The H. Fred Simons African American Culture Center Welcomes New Director

The Office for Diversity and Inclusion is excited to introduce Alicia M. McKenzie as the new director of the H. Fred Simons African American Cultural Center (AACC). McKenzie has a vast range of experiences working within the areas of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in sectors across higher education, including as Residence Director, Cultural Center Director, and, most recently, serving as Bryant University’s Director of the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Over her twelve years of experience at several institutions of higher learning (including Bryant University, Nichols College, American International College, Eastern Connecticut State University, and Trinity College) McKenzie has worked to support faculty, staff, and students from historically excluded and racially oppressed communities in identifying and reaching their potential through trainings, programs, initiatives, & mentorship. In particular, McKenzie has developed and launched a number of academic, social, and cultural programs to promote the success of BIPOC and underrepresented students, including Nichols University’s Peer2Peer Mentoring program, which paired first-year students of color with student leaders of color across campus, as well as Bryant University’s “Tough Talk Tuesdays” series, a livestreamed series where McKenzie facilitated discussions about topics like race, privilege, microaggressions, and colorism. McKenzie also led a collaborative effort between Athletics, Academic Advising and her office at Nichols to develop Project180, which worked with Black men on campus to address holistically their academic success, sense of belonging, and retention. The Office for Diversity and Inclusion looks forward to welcoming Alicia M. McKenzie to campus in the fall!