

monique inez liston, ph.d
BIOGRAPHY & CURRICULUM VITAE

dr. monique inez liston is a forward-thinking collaborator, skilled facilitator, insightful evaluator, and courageous leader. dr. liston is committed to embedding Afro-futurist principles in her work, fostering significant change among teams, organizations, and community leaders.

With a deep conviction that the futures of Black people are essential to social justice, she advocates for emergence and abolition as routes to liberatory practices. As the founder, Chief Strategist, and Joyful Militant of UBUNTU Research and Evaluation, monique channels her dedication into actionable efforts.

Under her guidance, her team of independent researchers and evaluators has achieved considerable success. They've secured substantial contracts, delivered impactful presentations at global conferences, and made meaningful contributions to literature in evaluation, higher education, and Black Studies.

Her pioneering work has earned her numerous honors, including the Milwaukee Business Journal's Diversity in Business Community Engagement Award, the Campaign for Black Male Achievement Respect Award, and the YWCA of Southeastern Wisconsin Eliminating Racism Award. UBUNTU Research and Evaluation has also been recognized with multiple nominations for the Shepherd Express's Best Place to Work for Social Justice.

dr. liston's academic achievements are noteworthy, with degrees from Howard University, the University of Delaware, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, along with a Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies.

Outside of her professional life, monique enjoys traveling the world, exploring diverse cuisines, creating with Legos, and getting lost in animated television.

Her work is focused on dismantling white supremacist structures and strengthening Black-led organizations and communities, but her spirit is filled with vitality and an appreciation for life's colorful experiences.

In a world eager for leaders who drive change, dr. monique inez liston is a guiding light, leading us toward a future of equity, freedom, and joy.

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EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

- **HIGHER EDUCATION**

- 2018 **Ph.D. in Social Foundations of Education**, UW - Milwaukee
 Dissertation Title: Developing Dignity-based Evaluation Tools for Organizations Working with Black Males
 Committee: Raji Swaminathan, Ph.D. (chair); Aaron Schutz, Ph.D.; Cindy Walker, Ph.D.; Decoteau Irby, Ph.D.
- 2010 **MPA in Financial Management and Education Policy**, University of Delaware
 Thesis: Resource Allocation - What School Superintendents and Business Managers in Delaware Need to Know
 Committee: Dennis Loftus, Ed.D (chair); Jerome Lewis, Ph.D.; Jason Hale, Ed.D.; James P. Flynn, Ed.D.
- 2008 **Bachelor of Arts in Sociology**, Howard University
 Summa Cum Laude

- **CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING**

- 2017 **Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies**
 University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
- 2008 **Certificate of Entrepreneurship**
 Howard University
- 2008 **Certificate of Nonprofit Leadership (CNP)**
 Nonprofit Leadership Alliance - Howard University Chapter

- **PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

- 2023 - Co-Director, Graduate Education Diversity Initiative
 American Evaluation Association
- 2017 - Founder, Chief Strategist
 UBUNTU Research and Evaluation
- 2018 - 2021 Senior Lecturer, Marquette University
 NPSE 6530 Social Justice and Social Action
 PUBS 6630 Program Evaluation
- 2017 - 2018 Instructor, Marquette University
 Center for Gender and Sexualities Studies
 INGS 1001 Introduction to Gender and Sexualities Studies
- 2012 - 2014 Senior Lecturer, University of Wisconsin - Whitewater
 Department of Women's and Gender Studies
 GENED 110 Introduction to Social Science
 WMNS 100 Introduction to Women's Studies
- 2012 Lecturer, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
 Department of Educational Policy and Community Studies
 EDPOL 506 Research Techniques for Community Organizers and Community Educators

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2019-2020 Leaders-in-Residence, University of Louisville
- 2017-2018 Building Beloved Community Fellowship
 Campaign for Black Male Achievement (CBMA)
- 2015-2016 Graduate Education Diversity Intern (GEDI)
 American Evaluation Association
 Center for Urban Population Health

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KEYNOTES

- 2025 Canadian Evaluation Society Annual Meeting
- 2024 Pincus Family Foundation, NextGen Summit
- 2024 Michigan Association of Evaluation
- 2023 University of Maryland, Black Graduate Student Association
- 2022 Wisconsin PBIS Network
- 2021 Serve WI
- 2021 American Jesuit Colleges and Universities
- 2020 Occidental College
- 2020 Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health
- 2019 Wisconsin Academic Advising Association
- 2018 National Association of Black Accountants

