

# A Bit of Me

*This series of profiles on SUNY Broome community members is a part of the Student Village diversity calendar initiative. We will be highlighting members in our community who identify with or can speak on the diversity theme or topic for each month. The theme for March is Women's History month and the topic is women in the workforce. To be featured in this series please reach out to Pamela Alvarez or Alexandria Donkor.*

## Dr. Carol Ross-Scott

Vice President of Student Development  
and Chief Diversity Officer



**Background:** Dr. Carol Ross Scot has a Bachelor of Science in Business and Management from University of Maryland European Division England ; Boston University, Master of Education Human Services and Human Resources Education European Division in Italy; Florida State University Doctorate of Education in Higher Education Administration.

### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS PROFESSION?

I was a horrible college student, 7 colleges to complete my bachelor's degree, 15 semester hours of F grades, a boyfriend who lived around the corner when I first started college so I was really a trainwreck! When I moved to England, I was working at the military base for the City Colleges of Chicago and I was a field registrar. I really loved helping the military personnel go to college. I then figured if I can teach people to go to school, I may as well go to school. And my sister was in my ear telling me I needed to get into school and make something of myself. I didn't decide on higher education at first. I wanted to be a kinesiologist and do sports medicine. Then I realized it would take forever to

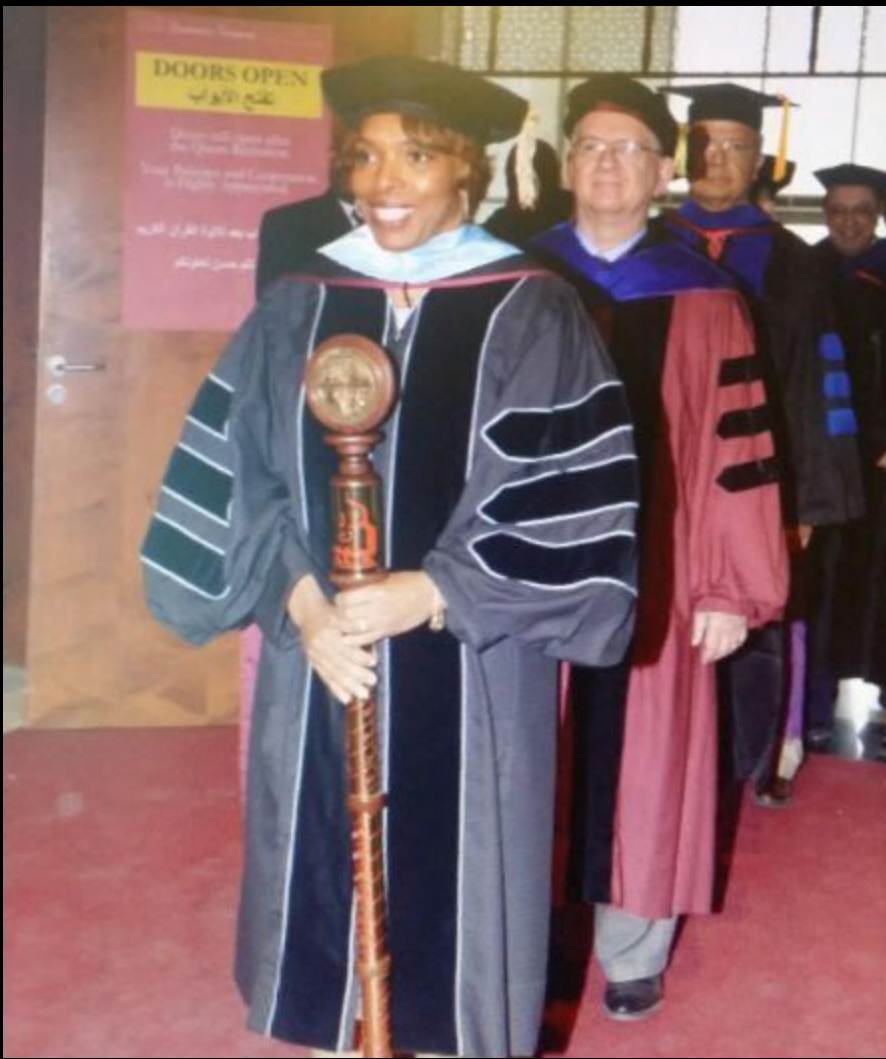
finish so I decided I can quickly get a bachelor's in business.

