

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 September is Hispanic Heritage month and the topic is the Black Lives Matter movement. To be featured in this series please reach out to Pamela Alvarez or Alexandria Donkor.

Scott Corley

SUNY Broome Professor



Hometown: Great Neck, NY (on Long Island, Northern Shore, right on the Queens border)

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE ON CAMPUS?

I am a Full Professor in BCC's History, Humanities, and Social Sciences Department. In that capacity, I teach US History (HIS 131), African American History (HIS 194), Western Civ (HIS 103), Social Problems (SOC 111), and Race and Ethnicity (SOC 220). I also serve on SUNY BCC's President's Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion and serve on campus's Civic Engagement Board.

HOW DID YOU COME TO CHOOSE THIS CAREER?

I realized when I was a student that I had a strong appreciation of history and sociology. When I was provided opportunities to give presentations and conduct original research, I then realized that teaching was the best career path for me - especially when I also discovered how much I like working with students.

IF YOU HAD TO EAT ONE MEAL FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Chicken quesadillas with a side of french fries (with side trays of mayo, sour cream, and guacamole).

HOW DO YOU DEFINE SUCCESS?

Being able to help others (students, community members, and anyone else) see issues, problems, and justice concerns / issues from multiple perspectives or points of view.

WHAT IS THE COOLEST (OR MOST IMPORTANT) TREND YOU SEE TODAY?

Arguably widespread support of BLM (the Black Lives Matter # / movement and associated support of it).

WHAT DOES THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT MEAN TO YOU?

Briefly, that everyone - Americans, inhabitants of the U.S. and global citizens outside of the Americas should and can recognize how BIPOC's have been unfairly, illegitimately, and disproportionately harmed by state-sanctioned violence, especially, but not exclusively, at the hands of law enforcement, and that such needs to end, so as to bring balance, order, fairness, and true reciprocity.

WHAT DOES SOCIAL JUSTICE MEAN TO YOU?

Outside of formally and officially defined definitions provided by others, I see social justice broadly as equal and equitable institutional, structural, and systemic fairness that positively influences life and correctly and appropriately makes corrections for disparities created by racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, homophobia, etc. and many other categories of marginalization, exclusion, harassment, and oppression.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE? WHY?

Attributed to Frederick Douglas, (who was an arguable proponent of western capitalism, and therefore, makes me critical of some of his positions and arguments): "power concedes nothing without demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them" - I find this quote very appropriate to understand our society at this moment. It speaks to some of the complexities of what power is and how it is articulated (or expressed), which I think is important for students to understand.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO OUR STUDENTS?

"Be the best student and person you can be. Learn everything you can; realize / reach the best version of yourself; take advantage of any and all opportunities and resources presented to you"