PUBLICATIONS

- **Book Chapters**
 - Taylor, Ellis, White and Liston. (2024). Black Methodologies for Black Evaluators. In L. Wingate & et. al. Core Concepts in Evaluation: Classic Writings and Contemporary Commentary. SAGE Publications.
 - Liston, M. (2021). Black Girl Sisterhood As Resilience And Resistance. In O. Delano-Oriaran, M. Penick & et. al. Teaching Brilliant Black Girls. Corwin: Sage Publications.
 - Liston, M. (2020). The Need for Beloved Community: An Organizational Autoethnography of Creating Counterspaces with Community. In J. Conyers, Jr., C. Edwards and K. Thompson, African Americans in Higher Education: A Critical Study of Social and Philosophical Foundations of Africana Culture. Maine: Myers Education Press.
 - Liston, M. (2017). "There's No Sally And Thomas Here!": Scandal, Twitter, And Black Feminist Epistemology. In R. Goldstein & L. Nicosia, Through a Distorted Lens: Media as Curricula and Pedagogy in the 21st Century (1st ed.). New York: Sense Publishers.
- **Podcasts**
 - 2024, The Color of Success: The Black Academic Experience
 - With Dr. Monique Liston
 - 2023, Career Paths for PhDs
 - Meet Dr. Monique Liston, Founder at UBUNTU Research and Evaluation
 - 2022, On the Edge of Equity
 - "Radical Energy & Authentic Leadership" with Dr. monique Liston
 - 2022, On a Move
 - On a Move with Dr. monique Liston
 - 2022, Bridge the City
 - "Milwaukee Talkie w/ Dr. monique Liston"
 - 2021, Mr. Nice Guy
 - dr. monique liston
 - 2021, The Writing on the Wall
 - The Mishandling of Black Women in Higher Education
 - 2020, Lead Balloon
 - Getting Uncomfortable about Race in America

PRESS

- Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service: Spotlight on Monique Liston's efforts to uplift Black women in Milwaukee (2024). [Link](#)

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- UBUNTU Research and Evaluation: Details about the Higher Justice Evaluation Training (HJET) initiative aimed at training evaluators with a racial equity lens. [Link](#)
- Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service: Photo feature on a mural celebrating Milwaukee activists and community leaders, including Monique Liston (2020). [Link](#)
- Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service: Milwaukeeans, including Monique Liston, share what Juneteenth means to them (2024). [Link](#)
- 3 News Now: Coverage of Angela Davis's keynote at the Omaha Reproductive Justice Summit, where Monique Liston participated in conversations on reproductive justice. [Link](#)
- Wisconsin Muslim Journal: Article featuring Bint Jamilas, a Palestinian cuisine initiative Monique Liston supports to foster unity. [Link](#)
- WUWM Milwaukee: Group Chat segment discussing the limitations of visibility in high places for Black Americans, with Monique Liston contributing her insights (2024). [Link](#)
- Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service: Monique Liston discusses challenges Black female activists face within the BLM movement (2020). [Link](#)
- WISN: Coverage on schools defending statements regarding Black Lives Matter, featuring Monique Liston's commentary on the importance of accountability. [Link](#)
- American Evaluation Association Blog (AEA365): "Hot Tips for Black Women by Black Women," a blog post by Monique Liston sharing insights for Black women evaluators. [Link](#)
- Bold Journey: Interview with Monique Liston discussing her journey and UBUNTU's mission. [Link](#)
- VoyageLA: Feature on Monique Liston's community work and her role at UBUNTU Research and Evaluation. [Link](#)
- Urban Milwaukee: Community leaders, including Monique Liston, respond to the Jacob Blake case decision (2021). [Link](#)
- Urban Milwaukee: "All Black Everything," an article discussing Monique Liston's dedication to Black empowerment (2013). [Link](#)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2025 Milwaukee Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Honoree
- 2024 HBCU Alumni of the Year
- 2023 Nominee - Best Place to Work for Social Justice, Best of Milwaukee
- 2022 Nominee - Best Place to Work for Social Justice, Best of Milwaukee
- 2022 Future 50 Award Winner
- 2022 Diversity in Business, Community Engagement Awardee
- 2021 Nominee - Best Place to Work for Social Justice, Best of Milwaukee
- 2020 Nominee - Activist of the Year, Best of Milwaukee
- 2018 Campaign for Black Male Achievement Respect Award (CBMA)
- 2017 Eliminating Racism Award (YWCA)
- 2011-2016 Chancellor's Graduate Student Award (Partial Tuition Scholarship)
- 2011-2015 Advanced Opportunity Program Fellow (Full Tuition Scholarship)
- 2008-2010 University Graduate Scholar (Full Tuition Scholarship)
- 2004-2008 Legacy Award Scholarship (Full Tuition Scholarship)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Evaluation Association, member
- Milwaukee Evaluation, member
- Professional Dimensions, member