



## John Blackshear

VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT LIFE

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John Blackshear joined the University of Rochester as the inaugural Vice President for Student Life in 2024. Prior to joining Rochester, he served as the Vice President of Student Affairs, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean of Students at Duke University.

Blackshear also served as the Dean of Academic Affairs for the Trinity College of Arts and Sciences at Duke with a teaching faculty appointment in Psychology and Neuroscience.

Blackshear has dedicated the past two decades to retaining underrepresented students in STEM areas of study, increasing full access to offerings at the academy for low-income and first-generation college students, and enhancing the living and

learning experiences on campus for all students.

Blackshear successfully led a Trinity College initiative to improve teaching in courses at the introduction of the 38 Arts and Sciences disciplines. The goal of enhancing teaching in this was to intrigue learners towards deeper intellectual inquiry as opposed to having learners exit areas of academic interest because they felt “weeded out” of courses of study.

Blackshear also served as a faculty-in-residence at Duke University for seven years, establishing him as a mentor, advisor, and academic guide to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.

Blackshear is a licensed clinical psychologist with expertise in post-traumatic stress, anxiety, depression,

eating and body image, other psychiatric, and learning disorders. Blackshear is a nationally recognized expert in the field of forensic psychology with expertise in understanding the impact of adverse childhood experiences on adults in the legal system. His interests include examining how significant adverse life events and the presence or lack of restorative experiences affect human social, psychological, and neurological development. He has offered testimony in state and federal civil, criminal, family and superior courts across the nation.

Blackshear received a bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from Florida A&M University and a PhD in clinical psychology from Georgia State University.