My father told me as long as I was in school, I didn't have to work! So, I stayed as long as I could finishing my bachelor's and master's and hanging out in Europe. I decided to return stateside because my cousin was getting married. I was working at Arrowhead Drinking water company as a customer service rep, trying to figure out what I wanted to do, education or corporate training. I applied for a corporate training job and then got a call from the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic for an admissions counselor position and the rest is history. I figured there must be other students out there like me and I wanted to be the one to help students figure out how to win at the college game.



Me on the left graduating from Kiddie Kollege.





To where I am now with a doctorate degree leading a graduation procession.

### WHO IS AN IMPORTANT WOMAN TO YOU IN YOUR LIFE, IN HISTORY, OR IN MEDIA?

My mother is an incredibly important woman in my life. Even though she is with me spiritually, I feel her presence most often and it helps get me through the days.

### WHAT IS ONE THING THAT WOMEN HAVE TODAY THAT YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR?

Drive, ambition, fortitude and voices. Ok, more than one but that is what came to mind immediately.

### WHAT IS ONE THING YOU WISH WOMEN COULD HAVE SOMEDAY?

Equity with men. Regardless of the numbers and the glass ceilings that are breaking, women are still not seen as equals. Whether it's pay, roles, opportunities, we are still considered second choice.

### IS THERE A WOMAN WHO INSPIRES YOU IN YOUR CHOSEN CAREER/PROFESSION?

Dr. Melvane Hardee was my major professor at Florida State University when I entered the doctorate program. She was small in stature but a mighty presence in the field and life. She taught me to never lose my passion and always live my truth. I will never forget her.

### WHAT WOMAN FIGURE DO YOU FEEL LUCKY TO HAVE IN YOUR LIFE?

My God-given sister, Dr. Jennifer Beckwith. She came into my life when I was 19 and just struggling with my parents and finding my direction. She became my big sister and I believe I am who I am today in large part because of her unconditional love and support.

### WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN WOMEN'S HISTORY?

Gaining our right to vote. It has given us a voice even if we do not "win" all the time. But without the women, including the Black women, who fought for our right to vote, we certainly would be rendered voiceless. I do not take voting for granted; I know the struggle on all fronts as a woman and as a Black woman.

### WHAT KIND OF WOMAN DO YOU STRIVE TO BE?

First thing that comes to mind is I strive to be a woman at peace. In this crazy world, in my relationships, in my work and in my service, I strive for a sense of peace and hopefully that sense of exudes to others. I willingly work hard, give and serve harder and play even harder. Even though sometimes, a lot of times, my play time suffers but that is my trifecta.



Some of my staff from Kuwait.

### WHAT DOES FEMINISM MEAN TO YOU?

For me, it is kind of simple...I am a man's equal. He is no better than me and I no better than him. Feminism is our struggle/our fight/our determination to reach that sense of equity and equality.



## WHY DO YOU THINK IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO HAVE A WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH?

Memories are short! My father used to tell me that you do good work because that is what you are supposed to do. You do not do good work, and jump up and down so that someone can see your good works and give you praise. For me, women's history month is not about women jumping up and down so that men can tell us good job. We would need much more than a month for all the contributions we have made to this world. Women's history month is for us to remind ourselves... job well done. Women are so busy doing it all that sometimes we forget to stop, breathe, and be proud of our contribution...of the legacies that we will leave. I think women's history month is for us!

## WHAT IS ONE AREA OF LIFE WHERE YOU BELIEVE WOMEN STILL HAVE TO FIGHT TO BE TREATED FAIRLY?

Education...where the foundation for the future begins. When girls set foot on the school yard if their minds and confidence are cultivated and challenged like boys, imagine the difference in their lives. The normalcy that could evolve over the years where it wouldn't be such a novelty to see a woman astrophysicist or in fields that are considered "male dominated". The norm should be, girls and boys are learning together without the bias of one sex being able to handle the material better than the other.



We used to do something called Senior Roll Call for the graduating seniors; sooooo much fun!