

Castel Sweet, PhD

castelsweet@gmail.com | castelsweet.com

EDUCATION

Certification in Nonprofit and Community Leadership – University of Dayton (2019)

Doctor of Philosophy, Sociology – Louisiana State University (2017)

Dissertation Title: “Local Embeddedness Matters: A Study of Hip-Hop/Rap Artists’ Interactions with their Community”

Master of Arts, Sociology – Louisiana State University (2014)

Master’s Thesis Title: “Prophets, Studio Revolutionaries, and On-the-Ground Activists: Hip-Hop/Rap Artists’ Approaches to Community Engagement”

Bachelor of Science, Criminology/Criminal Justice – Hampton University (2012)

Honors College, Magna Cum Laude

Undergraduate Thesis Title: “The Effects on Incarceration and Re-Entry on Children, Families, & Communities”

EXPERIENCE

University of Mississippi

The University of Mississippi, established in 1844, is Mississippi’s flagship university. The University of Mississippi has 15 academic divisions, is included in the elite group of R-1: Doctoral University, and renown for a blend of academic rigor, experiential learning, and opportunities for community action. Located in Oxford, Mississippi, it is the state’s largest university is ranked among the nation’s largest growing institutions, enrolling more than 24,000 students.

Division of Diversity and Community Engagement

July 2021 - Present

Director of Center for Community Engagement and Assistant Professor of Practice in Community Engagement

The Center for Community Engaged, founded in early 2020 as the Office of Community Engagement, is the University of Mississippi’s dedicated unit focused on elevating, celebrating, and sustaining excellence in community engagement across all Colleges, units, and departments. To advance the institutionalization of community-engaged research, learning, and service and engaged scholarship, the center using a highly collaborative work ethic that emphasizes co-creation and collaboration in project development and delivery.

Develops and administers additional activities for faculty, staff, and community partners as a means of increasing the community engagement capacity of the University. Leads the establishment and continuous improvement of a Bonner Leaders Program, a Community Engaged Leadership Minor, a comprehensive volunteer center, a faculty development program, and future community engagement intersession institutes for University and visiting scholars.

University of Dayton

The University of Dayton, established in 1850 by the Society of Mary (Marianists), is a private Roman Catholic research university in Dayton, Ohio. The University of Dayton is one of three Marianist

universities in the nation. It offers more than 80 academic programs in the arts and sciences, business administration, education, and health sciences, engineering, and law. The university has about 8,000 undergraduate students and 2,200 post-graduate students from across the United States and over 40 countries.

L. William Crotty Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership

April 2020 - Present

Director, Community Engagement and Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

The L. William Crotty Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership at the University of Dayton provides a distinctive approach to university entrepreneurship education. This multidisciplinary entrepreneurship major and program, designed to meet the educational needs of future entrepreneurs, gives students the opportunity to start actual micro-businesses and offers exposure to rapid growth companies and regular contact with successful entrepreneurs.

Supports the cultivation of intentional engagement practices with a diverse portfolio of community members, businesses and non-profit organizations in the experiential learning programs managed by the center. In addition, supports the diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives for the SBA and Crotty Center as well the center's major initiatives with The Hub at the Arcade and the Greater West Dayton Incubator.

Selected Achievements

- Selected as one of Dayton Business Journal's 2020 Forty Under 40
- Appointed by the university president to the President's Commission on the Status of Women.
- Served as the co-chair of the Diversity Institutional Learning Goals working group to identify ways to strengthen diversity-based educational outcomes across both curricular and co-curricular student experiences on campus.
- Inaugural member of the Editorial Advisory Board for National Campus Compact Publications.

Department of Educational Administration

Oct 2020 - Present

Adjunct Faculty in Doctor of Education (EdD) in Leadership for Organizations

Graduate Level Online Courses Developed through 2U, Inc:
Communication and Community Engagement

Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work

Aug 2019 – Dec 2019

Adjunct Faculty in Sociology

Undergraduate Level Courses Taught:
Principles of Sociology

Fitz Center for Leadership in Community

Oct 2017 – March 2020

Coordinator, Community Engaged Learning & Scholarship

The Fitz Center for Leadership in Community was named after Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., Ph.D., the longest-serving president in the history of the university. The Fitz Center was created after Brother Ray stepped down as President in 2002, to sustain and build relationships with neighborhoods, community nonprofit organization, and government entities. The center serves as a connecting point and campus-wide partner for community partnerships, leadership, community-engaged learning and scholarship, and innovative solution-based strategies to civic needs through an asset-based approach.

