

# Dr. Tameca Jewell Beckett

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## Professional Summary

Dynamic, energetic information professional with a passion to inspire the next generation of information professionals. Recognized as a 2014 American Library Association Emerging Leader for local, national and international work involving libraries and communities, with a proven background in information science, library science, technology and instructional design. Previous experience in research, data analytics, administration, youth services, reference and instructional experience in public, special and academic libraries.

## Education

Doctor of Education: Delaware State University (Dover, DE)

Dissertation: Collaboration Between PK-12 Public and Academic Librarians: Improving the Information Literacy Gap Among Incoming High School Seniors and College Freshmen. Dissertation

Master of Library and Information Science: San Jose State University (San Jose, CA)

Concentration: Technology and Administration

Bachelor of Science, *magna cum laude*; University of Maine at Augusta (Augusta, ME)

Major: Library and Information Services

## Technical Certifications and Skills

AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner • Azure • Snowflake • Docker • Python • JavaScript • HTML • CSS • Spring Boot SQL • PostgreSQL • Vue.js • Responsive Design • React • Node • Java • OOP • Power BI • Data Modeling • Integration Testing • Unix • Agile • Web Accessibility • Git • Unit Testing • Quarto •

## Professional Experience

Data Innovation Lab - Tech Impact, Dover, DE

**Data Engineering Fellow**

2022 to Present

Led, designed, built and deployed data solutions and assessment for government, corporate, community and non-profit projects. Created and managed Cloud services (Azure, AWS, Snowflake) to support all aspects of tech products. Created and developed new ways of applying and optimizing analytics solutions to increase their value contribution.

Delaware State University, Dover, DE

**Reference and Access Services Librarian**

2018 to Present

Initiated collaborative and strategic acquisition of scholarly publications to reinvigorate digital and access services to meet the current and emerging needs of the university community. Negotiated licensing and innovative agreements to expand access and build research collections. Implemented fiscal assessment and evaluation procedures to increase access while reducing costs. Managed all library budgets (+\$2M) to ensure alignment with the development of an ambitious, technology-rich approach centered on learning,

teaching and research. Conducted analysis of queried research to provide insight to inform data-driven decision making. Effectively created and communicated data analysis documentation to university departments and stakeholders. Identified and support professional development opportunities to advance the strategic directives across all levels of the organization. Fostered key relationships and partnerships to enhance the goals and objectives of the library. Enriched the library programs and opportunities through contribution to professional scholarly publication at the local, state and national levels.

Delaware State University, Dover, DE

**Title III Activity Director**

2018 to 2022

Oversaw the day-to-day management of the Title III project activities and budget, working toward achieving the project's goals. Ensured the optimal integration of the project's activities. Maintained effective communication channels and establish procedures to assure the operation of the project remains congruent with the goals of overall institutional development. Developed and coordinated the implementation of a digitization strategy for primary source documentation. Expand the digital collection through the creation of a digital framework, enhancing the creation, delivery and preservation of digital artifacts. Prepared and monitored fiscal and technical reports, authorized expenditures and coordinated the grant activities and successfully complete the project. Monitored compliance with federal, state and local documentation and processes. Actively engaged in outreach as a liaison to identify areas to enhance access to information and impact student achievement.

Laurel Public Library, Laurel, DE

**Director**

2016 to 2018

Responsible for the leadership, development and management of the overall library strategy, administration, operations and a wide variety of issues including patron engagement, information access, and innovation in reference and information services and resources. Evaluated and assessed all areas of information services, educational activities and collection development. Provided fiscal management, fundraising, increased community collaborations, and articulated and advocated for the library vision. Reported to a five-member, court appointed Board of Commissioners and attends monthly meetings as Secretary to the Board as well as various community and government meetings.

- Record-breaking increases in the overall budget, attendance, donations, community partnerships and programming
- Implemented the two annual signature community programs leading to increases in fundraising gifts.
- Implemented a digitization project for local, county and state newspapers

University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD

**Special Collections Library Services Assistant**

2014 to 2016

Organized, maintained, and digitized collections of archival and rare materials, research and fulfill university archival requests and assist library patrons in the Special Collections Department. Founding curator of Library Lecture Series and primary curator of Special Collections exhibits. Assisted with accreditation self-study, evaluation and assessment, completion of performance appraisals, monitoring \$1.9M budget, and grant writing. Prepared reports for federal and state agencies. Provided feedback and evaluation of UMES and USMAT vendors.

