



## MR. EDDIE HIGGINBOTHAM, IV TRAILBLAZER AWARD

Eddie Higginbotham, IV received his master's degree in Higher Education with an emphasis in Student Affairs from the College of Education in 2014. Prior to attending Florida State, Eddie was a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Northwestern State University of Louisiana where he was recognized at the local and national level for his contributions. Upon graduation, Eddie worked as a Leadership Consultant and Expansion Coordinator for his fraternity's international headquarters, visiting over 50 institutions across the country and assisting in the establishment of several new chapters.

At Florida State, Eddie served as the Associate Director of the Hardee Center for Leadership and Ethics in Higher Education where he worked with Vice President Emeritus, Dr. Mary Coburn. Eddie contributed heavily to the revitalization of the Center and of its alumni board, which he now serves on. As a graduate student, he immersed himself in as many practical experience as possible including holding five internships during his time in the program. Eddie served as the Master's Chair for the Higher Education Student Association and was recognized as a Hardee Fellow and Seminole Torchbearer. Following graduation, Eddie served as the Assistant Director of New Student and Family Programs.

Eddie transitioned to the University of Georgia and was then promoted for his work with the school's extended orientation program. He led the program to unprecedented growth and national recognition through the creation of new programs and initiatives, access points for involvement, educational opportunities, funding sources, and external partnerships.

Eddie is an active member of NODA, the Association for Orientation, Transition, and Retention in Higher Education and currently serves as the Extended Orientation Network Co-Chair. He was the Educational Session Chair for the 2016 Institute and hosted the Extended Orientation Institute in 2017. He has also received the Excellence in Program Leadership Award from the Network and is currently co-authoring a chapter on extended orientation in an upcoming NODA publication. Additionally, Eddie currently serves on the 2018 NODA Annual Conference Planning Committee as a Co-Chair for Educational Sessions and Evaluation and was recently selected to host the 2020 Annual Conference. He has presented several educational sessions at NODA events and has been the recipient of the NODA Outstanding Mentor Award.

Eddie currently serves as the Associate Director of New Student and Family Programs at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville where he was recruited to assist in the enhancement of the school's orientation programming and holistic transition experience. In Spring 2018, Eddie was the keynote speaker for the FSU Higher Education Program's Hooding Ceremony for his achievements as a young alumnus.