

Charles E. Becknell, Jr., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

School of Teacher Preparation, Administration, and Leadership

College of Health, Education, and Social Transformation

New Mexico State University

Email: cbeck@nmsu.edu

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- 2025 MDiv Chicago Theological Seminary
Master of Divinity
Emphasis: The Study of Black Faith and Life
Masters Portfolio: From Knowing to Becoming: Journey of Justice, Compassion, and Prophetic Leadership
- 2008 Ph.D. The University of New Mexico
Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies
Emphasis: Africana Studies and Higher Education Leadership
Dissertation: A Critical Race Analysis of Black Studies in the Post-Civil Rights Era
- 1995 M.A. Clark Atlanta University
Criminal Justice Administration
Emphasis: Socio-historical roots and systemic factors of crime, punishment, and community-centered solutions
- 1993 B.U.S. The University of New Mexico
University Studies
Emphasis: African American Studies

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2024 – Present Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator, Africana Studies
New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM
- 2020 – 2024 Senior Lecturer III, Religious Studies Program
The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
- 2017 – 2020 Director, Africana Studies Program
The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
- 2015 – 2019 Special Assistant to the Vice President, Division for Equity and Inclusion
The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
- 2014 – 2015 Associate Director, Africana Studies Program

The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

2012 – 2020 Lecturer III, Africana Studies Program
The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

2011 – 2012 Visiting Lecturer III, Africana Studies Program
The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

2010 – 2011 Post-Doctoral Diversity Fellow, Division for Equity and Inclusion
The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

2010 – 2015 Adjunct, Cultural Studies Department
Central New Mexico Community College, Albuquerque, NM

2002 – 2010 Program Specialist, Studies Program
The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

TEACHING AND MENTORING

Courses Taught: New Mexico State University

Undergraduate Courses

Fall 2024 AFST 1110: Introduction to Africana Studies (Synchronous, Online)
Spring 2024 AFST 1110: Introduction to Africana Studies (Synchronous, Online)
Summer 2025 AFST 4110/EDUC 5996 M1/EDUC 5996 U71: Race, Culture, and Education
(Synchronous, Online)
Fall 2025 AFST 1110: Introduction to Africana Studies (Synchronous, Online)
Spring 2025 AFST 1110: Introduction to Africana Studies (Synchronous, Online)

Courses Taught: University of New Mexico

Graduate Courses

LLSS 521: Sociology of Education
LLSS 593: Race, Ethnicity, and Education
LLSS 593: Introduction to Community Schools

Undergraduate Courses

AFST 1100: Introduction to Africana Studies (Online and Face-to-Face)
AFST 2110: Survey of African American History (Online and Face-to-Face)
AFST 303: Black Liberation and Religion (Online and Face-to-Face)
AFST 322: Africana Study Abroad
AFST 345: Foundations of Critical Race Theory
AFST 350: African American Culture
AFST 397: African American Education
AFST 397: Race and the Black Male in America

AFST 398: Africana Philosophy and Methods
AFST 399: Race, Culture, and Education
RELG 303: Black Liberation and Religion (Online and Face-to-Face)
RELG 441: African American Religions (Online)
RELG 441: Religion in American History (Online)
RELG 2120: Western Religions (Hybrid)
HIST 300: Religion in American History (Online)

Courses Taught: Central New Mexico Community College

Undergraduate Courses

AFST 1110/1150: Introduction to Africana Studies

PROFESSIONAL SPECIALIZATIONS

- **Africana Studies and Borderlands Scholarship**
Research and teaching focused on Black life, knowledge production, and institutional presence in the U.S.–Mexico borderlands.
- **Critical Pedagogy and Black Theological Formation**
Integration of Black theological and pastoral traditions into critical pedagogy, emphasizing ethical formation, relational care, and historically grounded knowledge production.
- **Curriculum Development and Programmatic Infrastructure**
Design and implementation of Africana Studies curricula, including upper-division general education courses, with attention to assessment, institutional alignment, and sustainable growth.
- **Sociocultural and Historical Analysis of Education**
Application of sociocultural, historical, and critical race frameworks to examine race, power, and inequality in educational contexts.
- **Undergraduate and Graduate Teaching and Mentorship**
Structured mentorship of undergraduate and graduate students supporting intellectual development, professional formation, and scholarly productivity.
- **Public Scholarship and Community-Engaged Work**
Engagement with congregations, community organizations, and public audiences, connecting Africana Studies scholarship to questions of care, justice, and civic responsibility.

SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts *work published in collaboration with graduate/doctoral student(s).

Becknell, C.E., Ulibarri, J, Matute-Chavarria, M, & Bellamy, E.H. (2026). Transforming education in New Mexico: The Black Education Act as an equity and cultural empowerment model. *Taboo: The Journal of Culture and Education*. 24(1), 174-191.

