

2020 Ann E Nolte Writing Award Nomination Rational

Dr. Shawnte' Elbert and Ta-Kisha Jones for chapter, Campus Health and Wellness in the book, *Supporting Neurodiverse College Student Success: A guide for librarians, student support services, and Academic Learning Environments*. (2021).

Please note edited **matter** is not added in the document copy, but the copy shared includes the end of the publication submitted.

Both authors submitted for the chapter nomination embody the promotion of well-being. They both have made significant contributions within academia, as black female entrepreneurs, families, communities, and in their personal lives.

- Dr. Elbert currently serves at The Ohio State University's Associate Vice President for Health and Well-being in the Office of Student Life. Her contributions to public health and the people who are called to do the work can be summed up as the indispensable leadership mentor. Dr. Elbert has developed internship and mentorship programs that equip, strengthen, and build current and future practitioners. Some memberships are beyond 2,000 members. She is committed to fostering a work environment that embraces all forms of diversity and allows for growth and development of all students and employees.

Her voice and leadership have helped to shape policies in diverse platforms such as cabinets, national organizations, Board of Trustees and the Attorney General. Examples include immunizations, involuntary medical withdrawal, and removing the "sick note" requirement. She is well known for strengthening critical relationships across universities and shifting the campus climate. As the co-founder of SISTER W.E.L.L.S., Counseling, coaching, & consulting, PLLC Dr. Elbert assist men and women develop healthy and holistic lifestyles by achieving balance in the 8 dimensions of wellness. So, you see, the expertise that she has poured out over 19 years to others is evidence of her dedication and is worthy of honor.

- Mrs. Jones currently serves as the Associate Director of Public Health Practice at Indiana University Bloomington, in the school of public health. She has taught and administered programs for about 15 years, majority being in the community. Her passion, dedication, and expertise in public health was recognized by her alma mater who selected her as a distinguished alumnus. She was selected an awardee for the Health and Human Performance Spotlight in 2019. This recognition is given to distinguished alumni who are succeeding in their respective fields and are positively impacting the community. Most recently Mrs. Jones has been asked to serve as one of the social ambassadors for the program. Outreach and prevention is also a part of her business as she empowers holistic well-being through coaching, education, and creative healing initiatives.

The pandemic has not slowed her down but launched her forward to expand her reach and diversify her audience. In June she led dementia caregivers and other caretakers from North Caroline, Atlanta, Texas, and Indiana from their homes. Mrs. Jones innate ability to connect people, build bridges, and creatively inspire well-being is truly admirable. For example, as a

health department employee she went beyond her educator expectations and supported youth in their time of need. Those considered at-risk, were known to regain their sense of pride, self-worth, and place in society. She reset a grassroots liaison structure to enroll students as co-leaders. Students not only were positioned to learn but execute and advocate in state-wide conferences. One student benefited so much that she stayed focused enough to transition out of alternative school and graduate with her class.

These two women are trailblazers in their own rights. They both have served as intern supervisors, adjunct professors, mentors, affiliate president or board of director of the American College Health Association, and peer health education leaders. They are an example of the “each one teach one” proverb. Dr. Elbert has mentored Mrs. Jones along the years, and now Mrs. Jones does the same for other current and budding public health professionals.