

Huston-Tillotson University Institutional Advancement Team

Nakeenya Wilson Vice President

In December 2020, Nakeenya Wilson was named as the Vice President of Institutional Advancement and comes to us having served in various leadership roles in the Austin area for over two decades. Most recently, Ms. Wilson served as the Executive Director for Black Mamas ATX. Under her leadership the non-profit secured record levels of funding to launch various innovative initiatives, including \$1 million through MERCK for Mothers, as the only Safer Childbirth Cities awardee in Texas. Additionally, the grassroots non-profit re-imagined business and community partnerships by convening higher education, nonprofit, healthcare, state and local government organizations to address maternal health inequities.



In addition to her work in non-profit leadership, Ms. Wilson has extensive experience working in public and higher education. She has served in multiple campus and administrative leadership positions in Central Texas, including district administration in Round Rock ISD, Manor ISD, and The Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders in Austin ISD. Her portfolio of higher education experience includes academic advising, financial aid, student support services, and diversity and multicultural education. In 2017, Ms. Wilson founded RESTORE Family Support Services to assist individuals with conflict resolution and effective parenting skills. In 2020 in response to shifts in diversity, equity and inclusion within communities and organizations throughout the country, she co-founded REAL Solutions to facilitate systemic changes to address social justice issues.

Nakeenya is actively involved in the community. She currently serves as a Diversity and Inclusion Commissioner for the City of Hutto, and is a member of the I Live Here I Give Here Community Advisory Committee, Impact Austin Community Advisory Committee, and the Maternal Health Equity Collaborative. Ms. Wilson is also a graduate of Leadership Austin, one of March 2021 Austin Women's Magazine's Women to Watch, 2020 Texas Conference for Women Target Storyteller Award Recipient, and a member of the inaugural class of the African American Leadership Institute.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Wilson earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Texas, and her master's degree from Abilene Christian University.

Paige Kelly Director of Development

To lead Huston-Tillotson's development and fundraising efforts, Paige Kelly was hired as the Director of Development in April. Paige joins the Office of Institutional Advancement at the university after working in various roles within Austin Partners In Education (APIE) for four years.

During her tenure Ms. Kelly was integral in securing significant gifts and grant funds and building strategic business and community partnerships to benefit Austin Independent School District and Austin-area students.



Ms. Kelly also led the expansion and development of programs and curriculum to bolster the effectiveness of educational initiatives within the district.

In addition to her work in public education, Ms. Kelly's professional experience includes relationship and business development and sales for multiple fortune 500 companies, including Aflac and Southwest Airlines.

A native of Nederland, Texas and an Austin resident for 20 years, Kelly earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from St. Edwards University.

Ara Williams Donor Relations Specialist

Ara Williams began work at Huston-Tillotson University in February. Mr. Williams relocated to Texas after working at Tennessee Tech University in Residence Life administration.



Prior to Tennessee Tech, Williams served in missions and education ministry leadership in Illinois and abroad in Honduras. In service to the community, Mr. Williams executed youth education programs and provided administrative support to pastoral staff and leadership.

A native of Chicago, and a graduate of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Williams worked four years as a CMIT/MA with Chi Alpha Campus Ministries assisting with outreach, student development programs and training and mentoring students.

Tiffany Nance Institutional Advancement Assistant

Tiffany Nance joined the Ram Family in January, bringing almost two decades of experience in program management, human resources, and executive support positions to the University.



In her most recent roles, the Austin native oversaw program management of travel and expenses at York Risk Management, and was executive assistant at NFP Corporation and Innovative Aftermarket Systems.

Christopher Cutkelvin Director of Alumni Relations

Christopher Cutkelvin began his role at Huston-Tillotson University in May and joins the fRAMily after serving as a Program Coordinator for the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement and the Heman Sweatt Center for Black Males at The University of Texas for nearly six years.



Previously, Mr. Cutkelvin served in multiple roles within education and non-profit organizations, such as the YMCA Sports Information Assistant Director in San Antonio, Executive Director of Agents Providing Empowerment Network in Houston, and Public Relations and Communications Assistant at his alma mater, Texas Southern University. Chris is also the Founder and Executive Director of the non-profit Belizean Education Empowerment Foundation.

A native of Los Angeles, Cutkelvin earned a bachelor's degree at Texas Southern University, and a master's degree at the University of Texas at Austin. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and The 100 Black Men of Austin.

Duane Lewis Director of Marketing & Public Relations

Duane Lewis joined the HT staff in May after working more than 20 years in collegiate and professional athletics. Most recently, Lewis was the Senior Associate Athletic Director for Strategic Communications at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, overseeing communications for 16 sports, generating athletics sponsorships, and serving as the Voice of Golden Lion Athletics radio and video streaming broadcasts over the past two years.



Lewis has a vast array of experience with various organizations, including the Allstate Sugar Bowl, Southwestern Athletic Conference, Alabama State University, and Prairie View A&M University. Additionally, Lewis served in public relations with the St. Louis Rams for 10 seasons, including the Super Bowl 34 Championship season.

A native of Plaquemine, La., Lewis earned a bachelor's degree from Louisiana HBCU, Southern University – Baton Rouge, and a master's degree from Northcentral University. He is a life member of the Southern University Alumni Federation, Omega Psi Fraternity, Inc., and Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society.