Laurel Public Library, Laurel, DE

**Reference Librarian**

2014 to 2015

Responsible for identifying and interpreting user needs; providing reference, readers' advisory, computer, database and referral services to Library patrons directly, and by telephone; and assisting patrons in material selection. Provide technical/reference support to staff. Assist in planning and implementation of programs and library services. Collect data for statistical analysis and reporting. Support and collaborate with the Youth Services Librarian to administer and deliver programming.

**Youth Services Librarian**

2012 to 2014

Manage the Youth Services Department, including budgeting, supervising and preparing reports. Develop, maintain, and weed youth collections, including books, videos, audiocassettes, CDs and other special materials. Directs technical staff in all processing and data entry of youth materials for the collection. Liaison with the schools to promote youth services programming and encourage library use. Provide a variety of information services and instruction to meet the diverse needs of youth and families. Design, implement, and evaluate specific programs and activities (both in the library and in the community) for patrons, based on their needs and interests.

**Professional Accomplishments and Activities**

American Library Association

**Councilor (Elected – DE), 2020**

**Emerging Leader, 2014**

Delaware Library Association Executive Board

**Board Member, 2020**

Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence

**Advisory Board Member, 2017**

Institute of Museum and Library Services

**Rare Book School Fellow, 2015**

Rodel Foundation

**iEducate Delaware Award, 2013**

National Association of Rural and Small Libraries

**Board Member/Co-Chair Member Services, (2012 to 2014)**

## Publications and Presentations

Delaware Library Association, College and Research Libraries Division 2021 Spring Program  
**Keynote Panelist** “*Combating Misinformation: Reference Edition*”

**Beckett, T. J. & Murphy, O.** (2020). Utilizing an appreciative inquiry and context personalization design: A new model for library student workers. *New Review of Academic Librarianship*, 26(2-4), 338-352. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13614533.2020.1830244>.

Delaware Library Association Bulletin - Fall 2020  
**Guest Columnist** “*Professional Pipeline Recommendations: Recruiting African American Librarians*”

Lewes Library and Browseabout Books Author Event, *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own*  
**Moderator** “*A Conversation with Eddie Glaude, Jr. and Tameca Beckett*”

2020 American Library Association Annual Conference, International Papers and Projects  
**Presenter** “*Creating an Inclusive and Culturally Appreciative Library Student Employment Program for Undergraduate, Graduate and International Graduate Students*”

Delaware Library Association, College and Research Libraries Division 2020 Spring Program – Vision 2020: Positioning Your Library for the Future?  
**Keynote Panelist** “*Accelerate the Future: The Interconnectedness of It All*”

23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Regional HBCU Summit on Retention – Improving Retention at HBCU’s, Improving Retention at HBCUs: Creating Connections  
**Co-Presenter** “*Information Engagement for Retention: Connections for Success*”, 2020

San Jose State University iSchool Community Poster Session – ALA Annual Conference, 2019  
**Presenter** “*Intersecting Data Analytics and Student Engagement Through Active and Service Learning*”.

7<sup>th</sup> Joint MLA/DLA Library Conference, 2019 – What if?  
**Presenter** “*What if there is no box? Academic & Public Library Patron Engagement Model*”

Delaware Library Association, College and Research Libraries Division 2019 Spring Program – What if...Academic Libraries Used Data to Advance Student Success and Work Environments?  
**Presenter** “*If They Come, Build It: Intersecting Data Analytics and Student Engagement Through Active and Service Learning*”

22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Regional HBCU Summit on Retention – Improving Retention at HBCU’s, Civility vs. Activism: Confronting Implicit Bias in Higher Education  
**Presenter** “*Library Engagement Ensures Student Retention*”, 2019

Delaware State University – 2019 Research Day  
**Presenter/Researcher** “*Delaware Teacher/Librarian Collaboration: Understanding the Collaboration Experiences of Youth Services Librarians*”

American Library Association Annual Conference

**Presenter** “*Makerspaces and Active Learning*”; 2017 “*Promotion, Advocacy, and Creative Funding Ideas for Rural or Tribal Libraries*”, 2014; “*The Future is Now: Rural Library as Innovation Incubator*”, 2013

WebJunction Webinar, 2013

**Presenter** “*The Future is Now: Rural Library as Innovation Incubator*”

### Technical Experience

**Data Inventory Assessment** – Served as a lead on a project with the Delaware Department of Agriculture to provide an initial data assessment across multiple divisions utilizing Snowflake for the operational analysis and PowerBI for the dashboard visualization.