Supports the integration of community-engaged learning and scholarship by faculty, staff, students, and community partners. Coordinates the Semester of Service program in which students take a sabbatical from courses to provide community partner organizations with full-time capacity building support for a semester. Recruit, communicate, place, monitor, mentor, and orient student participants. Develop and integrate weekly leadership development training, reflective practices, social justice, diversity and inclusion training, and community building curriculum. Support reciprocal community partnerships for Dayton-area nonprofit organizations. Collaborate university-wide for curriculum and co-curricular programming on civic engagement, community building, and social change.

Selected Achievements

- Co-hosted a regional conference on Community Partnership for Global Learning and Human Rights.
- Increased the diversity and amount of community partner organizations for the Semester of Service program.
- Work with internal and external stakeholders to design a campus appropriate Bonner Leader Program model for students to support local community organizations through progressive capacity-building roles.
- Co-Taught diversity and inclusion experiential learning course, Understanding, Respecting, and Connecting: Examining Privilege and Taking Action, that includes undergraduate, graduate, staff, and faculty. The course included a group trip to engage with the White Privilege Conference.
- Served as a Diversity & Social Justice Fellow to develop scaffolded learning outcomes for Diversity & Social Justice learning outcome of the university's Common Academic Program.
- Selected as a 2019-2020 Engaged Scholar through Midwest Campus Compact collectively working to enhance and expand civic and community engagement at higher education institutions.
- Featured in the Women of UD 2020 campaign which recognized women at the University of Dayton, both past and present, who have had a profound impact in a variety of areas and fields, and those that champion and model an inclusive and equitable campus.

Institutional Service

Committee Member, Dissertation in Practice – Alexandra Smith, Fall 2020 - Present
Committee Member, Dissertation in Practice – Karlos L. Marshall, Fall 2020 - Present
Convener, Creating Inclusive Communities Steering Committee, Fall 2020 - Present
Committee Member, Women's Leadership Immersion Planning Committee, Fall 2018 - Present
Committee Member, Supporting Multicultural Students, Spring 2018 - Present
Committee Member, Office of Diversity and Inclusion Think Tank, Fall 2017 - Present
Trip Mentor, UD-Standing Rock South Dakota Native American Reservation Trip, Spring 2018
Committee Member, Creating Inclusive Communities Steering Committee, Fall 2017 - Present
Committee Member, Experiential Learning Advisory Committee, Fall 2017 - Present
Committee Member, GEMnasium Steering Committee, Fall 2017- Present
Committee Member, Working with Children in Residential Settings in a Global Context Advisory Committee, Fall 2017 – Spring 2018

Community Service

YWCA Dayton, Advocacy Committee Chair
YWCA Dayton, Board Member

Dayton Young Black Professionals, Advisory Board Member
The Collaboratory, Re-Imagining America Design Team

Petroleum Institute

The Petroleum Institute, established in 2002, was an engineering university located in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates funded by a consortium of national and international oil companies. The university offered a variety of engineering degrees, intending to provide the local oil and gas industry with engineers. In the 2016-2017 academic year, there were over 800 undergraduate male students and 100 female students studying on two campuses separated by gender; Habshan for males, and Arzanah for females. As of February 2017, the university has merged with Khalifa University and Masdar Institute of Science and Technology.

Campus Life

Aug 2016 – June 2017

Visiting Graduate Fellow

Responsible for providing structure and support to university-affiliated student groups and organizations. Align student groups and organizations to be more equitable across both male and female campuses. Support student council with documenting policies and procedures. Advise student groups on projects, initiatives, and events.

Selected Achievements

- Developed a student events manual to be used by Student Life Coordinators and student groups outline information on the planning and execution of campus-wide events and activities.
- Created and implemented student leadership training for both students and staff.
- Implemented weekly campus-wide emails to share Student Life events and activities.
- Collaborated with media staff to consistently highlight student leaders and student-led initiatives.
- Revitalized feedback surveys to improve and assess Student Life programming.

