



# WILLIE BLACKMON FUN BIO



**HEY EVERYONE! MY NAME IS WILLIE BLACKMON (HE, HIM, HIS), AND I AM FROM A SMALL TOWN IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CALLED BANNING; BORN AND RAISED. I AM FIRST GEN (BA, MA, AND DOCTORATE). I HAD DREAMS OF ALWAYS MOVING AWAY FROM MY TOWN FOR DREAMS OF A BIG CITY. I HAVE LIVED IN LOS ANGELES AND SAN DIEGO AND MISS THOSE SPACES. HOWEVER, THOSE DREAMS WERE PUT ON HOLD AS I BECAME A CARETAKER TO MY ELDER PARENTS. MY MOM IS A RETIRED NURSE AND MY DAD A RETIRED U.S. MARINE TURNED POLICE OFFICER THAT WAS SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY. I HAVE FOUR SISTERS AND MY FAMILY MEANS THE WORLD TO ME. I HAVE PUT THEM FIRST AND CONTINUE TO DO SO.**

**I HAVE DEVOTED MY WORK IN RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY TO FRAMING THE INCONSISTENT TREATMENT OF FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS OF COLOR EXPERIENCES AT VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS. MY RESEARCH HAS BEEN TO ESTABLISH A SENSE OF PURPOSE AMONG STUDENTS COMBATING THE IMPOSTER PHENOMENON BY CHALLENGING MICROAGGRESSIONS AND HAVING THE WORDS TO COMMUNICATE THEIR EXPERIENCES, WHICH I HAVE HIGHLIGHTED IN MY DISSERTATION.**



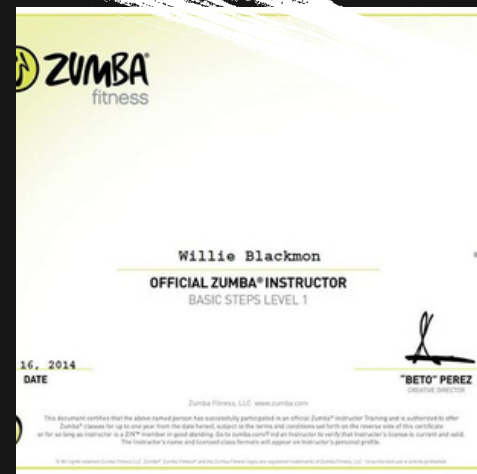
A Sequential Explanatory Mixed Method Study of the Impostor Phenomenon Experiences of First-Generation Students of Color at a Predominately White Institution

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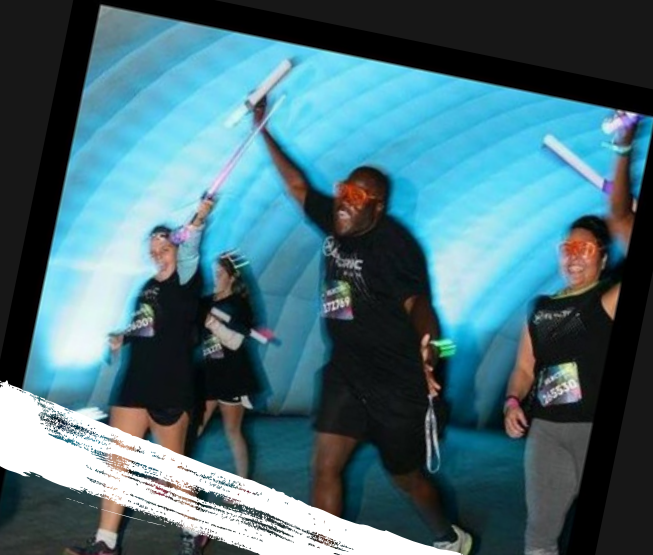
Committee: Dr. Joyce Pittman, Supervising Professor  
Members: Dr. Kristine Lewis-Grant and  
Dr. Diane LeGree







**MY FAMILY, NAVIGATING EDUCATION, BALANCING THE IMPOSTOR PHENOMENON HAVE BEEN A KEY PART OF MY LIFE. SO HAS MY PERSONAL HEALTH JOURNEY AS IT HAS BEEN A BIG PART OF MY LIFE FOR THE LAST 8 YEARS. I AM A LICENSED ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR AND AT ONE POINT IN MY LIFE WAS TEACHING 4 CLASSES A WEEK, WHICH ALLOWED ME TO LOSE A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF WEIGHT. THEN OF COURSE COVID HAPPENED; I STOPPED TEACHING AND STARTED TO GAIN MORE WEIGHT. AGAIN, IT'S A JOURNEY, RIGHT? I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING BACK INTO IT SOON. THERE IS AN INNATE POWER BEHIND THE BEAT OF A GREAT SONG, STRONG RHYTHMIC MOVEMENTS AND THE COMMUNITY THAT IS BUILT IN THE SPACES. I ALSO ENJOY WALKING, FUN 5K RACES (ONE A MONTH) AND BAKING! TALK ABOUT BALANCE, RIGHT?**



**I ENJOY BAKING COOKIES, CAKES, PIES, BROWNIES, BREAD, AND OTHER YUMMY TREATS. SO MUCH SO I TOOK MY TALENTS TO NAILEDIT! A SHOW THAT IS ON NETFLIX THAT HIGHLIGHTS AMATEUR BAKERS AND OUR INABILITY TO MAKE THINGS "PRETTY". MY TREATS TASTE DELICIOUS BUT IF THEY REQUIRE ELABORATE DECORATIONS, THEY MAY LOOK A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN THE MODEL. THAT WASN'T THE FIRST TIME I WAS ON TV. FUN FACT I WAS ON DEAL OR NO DEAL AS WELL AND USED THE MONEY I WON TO PAY FOR MY MASTER'S PROGRAM! I HAD A FUN TIME DOING THESE GAMES SHOWS AND MIGHT BE HEADING BACK TO ONE OF THEM FOR A ROUND OF REDEMPTION!**



**I LOOK FORWARD TO LEARNING, BUILDING NEW RELATIONSHIPS AND GETTING TO KNOW YOU ALL!!!**