**VR Education Data Pipeline** – Worked with a VR software developer to create an ETL data pipeline of educational data using Azure Data Factory.

**GIS Application Cloud Architecture** – Worked with a team of software developers to design and test a serverless cloud architecture for a GIS application using AWS S3, Lambda, and API Gateway.

**Online Payment Application:** RESTful API service and CLI application, with an MVC design, in Java with Spring Boot and PostgreSQL to allow users to transfer money to others, check their balance, prior transfers and transfer details.

**Library Acquisition Inventory System** – Conceptualized and designed RDBMS model. Created Java application using OOP and DAO design to connect PostgreSQL database to allow users to query, add, update and delete inventory.

### Service Experience

Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence

**Doctoral Intern/Curriculum Development** (2021)

**Member, Advisory Board** (2017-2021)

**Member, Education Committee** (2018-2021)

New Members Roundtable (NMRT)

**Member, Mentoring Committee** (2019-2020)

**Member, Orientation Committee** (2019-2020)

Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE)

**Exploring Learning in a Global Information Context** (2019)

Delaware Library Association

**Committee Member, Long Range Planning Committee** (2020-2021)

**Committee Member, Community Engagement Grant Review Committee** (2019-2021)

United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY)

**Editor, Bridges** (2017-2018)

Aspen Institute Dialogue on Public Libraries, 2014

**Contributor**

Blue Hen Book Award Picture Book Committee  
**Chair, 2014**

Rural Native and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds  
**ARSL Liaison, 2013**

Lubuto Library Partners, 2014  
**Intern/Curriculum Development**

### **Professional Memberships**

American Library Association, 2011 - Present

Delaware Library Association, 2011 - Present

Black Caucus of the American Library Association, 2018 - Present

Association for Library and Information Science Education, 2018 - Present

American Educational Research Association, 2018 - Present

## **Dr. Tameca Jewell Beckett – Statement of Interest**

Please accept this statement of interest as earnest consideration for the position of Assistant Professor of Instruction – School of Information. I meet all qualifications --- experience in librarianship, technological innovation in planning and implementation, administrative oversight, instructional leadership and coalition-building experience.

My enthusiasm, interest and confidence in my capability in this position stems from a wealth of professional knowledge and experience as a librarian, educator, technologist and researcher, and my administrative experience directing and transforming libraries with stellar collaborative, planning, negotiation and analytical skills.

The fundamental marker of my teaching philosophy is framed around the question, ‘To whom does this learning belong?’ One may suggest that the answer is the students, of course, but I would counter, on what level? And to further investigate, my follow-up questions are; How does this syllabus, these resources, and this course create an authentic learning experience?; What about these assignments electrify and support engagement with the material?; Where, in my teaching, planning and practice, do I intentionally and unequivocally reflect and foster intersectionality, equity, diversity and inclusivity? A more accurate answer to this question is that learning belongs to us all at different levels, stages, and points of need; instructors, students, the community of learners, and society.

I believe I have a responsibility to create a learning experience that is thoughtful, responsive and advocates for critical and reflexive analysis built on the framework of equity, diversity and inclusion. This learning belongs to me. As an instructor, I am the first learner. As a conductor for an orchestra, I listen to how a particular passage can harmonize with a writing assignment. I hear to learn whose voices are missing and why. I reflect on my feeling and reaction to the material to examine my bias or conflict. This iterative, student-centered process continues until I hear a harmony that can elevate the learning experience. Then I listen to this orchestra and learn every note, every section and every break, with the full knowledge that as each student picks up these instruments and devices that I have selected, new melodies, harmonies and sounds will be created, as they should.

I believe in creating an environment of critical thought, self-reflection, and high expectations for academic success. This learning belongs to the students on an individual level. As an educator, my goal is not to stand in front of students and impress them with my expertise but to co-create an environment that allows for individual reflection and critical thought. For example, I incorporate reflection to enable the students to connect with the readings and theory, not only from their unique background and lived experience but also from a critical lens, allowing them to see themselves as a part of the scholarly conversation. I try to help students move toward metacognition and synthesis of material by including assignments that reflect on the material and their reflective learning process in my assessment plan. I model listening and lifelong learning throughout the course by positioning myself as a co-learner and encouraging students to move beyond simply learning facts and concrete skills to developing critical consciousness and deep reflection as they engage in the learning process.