Becknell, C.E., *Green, T., & *Boyer, C. (2025). Mapping Black histories: Blackdom, maroon pedagogy, and the re-rooting of ethnic studies in the borderlands. *Ethnic Studies Pedagogies*. 3(2), 76-89. [researchgate.net/publication/399775685](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/399775685)

Becknell, C.E. (2025). Revising histories, resisting truths: The battle over black studies and the legacy of slavery in American education. *International Journal of Africana Studies*, 23(1-2). Issue in print only.

Matute-Chavarria, M., Knox, K., **Becknell, C.E.**, Ulibarri, J., & Snow, N. (2025). Cultivating resilience: Trauma-informed and culturally relevant pedagogy post-pandemic. *Midwest Journal of Education*, (2)2, 96-103. DOI: [10.69670/mje.2.2.7](https://doi.org/10.69670/mje.2.2.7)

Matute-Chavarria, M., Brown, P., & Becknell, C.E. (2025). Our children, our fight: Black parents resisting ableism and racism in schools. *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood* (Sage: high impact), 0(0), 1-14. DOI: [10.1177/14639491251396938](https://doi.org/10.1177/14639491251396938)

Becknell, C.E. (2025). Sweat the technique: Revelations on navigating hostile terrains of Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs). *Black Educology Mixtape "Journal"*, 3(1). repository.usfca.edu/be/vol3/iss1/8

Becknell, C.E. (2025). Reimagining the southwest borderlands: Black sovereignty and endurance in New Mexico. *The Discipline and the African World 2025 Report: An Annual Report on the State of Affairs for Africana Communities*. National Council of Black Studies, 118-128. issuu.com/ncbsonline/docs/ncbs_2025_annual_report

Other Published & Creative Works

Becknell, C.E. (2025). When the waters call us home: The sacred memory of a black life. (Op-ed) *Word in Black*. <https://wordinblack.com/2025/07/malcolm-jamal-warner-waters-call-us-home/>

Becknell, C.E. (2024). King of hearts (feat. Rev. Dr. Becknell, Jr.) [Music single]. G. June. *StreetSoul*.

Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts In Press *work submitted in collaboration with graduate/doctoral student(s).

Becknell, C.E. & *Boyer, C. Redefining resistance: Teaching defiance at the edge of dominion. In the Curriculum and Pedagogy Group (Eds.), Redefining Resistance: Narratives of Marginalized Teachers, Students, and Communities. Emerald.

Peer-Reviewed Works Under Review *work submitted in collaboration with graduate/doctoral student(s).

Becknell, C.E., & Matute-Chavarria (2026). School integration without belonging: A regional analysis of race and disability in the U.S. southwest. *American Historical Association*.

Becknell, C.E. (2026 Accepted). *Fugitive brilliance: Reconceptualizing Black giftedness as intellectual formation. Journal of Advanced Academics.*

Becknell, C.E. (2026). Fugitive ecclesial literacies: The prophetic Black church as an urban educational infrastructure. *The Urban Review*.

Becknell, C.E. (2026). Africana borderlands ways of knowing: The Black church and knowledge practices in New Mexico's borderlands. *Freedom: A Journal of Research in Africana Studies*.

Becknell, C.E., Morris, P., Matute-Chavarria, & Williams, D. (2026). Our children are sacred: Faith, disability justice, and educational hope. *Journal of Faith, Education, and Community*.

Morris, P., Becknell, C.E., Matute-Chavarria, M. (2025). Honoring family advocacy through liberatory teaching practices for young Black children. *The Urban Review*.

Becknell, C.E. (2025). Sanctuaries of resistance: The prophetic Black church as Fugitive Education. *Bank Street Occasional Paper Series*.

Becknell, C.E. (2025). We buried the curriculum and called it holy: A ritual for black educational rebirth. *Black Educology Mixtape "Journal"*.

Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts In Preparation

Becknell, C.E. Fugitive ecclesial literacies: The prophetic Black church as an urban educational infrastructure. *The Urban Review*.

Edwards, M.E., Becknell, C.E., & Posadas, C. Juvenile Crime & Justice Dynamics in New Mexico: Disproportionate Minority Contact/ Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System.

Becknell, C.E. Who Gets Taken Seriously? Recognition and Democratic Education in Schools. *Bank Street Occasional Paper Series*.

