

FACULTY

Lakeisha Johnson, PhD, CCC-SLP, is an Assistant Professor in the School of Communication Science and Disorders at Florida State University. She is also affiliated faculty in the Florida Center for Reading Research. Johnson's primary research interests include language, literacy, dialect, and executive function development in African American children and others from underserved populations. It is her mission to investigate the aforementioned areas while strengthening partnerships between the university and the local community to bridge research to practice gaps.



Financial Disclosures

- Employee of Florida State University
- Author royalties from Ventriss Learning for DAWS, a dialect awareness program
- Complimentary ASHA Learning Pass subscription from ASHA for this presentation

Nonfinancial Disclosures

- None

Shurita Thomas-Tate, PhD, CCC-SLP, is an Associate Professor at Missouri State University (MSU) in the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders. Her teaching and research interests are in cultural and linguistic diversity, school-age language and literacy, and community-based leadership and engagement. An outspoken advocate for children, education, and diversity, Thomas-Tate has been recognized and honored by her colleagues and community for her commitment to cultural competence, community engagement, and ethical leadership. Her passion for youth and commitment to community drives her involvement in numerous organizations. She serves in multiple roles to promote equity for underserved communities, focusing issues such as illiteracy/low-literacy, educational achievement gaps, homelessness, foster care, and poverty. Thomas-Tate serves on the board for the Springfield Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and as the Youth Chapter Advisor. In 2014, she developed and established Ujima Language and Literacy, a community-based model and program designed to educate, connect, and empower children and families. In 2019, Thomas-Tate ran for a seat on the Springfield Missouri R-12 Board of Education. Narrowly defeated by incumbents, Thomas-Tate ran again in 2020 and won a seat on the board.



Financial Disclosures

- Founder, Director, and Board Member of Ujima Language and Literacy
- Ujima current projects and programs are funded by grants from The Missouri Humanities Council, The Cares Act, NAACP, and MOCAN
- Author of DAWS, a dialect awareness curriculum
- Employee of Missouri State University
- ASHA member
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Nonfinancial Disclosures

- School-board member for Springfield Missouri R-12 District
- Board member for the Springfield NAACP