Louisiana State University

Louisiana State University, established in 1853, is a public research university located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The university is designated as a land-grant, sea-grant, and space-grant institution, and is noted for its extensive research facilities that operate over 800 sponsored research projects funded by national research foundations. The university enrolls over 25,00 undergraduate students and over 5,000 graduate students in over 14 schools and colleges.

Social Research & Evaluation Center

Oct. 2014-July 2016

Research Assistant

The College of Human Science's Social Research & Evaluation Center fosters collaboration among academic and community partners to build healthy social systems by facilitating the development, implementation, and evaluation of social programs, conducting research and providing consultation and expertise. The Center features a team of research staff and faculty who have the experience, expertise, and tools necessary to investigate complex social problems.

Supported the planning and implementation of a \$3.5 million grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health for a three-year afterschool and summer program for at-

risk minority boys called YEP Village. Assisted with building and maintaining relationships with K-12 administrators, principals, and teachers. Collected data from students, parents, and teachers for program assessment and evaluation. Coordinated effective communication to support parent and school engagement through social media, emails, and print communications. Maintained relevant records for each student participant.

Selected Achievements

- Co-authored quarterly grant reports submitted to federal grant managers.
- Created and managed program calendar and inventory of supplies and resources.
- Designed and published a quarterly newsletter publication.
- Recruited, trained and supervised undergraduate student volunteers.

Institutional Service

Team Member, CHANGE Break: 2016 Ghana, Summer 2016

Volunteer LSU Focus Area Director, Campus Life, Spring 2016

Team Mentor, CHANGE Break: 2016 Atlanta, Spring 2016

Director of Community Outreach, Geaux BIG Baton Rouge, Fall 2015 – Spring 2016

Group Facilitator, Leadership LSU, Spring 2015

Selection Committee, Tom W. Dutton Service Award, Fall 2014 – Spring 2015

Assistant Director of Community Outreach, Geaux BIG Baton Rouge, Fall 2014 – Spring 2015

Team Member, CHANGE Break: 2014 Vancouver, Winter 2014

Community Service

Garden of Champions Community Garden Volunteer

From the Bottom to the Top Community Garden Volunteer

Department of Social Work

Aug 2015 – May 2016

Graduate Instructor

Undergraduate Level Courses Taught:

Youth Intervention-Prevention and Engagement (Community-Based Learning)

Graduate School Office of Recruitment, Retention & Diversity

June 2014 – Oct 2014

Graduate Assistant

Responsible for the dissemination of graduate school information through correspondence to graduate program inquiries. Maintained records and documentation for McNair Scholars, Gates Millennium Scholars, and Pre-Doctoral Scholar's Institute. Facilitated information sessions and represented the graduate school at informational fairs. Served as the first point of connection for the office.

Selected Achievements

- Planned and implemented new graduate student orientation for all incoming graduate students.

Department of Sociology

Jan 2013 – May 2013

Research Assistant

Supported the principal researcher on a research grant assessing the impact of community gardens on local crime in the area of Old South Baton Rouge. Attended and participated in multiple Urban

Community Gardens within the Old South Baton Rouge area. Responsible for the collection of qualitative field notes and analysis on community garden meetings and gatherings. Maintained communication with community garden advocated on behalf of university volunteers. Supervised and coordinated undergraduate students attending the garden for service-learning hours.

Selected Achievements

- Co-authored a research paper exploring the development of social capital within community gardens published in the journal *Folklore Miscellany*.

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Sweet, Castel and Molly Malaney Sayre. *Under Review*. "Virtual and In-Person Community-Engaged Learning: Is Student Learning Virtually the Same?"

Sayre, Molly Malaney and **Castel Sweet**. *Under Review*. "Calling All Students? Enrollment in Community-Engaged Learning Courses at an Urban, Marianist University."

LaDuca, Brian; Adrienne Ausdenmoore; Kevin P. Hallinan; Anne Crecelius; Jennifer Katz-Buonconintoro; Jana Bennett; Jackie Arnold; Connie Bowman; **Castel Sweet**; Michelle Hayford; Jerome Yorke; Rebecca Blust; and Phillip Appiah Kubi. 2019. "A transdisciplinary collaboration and innovation education model and experience." *Research in Higher Education Journal*, Volume 37.

