

Lauren D. Kendall Brooks, PhD

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

PhD-trained research scientist with 8+ years of experience designing, coordinating, and leading mixed-methods research across federally and private funded initiatives. Brings expertise in culturally responsive assessment, educational equity, community-based research, human subjects protocols, evidence synthesis, and science communication. Known for translating complex research into usable tools, stakeholder-facing recommendations, technical materials, and implementation support for funders, school partners, educators, students, and cross-functional teams.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Scientist

Assessment for Good, Advanced Education Research and Development Fund (AERDF) | 2022 – 2026

- Drove a multi-year R&D portfolio redefining formative assessment for asset-based learning, with prototypes administered to 12,000+ students and 43 districts.
- Led implementation across a 14-school district network serving 3,000+ learners.
- Managed contractors, psychometricians, facilitators, and project contributors across multi-state research activities; aligned contributors on scope, timelines, data protocols, and deliverables.
- Coordinated implementation across 14 schools and approximately 40 adult stakeholders, aligning educators, partner managers, and district/site contacts on research activities, timelines, and communication.
- Designed and co-developed novel formative assessment prototypes using co-design and Emancipatory R&D frameworks, moving concepts from scientific framework development through stakeholder validation and school-based implementation.
- Authored 1,000+ original assessment items anchored to a custom scientific framework developed with student and educator co-designers.
- Conducted 200+ student interviews, cognitive interviews, focus groups, and one-on-one research sessions with grades 3–9 learners to define variables, test validity assumptions, and improve assessment design.
- Created and standardized human subjects research infrastructure, including IRB submissions, data security and sharing protocols, codebooks, focus group protocols, and data-management practices.
- Authored white papers, technical reports, stakeholder-facing briefs, instructional videos, technical manuals, and implementation resources that translated complex research for students, educators, funders, engineers, partner managers, and internal leadership.

Data and Evaluation Manager

Virginia State University - HBCU Center for Math and Education Research | 2023 - 2025

- Coordinated multi-state data collection and evaluation for a \$3M NSF-funded HBCU research center, including focus group logistics, online survey deployment, and multi-site data quality oversight.
- Drafted IRB applications, data-management codebooks, and focus group protocols to ensure compliant, replicable research across partner institutions.

- Contributed to grant deliverables, manuscripts, annual reports to NSF, and dissemination planning; supported the project's renewal and continuation strategy with funders.
- Built and managed the project's public-facing website to support participant recruitment, transparency, and dissemination.

Postdoctoral Associate

University of Maryland, College Park - Human Development and Quantitative Methods | 2020 - 2022

- Developed socioemotional learning surveys and math tasks for grades 3–5 as part of the EF+Math national initiative.
- Conducted secondary data analysis and contributed to model development on cultural cognition and educational practices.
- Contributed to peer-reviewed publications advancing the lab's research on equity in math learning.
- Mentored students on research methods, literature synthesis, data collection, and study implementation.
- Delivered university lectures on the usage of public health frameworks for education research and the PVEST framework.

Assessment and Data Assistant Coordinator

Virginia State University C.E.N.T.E.R.S. | 2019 - 2022

- Designed assessments for 7 STEM and enrichment programs (50+ students each) using the PVEST K–16 framework.
- Co-developed culturally relevant pedagogy with 5th–9th grade teachers and built supporting learning resources for parents and community members.
- Coordinated STEM summer programs and built and maintained the supporting program website.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Co-Founder, Chairperson

Black in Psych | 2021 - 2025

- Built and scaled an international research organization from scratch supporting Black psychologists and students; designed strategy, programming, governance, and stakeholder relationships across a four-year operating period.
- Cultivated institutional sponsors and raised \$45,000+ from Carnegie Mellon, Georgetown, Penn State, and other universities to fund equitable participant compensation.
- Coordinated 25 panel discussions reaching 1,000+ participants and led an annual social media campaign generating 2.3M+ impressions and 3,000+ global participants.
- Designed and delivered mentoring and networking programs for Black undergraduate students entering psychology.
- Led the organization through a thoughtful closeout after assessing capacity, student access, and the evolving support landscape for Black psychologists and students.

EDUCATION AND MEMBERSHIPS

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Health Psychology. *Concentration: Behavioral and Community Health Science, Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA, 2020*

Memberships: American Psychological Association (APA) | Association of Black Psychologists | Association for Psychological Science

SELECTED FUNDED PROJECTS

- *HBCU Center for Math Education and Research* (NSF, 2023–2026, \$3,000,000) - Data & Evaluation Manager.
- *BPRC Planning Grant: Nurturing Resilient Students and Teachers* (NSF HRD-1923754, 2019–2021, \$2,510,384) - Assessment Coordinator.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Lovelace, T., McMurtry, T., & Kendall Brooks, L. (2024). Equitable and culturally responsive SEC assessment practices. In *Handbook of Social and Emotional Learning* (2nd ed.). Guilford Press.
- Nabors Olah, L., & Kendall Brooks, L. (2025). *Learner Voices on the Skills that Power Learning and Supporting Wellbeing*. CREA, University of Illinois.
- Kendall Brooks, L., et al. (2024). *Dismantling Conclusive Blackness: Countering the Deterministic Role that Assessment Plays in K–12 Education*. AERA, Philadelphia.
- Nabors Olah, L., Kendall Brooks, L., & Lovelace, T. (2024). *Early Validity Evidence for Inclusive Formative Assessment Materials in SEL*. NCME.

Additional publications and presentations available upon request

CORE STRENGTHS

Mixed-Methods Research Design | Quantitative & Qualitative Analysis | Expert Interviewing & Focus Group Facilitation | Psychometric Oversight | IRB & Human Subjects Protocols | Multi-Site Project Leadership | Federal Grant Management | Stakeholder & Funder Engagement | Mentoring & Team Leadership | Science Communication | Technical Writing & Synthesis

Technical: Qualtrics | NVIVO | Dedoose | SPSS | Neurobehavioral Systems Presentation | Figma | Mural | Canva | Asana | Microsoft Office | Google Workspace | Claude AI and related tools | OBS Studio | Apple Creative Suite | Adobe Creative Suite | Foundational Python