I believe all learners deserve to be valued, treated with dignity and respect, and have their voices heard with openness, empathy and compassion. This learning belongs to the community of learners. As a new group of learners comes together to create a learning community, I start by engaging exercises that allow the newly formed group to get to know each other and build trust. In particular, we discuss the importance

of creating a safe and welcoming environment where all voices are valued and respected. I use in-class group exercises to encourage discussion and even difficult conversations, using our co-created tools and guidelines to ensure learners feel comfortable and safe contributing to the group dialogue. Likewise, I use project-based group assignments to allow learners to facilitate, organize, resolve conflicts, communicate, teach, and learn from each other.

I believe that learning is a cooperative endeavor that can be transformative to the learner and impact in the community. This learning belongs to society. Throughout the course, I frame the materials, assignments and conversation within the larger context of the societal and global implications. In their reflective practice, learners are encouraged to consider and restructure this knowledge for future application. Through individual and group action research, learners engage with real-world issues to further develop their critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaborative skillset. Taking the learning out of the classroom and into the community allows learners to use creativity and reflection while working through intellectually challenging issues that highlight the divergence and convergence of theory and practice.

I believe that I have a responsibility to serve my community and contribute practically and intellectually to my profession. I have remained actively involved in education on a local, state, national and international level throughout my career. My intentional proximity to diverse communities and issues has given me a well-rounded lens that informs my educational approach and service. For example, my work on the Board of Directors for the Association of Rural and Small Libraries and projects with the Lubuto Libraries and the Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence has had a tremendous impact on all aspects of my life as an educator, community leader, and researcher.

We, the library and information science profession and representative libraries, find ourselves at an important moment within the arc of the information universe where traditional paradigms are not only unsustainable but actively work against the very essence of scholarly knowledge creation and production. This has a direct impact, not only in advancing scholarship but on society at large. Libraries, our resources, collections and services, are for the public good. I am interested in this position because as we stand at a time of opportunity in the history of libraries, we are responsible for equipping future professionals with the skills needed to address challenges within our global society.

Our next steps will open the doors of innovation and research, and provide access to information that scholars, teachers, leaders, students and society will use to educate, advance, create, dismantle and preserve. It is our responsibility and our charge in this time to move forward strategically and collaboratively to seek creative avenues while fundamentally retaining the integrity of our stewardship, principles and values. I believe that what we do now is the future, and the bridges that we build and redirect will lead the way to exponential growth in knowledge creation, production and dissemination. I am committed to use my wealth of experience, scholastic acumen, innovative and collaborative leadership to take up this charge.

As an educator, instructional leader and scholar-practitioner, I am committed to creating a learning environment that is reflective, inclusive and sets high expectations for all learners. I am enthusiastic about active, inquiry-based learning that is collaborative, engaging and focused on student achievement. I aim to co-create spaces with scholars to approach and understand issues to conceptualize and develop creative, data-driven, and holistic solutions. As a scholarly writer, researcher and educator, I am aware of the concerns of the academic community as they seek to place their contribution to scholarship into publication and practice. As a digitally astute librarian, I am aware of the dire need for innovative and

strategic approaches consistent with the overarching rights and principles that have guided and upheld the profession. This framework and lens of experience, coupled with my innovative approach to development, information and libraries, qualify me for this position.

The opportunity before us will require the knowledge and experience of a dynamic, collaborative and reflective leader, and I am ready and capable.

Throughout my career, I have come to appreciate my time living with and serving diverse communities from Zambia, to Guatemala to rural areas in the United States. The interconnectedness of libraries and the people that they serve have influenced my servant-visionary leadership style. It is my firm belief that libraries are not just about books and resources, but foundationally about people. Being a visionary leader allows me to move beyond 'thinking outside the box' to a mindset where the boxes that confine us and serve as a barrier to reaching our greatest potential, simply do not exist.

As an ALA Emerging Leader, ALA elected Councilor representing Delaware, and an Institution of Museum and Library Services Rare Book School Fellow, I have embraced the opportunities afforded me in this great profession. My experience of being an architect for engagement and catalyst for dialogue within organizations has led to gains from technological, administrative, and organizational levels. The innovative and strategic leadership that I provide is engaging, fiscally responsible and focused on our future capabilities to continue upholding the principles and values central to librarianship while embracing new bold ideas and actions.

Therefore, I am certain that I have much to offer the University of South Florida in advancing this exciting and impactful mission!

Dr. Tameca Jewell Beckett

## References

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