2022 – May 2023)
Selected for a year-long professional development program for tenure-track faculty focused on strengthening research agendas and leading externally funded projects.

Service-Learning Workshop, *WCU Center for Civic Engagement and Social Impact* (May 2022)
Attended a two-day workshop on integrating service-learning into courses; invited speaker on experiences with the Community Engagement Scholars program.

Ethics-Emphasis Course Design Workshop, *West Chester University* (January 2021)
Training focused on incorporating ethical problem-solving frameworks and discipline-specific ethics into course design.

Brandywine Workshop in Sustainability, *West Chester University* (January 2020)
Participated in workshop on revising course design to integrate sustainability topics.

Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning Workshop, *WCU Committee for Excellence in Learning and Teaching* (May 2019)
Training on pedagogical approaches and challenges in interdisciplinary teaching.

First-Year Student Scheduling Training, *West Chester University Registrar's Office,* (May 2018 and May 2019)
Training on scheduling and advising processes for first-year students.

Leadership Excellence Program, Disney Institute; PASSHE Academy (September 2017)
Professional development program on leadership and organizational transformation.

SERVICE

DEPARTMENTAL

Committees and Other Departmental Activity

Honors College Scholarship Selection Committee (Spring 2022 – Present)
Committee member assisting with the selection of the Mynn White Award (rising junior) and Charles Ernest Award (rising senior) for sustained outstanding leadership and service;

Honors College Evaluations Committee (Fall 2024 – Present)
Committee member for Dr. Gerardina Martin; Committee chair for Dr. Spencer Camaro

Honors College Graduation Commencement Speaker Committee (Spring 2023 – Present)
Member participating in speaker selection and event planning for graduation ceremonies.

Honors College Director Search Committee (Spring 2023)
Committee member contributing to faculty recruitment and hiring decisions.

Civic and Professional Leadership Minor Committee (Fall 2019 – Present)
Supervises and supports work-study students; promotes minor program initiatives and student engagement.

Honors College Assessment Committee (Spring 2019 – Present)
Assists primary assessment leader (Dr. Gerardina Martin) in evaluating learning outcomes and program goals.

Honors College First-Year Symposium Committee (Fall 2017 – Present)
Faculty lecturer and facilitator; supports planning and implementation of the first-year summer program.

Honors College Recruitment Committee (Fall 2017 – Present)
Faculty interviewer (Spring 2018–2026; Winter 2018–2020); delivered keynote address to prospective students and families (March 2019); recruits alumni to serve as interviewers; leads Seminar Pathway recruitment since 2023, increasing enrollment by 120%.

First-Year Student Scheduling, Faculty Volunteer (Summers 2017–2019)
Assisted with summer block-scheduling of first-semester courses for incoming students

Co-Curricular Programs

Faculty Co-Advisor, *Omicron Delta Kappa* (Fall 2023 – Present)
Advisor to WCU's premier leadership honor society recognizing the achievements of students, faculty, staff, and alumni in scholarship, athletics, community service/student activities, journalism/student media, and creative/performing arts.

Faculty Mentor, *Honors College Community Builder Fellowship Program* (Fall 2018 – Spring 2021)
Appointed by the Honors College Director to work with students to build community on designated Honors College housing floors and facilitate the transition for first-year Honors College students.

Faculty Supporter, *Honors Student Association* (Fall 2017 – Present)
Attended General Assembly and Executive Board meetings as needed; launched HSA's student interfaith action committee; mentored student leaders of *H.S.A. Happenings*, the Honors College monthly newsletter; Wrote article entitled "Tips for Success" for the September 2020 issue of the HSA newsletter; Organized "Wednesdays with Wooten" events in Summer 2020 to facilitate community building with the entering class of Honors College students.

Faculty Panelist, *Honors Research Scholars Program Recruitment Event* (Fall 2020)
Spoke at a student-organized panel discussing the benefits of student–faculty research.

Committee Member, *Honors College Awards Committee* (Fall 2017 – Present)
Serve on a committee selecting recipients of junior and senior Honors College awards.

Committee Member, *Honors College Alumni Committee* (Fall 2017 – Present)
Support alumni engagement efforts including recruitment to panels, guest speaking in classes, alumni events, and mentoring; contribute to alumni outreach through LinkedIn.
During the 2024–2025 academic year, helped relaunch the chapter and establish two new alumni awards presented annually at Honors College Commencement.

Participant, *Honors College Commencement and Medallion Ceremony Committee* (Fall 2017 – Present)
Participate in medallion ceremony and graduation, often serving as an award presenter.
Served as Grand Marshal for commencement in Spring 2023, Spring 2024, and Spring 2025.

