



Kaela S. Singleton, PhD

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW, DSPAN SCHOLAR

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 Atlanta, GA

KaelaSingleton

SERVICE STATEMENT

"You can't be what you can't see."

– Marian Wright Edelman

"The youth need to see greatness reflected in our eyes.

Go forth, let them know it's real."

– Danai Gurira

Academic service promotes leadership skills, fosters collaborations, and supports the growth of our scientific, academic and local community. However, with great power comes great responsibility.

As an educator, I am obligated to I use my voice, platform and lived experience as a Black queer woman to ensure students within my community (academic or otherwise) feel valued, heard and appreciated. I aim to use my participation in outreach and universities committees to combat the systemic racism, sexism, ableism, transphobia, homophobia and classism seen in my communities and academia at large.

Through service, I will promote not just diversity, equity and inclusion but also uphold representation and accountability. The physical act of seeing someone who looks like you, achieve their dreams, can and will spark curiosity and creativity. Thus, I will use my power as a professor to ensure the values and voices of Black and Brown people are heard and seen on university committees, as well as use my privilege(s) to create environments that Black and Brown people thrive in. Additionally, holding academic institutions accountable for their silence, complacency, and inaction is the cornerstone of improving the scientific community. Thus, I will continue to use my voice, platform, and service to hold my academic and broader Atlanta community accountable.

To this end, I along with twenty-one other scholars in the neuroscience community founded [BlackInNeuro](#), a social media initiative to increase visibility and highlight the accomplishments of Black folks in neuro-related fields at a national level. We hosted the first [BlackInNeuroWeek](#) on social media and developed a database with over 200 Black scholars in neuro. We celebrated the accomplishments of Black scholars at every level in academia by hosting panels on academic journeys, mentorship and outreach. The ultimate goal of Black in Neuro is to increase the representation of Black scholars in academia and build a sense of community and belonging. As President Elect of BlackInNeuro, my mission is to ensure we continue to uplift and support Black scientists at all levels.

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SERVICE STATEMENT CONTINUED

I will update my Teaching, Mentor and Service statements as I continue to train and educate myself and continue to share and cite the resources that have shifted my perspective in education, mentorship and service.

Through acts of service, I will fight for and promote institutional changes and actively engage with scholars outside of my department and scientific niche in order to further my own education and implement changes necessary to support and uplift all students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kaela S. Singleton', written in a cursive style.

Kaela S. Singleton, PhD
she/her/hers