

Washington State University

College of Education

Jason Smith

Will defend the dissertation on

Date: July 12, 2023

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Everett Campus – Room 430

Zoom available upon request to gradstudies@wsu.edu

Faculty, students and the general public are encouraged to attend

UNDERSTANDING THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF BLACK MALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT VETERANS

Chair: Shannon Calderone

Black men and veterans can encounter multiple challenges that impede their academic progress. Black undergraduate men, particularly at predominantly White institutions (PWI) continue to fight negative stereotypes at a higher rate than other populations. Student veterans can also feel unwelcomed, alienated, and isolated from the rest of the student body. Currently there is a lack of literature that looks at the intersectional challenges of being both Black and being a veteran in higher education. Grounded in both Critical Race Theory and Veteran Critical Theory, this qualitative study collected the counternarratives of 6 Black male community college student veterans to better understand their lived experiences. It is hopeful that this research will help community colleges better understand how they can support their Black male veteran population. If institutions can better understand what the possible challenges and roadblocks these students are facing, in addition to understanding what helps contribute to their overall sense of belonging, colleges can potentially be more successful with retaining this population and help with the overall success of Black male veterans in their higher education.