Becker, Sarah and **Castel Sweet**. 2018. "What Would I Look Like?": How Concentrated Disadvantage Impacts Hip-Hop Artists' Connections to Community." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, Volume 6: Issue 1.

Sweet, Castel and Sarah Becker. 2015. "Trying to build the community up": An Exploration of the Social Impacts of Louisiana Urban Community Gardens." *Louisiana Folklore Miscellany*, Volume XXV.

BOOK CHAPTERS, ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES, & WHITE PAPERS

Morgan, Thomas; **Castel Sweet**; Jesse Hughes. *Forthcoming*. "Leveraging Experiential Learning to Create Inclusive Community at Predominantly White Institutions."

Bohrer, Kelly; **Castel Sweet**; Matthew A. Witenstein; Mary Niebler. *Forthcoming*. "A Journey Approach to Vocation: Contextualizing Immersion Experiences for Vocation Exploration."

Herndon, Steve; Kelly S. Johnson; Kimberly Edginton Bigelow; Una M. Cadegan; Diana Cuy-Castellanos; Alan Demmitt; Chris Fishpaw; Hunter Phillips Goodman; Daria-Yvonne J. Graham; Joseph Krella; Chad Painter; Kathy Sales; Kellie Schneider; **Castel Sweet**; William Vance Trollinger; Erick Salvador Vasquez; Chanel Wright; and Mary B. Ziskin. 2019. "Community as an Institutional Learning Goal at the University of Dayton". Documents of the Provost's Office at the University of Dayton.

Sweet, Castel. 2018. "Afrika Bambaataa 1957?-". In *St. James Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Culture* edited by Thomas Riggs. Farmington Hill, MI: St. James Press. pp. 5-8.

Sweet, Castel. 2018. "DJ Kool Herc". In *St. James Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Culture* edited by Thomas Riggs. Farmington Hill, MI: St. James Press. pp. 117-119.

Sweet, Castel. 2018. "Dungeon Family". In *St. James Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Culture* edited by Thomas Riggs. Farmington Hill, MI: St. James Press. pp. 134-136.

Sweet, Castel. 2018. "Outkast". In *St. James Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Culture* edited by Thomas Riggs. Farmington Hill, MI: St. James Press. pp. 346-348.

Sweet, Castel. 2018. "Universal Zulu Nation". In *St. James Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Culture* edited by

Thomas Riggs. Farmington Hill, MI: St. James Press. pp. 472-475.

Jackson, Melinda; **Castel Sweet** & Dari Green. 2016. "The Effects of Hurricane Katrina on Black Women: Understanding Women's Fear through an Intersectional Lens." In *After the Storm: Militarization, Occupation, and Segregation in Post-Katrina America* edited by Lori Latrice Martin, Hayward Horton, and Kenneth Fasching-Varner. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger Publishing.

OP-ED PUBLICATIONS

Sweet, Castel. "Demands for Racial Justice Necessitate an Examination of Current Community-University Partnerships." *Campus Compact*, 19 Nov 2020, <https://compact.org/demands-for-racial-justice-necessitate-an-examination-of-current-community-university-partnerships/>

PREFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Sayre, Molly Malany and **Castel Sweet**. Racial Equity and Inclusion in Community-Engaged Learning. Council on Social Work Education 66th Annual Program Meeting, November 2020, Virtual.

Combs, Jason; Erin Gibbemeyer; Thomas Morgan; **Castel Sweet**; Jivanto van Hemert; and Matthew Mitenstein. Diversity and Social Justice Institutional Learning Goals. Teaching and Learning Forum at the University of Dayton, January 2020, Dayton, OH.

Sayre, Molly Malany; **Castel Sweet**; Kelly Bohrer; and Malcolm Daniels. Calling All Students? Assessment of Students Enrolling in ETHOS Immersions, Semester of Service, and the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program. Teaching and Learning Forum at the University of Dayton, January 2020, Dayton, OH.