RESEARCH GRANT ACTIVITY

Funded

Freedom at the Borderlands: Black Memory, Faith, and Educational Struggle in Southern New Mexico is a place-based, community-engaged project that examines how Black communities use memory, faith, and collective care to sustain educational struggle amid historical erasure and

institutional constraints. **Principal Investigator (\$1,500) funded by the National Council for Black Studies (NCBS).**

In Progress

Project CARE: Critical Anti-Repressive Education is being developed through *Freedom at the Borderlands: Black Memory, Faith, and Educational Struggle in Southern New Mexico* (NCBS, 2026), a place-based pilot examining Black memory and faith as counter-pedagogical practices in repressive educational contexts. **Funder: College of Health, Education, and Social Transformation (HEST) through the HEST Emerging Scholars Program.**

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Refereed Conference Presentations

Becknell, C.E. (March 2025). *Southwest borderlands futures: Afrofuturism, resistance, and liberation in New Mexico. National Council for Black Studies 50th Anniversary Conference.*

Becknell, C.E. (November 2025). Storying liberation: Africana pedagogies and the sacred work of justice. *National Association for Multicultural Education Annual International Conference.*

Matute-Chavarria, & **Becknell, C.E.**, & Johnson, A. (November 2025). Our children, our fight: Black parents navigating the special education process. *National Association for Multicultural Education Annual International Conference.*

Refereed Conference Presentations Under Review

Becknell, C.E. (March 2026). The Black pastoral–fatherhood knowledge matrix: Study, care, and liberation in the U.S.–Mexico borderlands. *National Council for Black Studies Annual Conference.*

Invited Presentations

Becknell, C.E. (December 2024). Africana Studies in a reactionary era: Defining its purpose, importance, and calling. Black Programs, Clara Belle Williams, Black Student Graduation. New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM.

Becknell, C.E. (June 2024). Juneteenth: Educate, celebrate, and liberate. Inclusion and Diversity Interactive Webinar. Emergency Management, Planning, and Assurance. Sandia National Laboratories. Albuquerque, NM.

LEADERSHIP

- Program Coordinator: Africana Studies. New Mexico State University. Fall 2024 – Present.

SERVICE

University

- Member: Provost Council on African American Affairs (PCAA). Office of the Provost, New Mexico State University. 2024 – Present.

College and Department

- Master's Exam Evaluator, School of Teacher Preparation, Administration, and Leadership, New Mexico State University (Fall 2025).
- STEP Reads Evaluator, School of Teacher Preparation, Administration, and Leadership, New Mexico State University (Fall 2025).
- Master's Exam Evaluator, School of Teacher Preparation, Administration, and Leadership, New Mexico State University (Spring 2025).
- STEP Reads Evaluator, School of Teacher Preparation, Administration, and Leadership, New Mexico State University (Spring 2025).
- Master's Exam Evaluator, School of Teacher Preparation, Administration, and Leadership, New Mexico State University (Fall 2024).

Community

- Volunteer: NAACP Dona Ana County Branch, Las Cruces, NM. 2024.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Teaching Academy (124.25 Hours)

- P&T Panel: Promotion to Associate Professor (Fall 2025)
- Teaching the ChatGPT Generation (Fall 2025).
- Promotion & Tenure Portfolios (Summer 2025).
- Teaching Scholars Virtual Institute (Spring/Summer 2025).
- Supercharge Your CV (Spring 2025).
- The Online Teaching Survival Guide: A Book Group (Spring 2025).
- Acing Your Academic Interview (Spring 2025)
- Publish and Flourish: Workshop (Spring 2025)
- Publish and Flourish: A Book Group (Spring 2025).
- Get Your Students Actively Engaged (Spring 2025).
- Orientation for Faculty New to NMSU (Fall 2024).
- Becoming a Critically Reflective Teacher (Fall 2024).
- Becoming a Critically Reflective Teacher Book Group (Fall 2024).
- Expedite Your Teaching and Research with AI: Reading Group (Fall 2024).
- Demystifying the Software for Annual Evaluations and P&T (Fall 2024).
- Incorporating Literacy Principles in Your Instruction (Fall 2024).

- P&T Workshop: Promotion to Associate Professor (Fall 2024).
- Team Mentoring for Faculty New to NMSU for Fall 2024 (Fall 2024—Spring 2025).

NMSU PI Academy

- Research Administration Services PI Training (September 2024).
- The Proposal Life-Cycle (October 2024).
- 1-3-5 Plan (November 2024).
- Research Ideas Need a Plan (December 2024).
- Overview of the NIH and NSF and Funding Opportunities (January 2025).
- Using FundFit to find grants (January 2025)
- 1-3-5- Plan Continued (February 2025).
- The Proposal Budget (March 2025).
- Research Integrity & Compliance - IRB & IACUC (April 2025).
- Strategies to Develop Effective Proposals (May 2025).

Other Professional Development

- Faith and Justice Fellow. Center for Faith and Justice (August 2025-July 2026).
- Teach Truth: The Struggle for Antiracist Education. Montclair State University, College of Education and Engaged Learning (January 30, 2025).
- The Asa G. Hilliard III and Barbara A. Sizemore Research Course on African Americans and Education, Denver, CO. (April 2005: Application Rejected).