

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Alphonso Garrett Jr. for Delegate

I have more than 12 years of progressive enrollment management and admissions experience, having spent time in positions at a diverse collection of institutions including: a private liberal arts college, two state universities (one urban setting, one college town), a proprietary institution, and a Historically Black University – all within PCACAC's service area.

The majority of my career has focused on working directly with underrepresented and first generation college students like myself. Finding myself frustrated with system barriers, contradicting goals, and the politics of admissions, I, along with several colleagues across Virginia universities created a working group, Diversity Initiatives for Collaborative Education (DICE) which provided a platform for institutions to work together and through grassroots efforts take diversity recruitment in a new direction.

Outside of my direct responsibilities, I have continuously remained engaged in professional organizations and contributed to the profession. I have long standing ties to PCACAC, VACRAO, VCAN, and VALHEN. In addition to membership, my leadership roles have included serving PCACAC as the Anne Powell Memorial Mentoring Program Chairperson and Summer Institute Faculty, acting as President of VACRAO, and coordinating member of VALHEN's award winning Hispanic College Institute.

I joined the University of Maryland Eastern Shore as Director of Admissions & Recruitment in August 2019 - a position that came with many challenges but I feel it places me in the right place at the right time to make my biggest impact on higher education. Since joining the UMES team, I have implemented a test optional policy, increased presence and reestablished relationships with communities, and led a trend of increased applications and offers of admission to the University.

I am a first generation college student, Army Veteran, with a B.S. in Communication, a M.S.Ed, and Graduate Certificate in Enrollment Management.