UNIVERSITY

New Faculty Orientation Committee, *Member* (2026-Present)

Faculty Mentoring Committee, *Member* (2026-Present)

Faculty Senate, *Senator At-Large* (2026-2027)

- Liaison to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs
- Member of the Research and Creative Activities Committee

West Chester University of PA Center for Community Engagement and Social Impact, *Faculty Associate* (2026-2027)
Competitively selected to advance university-wide experiential and community-engaged learning initiatives. In this role, responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- collaborate with faculty, academic leadership, and community partners to expand high-impact learning opportunities;
- design and deliver faculty development programs;
- co-lead faculty working groups and award selection processes;
- mentor faculty in integrating experiential pedagogies and assessment strategies into curricula;
- Support institutional assessment, community engagement reporting, and Carnegie Community Engagement Classification efforts;
- Contribute to strategic initiatives that enhanced student learning, faculty development, and community impact

West Chester University of PA Contemplative Studies Center, *Advisory Board Member* (2026-2027)
Invited by the Dean of the College of Health Sciences to:

- provide strategic guidance on the Center's mission, priorities, and programming; support interdisciplinary collaboration and faculty engagement; recommend speakers, workshops, and initiatives;
- serve as an ambassador for the Center across academic departments;
- review programming for alignment with institutional goals and resource need
- contribute to a sustainable faculty advisory model that expands shared leadership, strengthens continuity, and advances student well-being, reflective practice, innovative teaching, scholarship, and community engagement across the University

The Fifth Annual Dr. Clifford E. DeBaptiste Frederick Douglass Institute Lecture — Invited Interfaith Invocation (October 2024)

Ramifications, *Editorial/Recruitment Team*
Assisting Dr. Megan Corbin in recruiting quality undergraduate publications for WCU's undergraduate student research journal

Leadership & The Good Life Project (formerly Interfaith, Meaning-Making, and Spirituality Project), Director (August 2022–Present)
Working in collaboration with the Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, lead the Faculty & Staff Interfaith Advisory Board, the Student Interfaith Action Committee, and the Interfaith Leadership Fellowship Program.

Council for Diversity, Inclusion, and Academic Excellence, Member (October 2022–Present)

WCU Council on Undergraduate Research, Honors College Representative (September 2022–Present)
Member of the Marketing and Outreach Subcommittee; SURI proposal reviewer, Judge for Research and Creative Activities Day

Center for Civic Engagement and Social Impact, Workshop Faculty Fellow (August 2022–May 2023)

Collegiate Leadership Competition, Judge — Office of Student Leadership and Involvement (April 2023; April 2022)
Served as one of two judges for the Collegiate Leadership Competition, a nonprofit leadership development program providing students with experiential leadership learning opportunities.

Alpha Alpha Alpha First-Generation Honors Society Inductions, Faculty Attendee (February 2021; September 2021)

Student Affairs Search Committee, Member (June–August 2019)

Autism Speaks U, Faculty Advisor (January 2019–May 2021)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND THE FIELD OF LEADERSHIP STUDIES

Association of Leadership Educators

July 2026 – July 2028	Board of Directors
Dec. 2020 – May 2023	'Students' Focus Area Network Coordinator
Sept. 2020 - May 2022	Conference Planning Committee

COMMUNITY

Emmanuel Church Preschool, **Board Member** |October 2026 - May 2027

Mazie Gable Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization, *Vice-President* | September 2026 - Present

Cub Scout Pack #43 (Dallastown, PA), *Committee Member and Den Leader* | August 2026 - Present
serving as a member of the cub scout pack committee assisting with planning and implementation of cub scout programs

Dallastown Little League, *Assistant Hybrid Team Assistant Coach* (August 2026 - October 2026)

Octorara Little League, *Head T-Ball Coach, Assistant Coach-Pitch Coach* (March 2026 - July 2026)

Spring Garden Band of York, *Member* (May 2025 - Present)
serving as a member of one of the oldest continuously active bands in the U.S., supporting community engagement through public concerts and arts advocacy as part of a long-standing tradition of musical excellence.

Cub Scout Pack #21 (Atglen, PA), *Committee Member and Assistant Den Leader* | September 2025 - July 2026
serving as a member of the cub scout pack committee assisting with planning and implementation of cub scout programs

Octorara Primary Learning Center, *Classroom Volunteer* | November 2024 - December 2024
provides weekly leadership for learning centers in Kindergarten classroom; assisted with special events such as Kindergarten Halloween Party

ACT in Faith of Greater West Chester, *Board Member* | January 2021 - December 2022
connecting those in need with existing support services and to fill gaps; aims to build a community that empowers the un- and under-employed; "Thanks to You", Governance, and Communications and Technology committees; In 2022, I supported a WCU HC Capstone Project by coordinating an internship opportunity at AIF

Red Lion Area School District Gifted Program, *Letter Writing Campaign Participant* | May 2022

HONORS AND AWARDS

AWARDS FROM PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

International Leadership Association Emerging Research Scholars Consortium (2022, October)
Selected to participate in a mentoring program pairing junior scholars with senior scholars to present and refine research.

