

NITAJADE: CURRICULUM VITAE

(828) 367-7411 | nitajadeofficial@gmail.com

Education

- 2022** University of Kentucky | Master of Fine Arts: Creative Writing Poetry — May 2022
- 2019** Berea College | Bachelor of Arts: African & African-American Studies — May 2019
- 2015** Henderson County Early College | High School Diploma — June 2015
- 2015** Blue Ridge Community College | Associate of Arts — June 2015

Research Interests

Poetry, BIPOC Pedagogy, Appalachia, African-American Studies, Africana Studies, Queer Studies, Epigenetics/Generational Trauma

Organizing, Facilitation, and Teaching Experience

Morehead State University & the Kentucky Adult Education & Labor Cabinet (Remote)
Graduating to Greatness Instructor — September 2025 to Present

Climate Organizing Mentee Retreat — Girl Plus Environment
“Our Common Senses” Storytelling Workshop Facilitator — September 2025

ACLU WV — American Civil Liberties Union: West Virginia
“We Deserve It All” Wellness & Storytelling Workshop Facilitator — July 2025

Black Women Rising — Black Appalachian Coalition
Cultural and Narrative Organizer — August 2024 to Present

Emory & Henry University — Department of English
Assistant Professor of English — August 2023 to August 2024

Black Appalachian Coalition: 2024 Policy Summit — Workshop Facilitator
“Oral Histories & Power Mapping in Your Community” — July 2024 in Louisville, KY

The Praxis Project Presents: Roots & Remedies — Workshop Facilitator
“Amplifying Oral Histories in Your Community” — July 2024 in Cincinnati, OH

Centre College — Department of English
Visiting Assistant Professor of English — August 2022 to May 2023

Carnegie Center for Learning and Literacy — 2023 Young Writers Program
Poetry Boot Camp Facilitator — March 2023

Kentucky State Poetry Society — 2022 Poetry Conference
Poetry Workshop Facilitator — October 2022

University of Kentucky — Governor's School for the Arts
Poetry Workshop Facilitator — July 2022

University of Kentucky — Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies
WRD 110 / WRD 111 Instructor — August 2021 to May 2022

University of Kentucky — Department of English
Creative Writing Instructor — Summer Session 2021
Creative Writing TA— August 2020 to May 2021

Asheville City Schools Foundation
Freelance Creative Writing Teaching Artist — January to March 2020

Berea College — Center for Teaching and Learning
Teaching & Learning Assistant Program Aide — January to May 2019
Writing Consultant — May 2018 to January 2019

Berea College — Summer Internship with Wild Fig Coffee and Books
Creative Community Intern — May 2018 to August 2018

Berea College — Department of Appalachian Studies
Black Appalachia Teacher's Assistant — January 2018 to May 2018

Berea College — Department of First-Year Initiatives
Teacher's Assistant & Peer Leader — August 2016 to December 2017

Berea College — Department of College Relations
Research Assistant — August 2015 to May 2016

Publications

2026 Senses of Belonging: bell hooks Anthology
2026 Backwoods Literary Press: Testament - A Rural Anthology
2025 Sheila-Na-Gig: AMPLIFY Anthology
2025 Arts Equity Collective: SOS Empowerment Arts & Healing
2024 Callaloo: Black Appalachia -Part I
2024 WILDSound Poetry Festival (Elegy)
2024 WILDSound Poetry Festival (Political)
2024 Torch Literary Arts
2024 Still the Journal

2023 Inverted Syntax
 2022 Auburn Avenue
 2022 Zora's Den, The Fire Inside Volume II
 2021 Poetry Northwest, Winter Spring 2022
 2021 Carolina Muse
 2021 Lucky Jefferson, Awake
 2019 Rabbit Catastrophe Review #015
 2018 The Griot: the Journal of African American Studies (Fall/Winter Issue)
 2018 KRCC Voices (Issue 2)
 2017 The Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Charles Frazier Volume IX

Inductions | Fellowships | Awards | Certifications

2024 Best of the Net Nominee — Torch Literary Arts
 2024 Best of the Net Nominee — Still the Journal
 2023 Kentucky State Poetry Society Vice President
 2022 Lyman T. Johnson Torch Bearer Award
 2022 Affrilachian Poets — Inductee
 2021 Harvard LabXchange Fellowship
 2021 Nikky Finney Fellowship
 2021 Outstanding TA Award
 2020 Nikky Finney Fellowship
 2019 College Reading and Learning Association Lifetime Tutor Certification
 2019 National Council of Black Studies Ankh Maat Wedjau Honor Society Inductee

Keynote Performances and Featured Readings

2025 ASA Panel Reading: What the Water Reveals and How We Heal
 2025 Carnegie Center: Queer Literary Hoedown Feature
 2023 Kentucky State Poetry Society: December Feature
 2023 Lake Cumberland Juneteenth Jubilee
 2023 Harrodsburg Baptist Church - Lent Keynote
 2023 Mercer County MLK Celebration
 2019 Bringing It Home: NC Housing Coalition Annual Conference
 2015 TEDxGreenville: Head/ROOM

Creative Projects

2025 - 2025 Old Gods of Appalachia - Guest Writer & Voice Actor (S5: Ep 87, 89, & 90)
 2023 - 2024 Kentucky State Poetry Society: Annual Poetry Conference (Co-coordinator)
 2023 - 2023 Carnegie Center: Young Writers Program Workshop Facilitator

2023 - 2023 Centre College: Cantrell Poetry Prize Judge
2022 - 2024 Black Appalachian Coalition - Narrative Organizer & Podcast Host
2022 - 2022 *Words for the People* - Podcast Guest (S1, Ep2)
2022 - 2022 KY USCT Project - Soldier Story Essayist
2020 - 2022 UK's Visiting Writers Series Program - Assistant Director
2020 - 2022 *pluck! The Journal of Affrilachian Arts & Culture* - Managing Editor
2018 - 2018 Berea College Appalachian Center - Affrilachian Events & Program Coordinator

Residencies

2024 Wilma Dykeman Writing Residency — Spring Writer-in-Residence
2021 KFW Summer Residency with Ellen Hagan
2021 Mill House Writing Residency
2018 Poetry Boot Camp with Aaron Smith at Lincoln Memorial University