Burkett, Maria Ollier; Kelly Bohrer; Mary Niebler; **Castel Sweet**; and Matthew Witenstein. Vocational Reflection on Immersion: A Quest for Purpose. Teaching and Learning Forum at the University of Dayton, January 2020, Dayton, OH.

Sweet, Castel and Karlos L. Marshall. From the Classroom to the Community: How Do I Advance the Common Good in Inclusive and Innovative Ways?. University of Dayton Inclusive Excellence Academy, November 2019, Dayton, OH.

Sweet, Castel and Karlos L. Marshall. Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: Applying the UN Sustainable Development Goals to Local Community Engagement. Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities National Meeting, October 2019, Philadelphia, PA.

Sweet, Castel. *Valuing Community Partners as Educators*. Midwest Global Service Learning Institute, May 2019, Dayton, OH.

Morgan, Thomas; **Castel Sweet**; and Jesse Hughes. *Strategies for Creating Inclusive Community at Predominantly White Institutions*. White Privilege Conference, March 2019, Cedar Rapids, IA.

Morgan, Thomas and **Castel Sweet**. *Creating Inclusive Community at the University of Dayton*. Power and Vulnerability: 2nd Annual Learning & Teaching Forum, January 2019, University of Dayton, Dayton, OH.

- Sweet, Castel.** *Semester of Service Program: Leveraging Experiential Learning to Increase Capacity in Local Nonprofit Organizations.* Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities National Meeting, October 2018, Chicago, IL.
- Sweet, Castel** and Samantha Kennedy. *University of Dayton Servant Leadership Models.* IMPACT National Conference, March 2018, Dayton, OH.
- Jackson, Melinda, **Castel Sweet.** *The Effects of Hurricane Katrina on Black Women: Understanding Women's Fear through an Intersectional Lens.* Paper Presentation at Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, August 2015, Chicago, IL.
- Sweet, Castel.** *"I Just Want to See You Shine, Son": Hip-Hop and Rap Artists' Performance as Natural Mentors.* Paper Presentation at Popular Cultural Association/American Cultural Association, April 2015, New Orleans, LA.
- Sweet, Castel.** *Studio Revolutionary, On-the-ground Activist, and/or Natural Mentor: Hip-Hop/Rap Artists Pursuit to be a Catalyst for Social Change.* Paper Presentation at Wiley College's Second Annual Scholars of the Culture Conference, March 2015, Marshall, TX.
- Jackson, Melinda and **Castel Sweet.** *The Anonymous Intersections of Gender, Race, Class and Fear in Black Baton Rouge in the 21st Era.* Paper Presentation at Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, March 2015, New Orleans, LA.
- Sweet, Castel.** *LSU/Loyola University Leadership Exchange 2014: HIV/AIDS.* Poster Presentation at LSU's Live Gold Leadership Conference, November 2014, Baton Rouge, LA.
- Sweet, Castel.** *Hip-Hop/Rap Artists' Approach to Community Engagement: Physical Activism and/or Verbal Stimulation.* Poster Presentation at the American Society of Criminology Annual Conference, November 2014, San Francisco, CA.
- Sweet, Castel.** *Hip-Hop/Rap Artists' Conceptions of "Community": Physical/Symbolic Spaces and Local Activism.* Paper Presentation at the Rural Sociological Society Annual Conference, July 2014, New Orleans, LA.

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAININGS

Mental Health First Aid USA Certificate, *National Council for Behavioral Health.* (July 2018)

GRANTS

Semester of Service Program, \$25,000. *Marianist Foundation Board.* (2019)

Semester of Service Program, \$20,000. *Marianist Foundation Board.* (2018)

AWARDS & HONORS

Dayton Business Journal, Forty Under 40 List 2020

YWCA Dayton 2020 Sojourn Leadership and Justice Academy

Women of UD Honoree March 2020

Midwest Campus Compact, Engaged Scholars 2019-2020

University of Dayton Diversity & Social Justice Fellow 2019

Association of Black Sociologists Graduate Student Paper Competition 3rd Place 2014

Louisiana State University Tom W. Dutton Service Award 2014

Hampton University Oliver C. Cox Sociology Award for Leadership and Service 2011

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Campus Compact

Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities

Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education (Civic Learning and Engagement Committee)