Association of Leadership Educators – Rising Star: Early Career Leadership & Service Award (2022, June)
Recognizes an early-career member whose leadership and service uphold and embody the association's mission to strengthen and sustain professional leadership educators.

Association of Leadership Educators – Founding Mothers Student Scholar Award (2022, June)
Supports emerging leadership educators attending the annual conference.

Association of Leadership Educators – Conference Outstanding Practice Poster Award (2022, June)
Awarded for the practice poster, Leadership and The Good Life Across Generations, co-presented with HON 382 Community Engagement Scholar Emma Dunham.

Alvernia University Ph.D. Leadership Award (2022, April)
Department's top award recognizing leadership, superior academic performance, and exemplary contribution to the Ph.D. program.

International Leadership Association – Graduate Case Competition Finalist (2020, November)
One of three finalist teams in the case competition, placing first runner-up in the conference with the highest number of competing teams in association history.

National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference – Faculty Poster Winner (2018, November)
First-place recognition for "Revising and Revitalizing an Existing Honors Course."

INTERNAL AWARDS FROM WCU

West Chester University Excellence in Community-Engaged Learning Teaching Award (2026)
Awarded by the Center for Community Engagement and Social Impact due to sustained and mutually beneficial community-engaged learning projects that demonstrated classroom practices, impact, and partnerships.

West Chester University of Pennsylvania Civility Award (2024)
One of WCU' s most prestigious awards, this recognition is presented annually by the President of the university to an individual, office, or department nominated for exemplary behavior reflective of civility, community impact, commitment to student success, and collegiality.

Community Engagement Scholar, Center for Civic Engagement & Social Impact (2025, 2022)
selected faculty member to supervise student leader in service-learning class

West Chester University Outstanding Faculty Award (2026, 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018)

West Chester University Outstanding Advisor Award (2026, 2025, 2019)
nominated and selected by students for recognition of excellent advising/mentoring

SELECT ADDITIONAL GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

American Baptist Home Mission Societies Academic Doctorate Grantee | July 2021
selected to receive $1,000.00 to support doctoral studies

George Garrett Grant Fund Grantee | June 2021
selected to receive $1,500.00 to support doctoral studies

Alvernia University, *Graduate Research Fellowship* | Fall 2019 - Summer 2020
awarded a $3,000 grant to study leadership education

SOCIAL MEDIA FEATURES

West Chester University of Pennsylvania Alumni Association Alumni Spotlight | April 2020
featured interviewee for the WCU Alumni Association's monthly publication

Alvernia University Graduate School and Adult Education Sunday Spotlight | February 2020
featured graduate student interviewee from Alvernia University's doctoral program

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Academy of Religious Leadership, *Member*
American Academy of Religion, *Member*
Association for Leadership Educators, *Member*
- Coordinator of Students FAN (Dec. 2020 – May 2023)
American Philosophy Association, *Member*
International Leadership Association, *Member*
National Collegiate Honors Council, *Member*

PROFESSIONAL MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

Willow Street United Church of Christ (Willow Street, PA)**,** *Pastor* | December 2023 - Present
- *obtained a $10,000.00 innovation grant from Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ to launch a new staff role and ministry of community connection* (2025)
- *developed an ongoing internship program for college students in departments of music and history*

Baptist Church of West Chester (West Chester, PA)**,** *Associate Pastor* | July 2017 - December 2023

- *awarded $1,200 from Princeton Theological Seminary (subgrant from the Lilly Endowment) to lead a team within the PTS Collaboratory focused on young adult social innovation and leadership across faith communities* (2022-2023)
- *developed internship programs for college students in education, business, and more that continues*
- *licensed by the congregation in 2017, ordained by the congregation in April 2022*

First United Methodist Church of Mount Holly (Mount Holly, NJ), *Co-Pastor* | July 2015 - June 2017

- *obtained a grant from the Greater New Jersey United Methodist Church to launch an internship program for college students studying education* (2016-2017)

Baptist Church of West Chester (West Chester, PA), *Director of Youth Ministries* | August 2013 - June 2015

Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring (Chambersburg, PA), *Children's Ministry Intern* | June 2013 - August 2013