

**Destini Braxton**  
Richmond, Virginia  
braxtondn@vcu.edu  
703-217-2838

## **SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE**

Currently a second year PhD student in the Educational Psychology program at Virginia Commonwealth University to pursue research interests related to identity, teacher-student relationships, and student motivation in mathematics. 2018 graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with a M.Ed in Special Education. 2017 graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with a B.S in Psychology with a robust interest in psychology reflected through a research internship, coursework, and volunteer work.

## **EDUCATION**

PhD in Educational Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University, 08/2019 - 05/2023  
- Currently completing coursework in statistics, educational psychology, and human development in education.

M.Ed in Special Education, Virginia Commonwealth University, 05/2017 - 05/2018  
- Cumulative GPA: 3.8  
- Coursework in classroom management, characteristics of high incidence disabilities, assessing students with disabilities, transition planning, multicultural perspectives, trends in special education, multicultural perspectives, teaching reading to individuals with disabilities, research methods, and educational psychology.

B.S. in Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University, 08/2013 - 05/2017  
- Cumulative GPA: 3.226 / Psychology Major specific GPA: 3.243  
- Six semesters on the Dean's List  
- Coursework in statistics, behavioral psychology, experimental methods, social psychology, interpersonal relations, learning and cognition, and personality psychology

## **LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS**

Child Abuse & Neglect certification (earned June 2017)

- Completed Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognizing, Reporting, and Responding for Educators training

Red Cross certification (earned February 2017)

- Completed adult and pediatric first aid/CPR/AED training

CITI certifications (earned August 2016, renewed November 2020)

- Biomedical
- General Responsible Conduct of Research
- Good Clinical Practice
- Social and Behavioral

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

**RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT/INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE**

Special Education Teacher, Boushall Middle School, 08/2018 – present

- 7<sup>th</sup> grade math
- Practice of co-teaching and collaborative planning with general education teachers
- Practice of and implementing evidence based practices and positive behavior intervention support in the classroom
- IEP planning (data collection, parent communication, writing IEP components, etc.) and meetings
- Attended content area meetings, Professional Development for data collection, formative assessments, PBIS, and Special education
- Extended School Day and Saturday School tutoring

Teaching Residency, Henderson Middle School, 08/2017 –06/2018

- 8<sup>th</sup> grade English (Rodslyn Brown)
- Practice of co-teaching and collaborative planning with general education teachers
- Practice of and implementing evidence based practices and positive behavior intervention support in the classroom
- Practice with IEP preparations (data collection, parent communication, writing IEP components, etc.) and meetings
- Attended content area meetings, Professional Development for data collection, formative assessments, PBIS, and Special education

**RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP****Line of Research:**

My line of research is motivation, academic identity, and teacher-student relationships for students with learning disabilities belonging to underrepresented groups in mathematics. I examine how motivational beliefs, academic identity, and teacher-student relationships impact the determination of students with disabilities belonging to underrepresented groups in mathematics, positively addressing the underrepresentation of the underrepresented students with learning disabilities in mathematics.

*VOLUNTEER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE*

Masters' Research Assistant, Motivation in Context Research Lab, 08/2018 – 08/2019

Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Education

Principal Investigator: Dr. Sharon Zumbrunn

- Assist in designing and conducting research studies on motivation and self-regulation

Research Assistant, Behavioral Health Research Laboratory, 08/2016 –05/2017

Virginia Commonwealth University, Department of Psychology

Principal Investigator: Dr. Caroline Cobb

- Performed recruitment activities (community-based flyers, online)
- Obtained informed consent and described study procedures to participants and in compliance with IRB consent/assent guidelines

- Maintained organization in the lab
- Assessed study eligibility via phone screening and in-person assessments including medical history
- Collected physiological measures from participants: height/weight, vital signs (heart rate, blood pressure), saliva samples, expired air carbon monoxide, urine sample for pregnancy test
- Trained for experimental sessions ranging from 1-2.5 hours among tobacco users between the ages of 18 and 60 involving physiological measures, computer-based tasks/questionnaires, and puff topography measurement
- Provided compensation to participants
- Attended bi-weekly lab meetings with other Research Assistants, Study Coordinators, and Principal Investigators to maintain open communication and consistency across the lab
- Learned experimental, qualitative, and quantitative methods
- Developed and performed oral presentations in lab meetings
- Performed literature reviews
- Performed content analysis of tobacco product advertisements based on an established protocol
- Entered and analyzed quantitative survey data
- All IRB-mandated coursework required before contacting, scheduling, and working with human subject participants in a clinical and non-clinical research settings

#### *REFEREED PUBLICATIONS*

**Braxton, D.** (accepted). Life Balance: Teacher, Mommy, and Doctorate Degree. *Women, Gender, and Families of Color*.

Hoetger, C., Wall, C., Rudy, A., Nicksic, N., Bhatt, S., Sey, N., Khan, M., **Braxton, D.**, Barnes, A., & Cobb, C. (accepted). Content appealing to youth and spend characteristics of electronic cigarette video advertisements. *Journal of Public Health*.

#### **REFEREED PRESENTATIONS**

Furman, J., Zumbunn, S., Marrs, S., Kamat, P., **Braxton, D.**, Ekholm, E., Broda, M. (2021, April 9-12). Exploring Elementary Student Writing Motivation and Success. Paper Accepted at the Virtual American Educational Research Association Annual Conference.

Nicolai, K. D., Koenka, A. C., & **Braxton, D.** (2020, October). Differential and Adaptive Feedback: Defined and Explained. 2020 Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium Conference at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

Furman, J., Zumbunn, S., Marrs, S., Kamat, P., **Braxton, D.**, Ekholm, E., Broda, M. (2020, August 6-8). Exploring Elementary Student Writing Motivation and Success [poster presentation canceled]. Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association. Washington, D.C.

**Braxton, D.** (2020, February). Self-Worth Theory Perspective: Understanding Academic and Motivational Beliefs in Special Education and General Education Mathematics Classrooms. Round Table Presentation at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education – Holmes Scholars Preconference. Atlanta, GA.

Hoetger, C., **Braxton, D.**, Cogley, J., Barnes, A., & Cobb, C. (2017, June). Effects of exposure to tobacco product promotions on the susceptibility to electronic cigarette use among smokers and nonsmokers. Poster presented at the Massey Cancer Research Retreat, Richmond, VA.

Wall, C. S. J., **Braxton, D.**, Cogley, J., Barnes, A., Cobb, C. O. (2017, June). *Is online electronic cigarette advertising targeting youth and young adults? Evidence from website location and spending data.* Poster Presented at the Massey Cancer Center Research Retreat, Richmond, VA.

**Braxton D**, Cogley J, Bhatt S, Sey N, Khan M, Hoetger C, Rudy A, Barnes A, & Cobb, C. (April 2017). *Electronic Cigarette TV and Online Video Advertisement.* Poster presented at: 12th Annual Poster Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creativity at Virginia Commonwealth University. Richmond, VA.

Sey N, Bhatt S, **Braxton D**, Cogley J, Khan M, Rudy A, Barnes A, & Cobb, C. (November 2016). *Developing a Content Analysis Protocol for Electronic Cigarette TV and Online Video Advertising.* Poster presentation given at: VCU Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Closing Symposium. Richmond, VA.

## TEACHING

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

#### NATIONAL SERVICE

American Education Research Association: Division K 01/ 2020- present

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education: Holmes Scholar 03/2019-present

#### UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Member: VCU Holmes Scholars Program 10/ 2019- Present

#### ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated 03/ 2015 – Present

National Collegiate Honor Society 08/2014 - Present

### SKILLS & TRAINING

Languages: Spanish (writing, reading, and speaking), Arabic (writing, reading, and speaking), and Italian (writing, reading, and speaking)

Trained in use of novel puff topography recording equipment (eTop; earned February 2017)

- Equipment developed by American University of Beirut, Department of Mechanical Engineering
- Measures and records tobacco use behavior (i.e., puff topography) including puff volume, puff velocity, and puff duration
- Proficient in calibrating for data collection and collecting puff topography data for analysis

*Updated October 30, 2020*