



Tamela (Tami) McNulty Eitle, Ph. D. is a Professor of Sociology and holds the positions of Vice Provost and Accreditation Liaison Officer at Montana State University.

In this role she serves as a strategic contributor to the leadership of academic, faculty, and students affairs. She is also responsible for leading a variety of institutional initiatives, providing vision, promoting collaboration, and leading change. Most recently she and her colleagues have spent a significant portion of time creating a plan for managing the institutional response to the COVID 19 health crisis.

As the Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) she is responsible for ensuring that assessment, planning, and budgeting are aligned with the strategic mission and goals of MSU.

Other primary responsibilities include leading and collaborating on initiatives to improve retention and completion, chairing the Core Curriculum Committee and the University Suspension Appeals Board, representing Academic Affairs on diversity and equity-minded initiatives, supervising four direct reports and their units, and serving the Office of the Provost as needed.

Dr. Eitle's research focuses on racial and ethnic inequalities in educational opportunities and outcomes and health disparities. NIH has funded her investigations of racial disparities in substance use.

She has been recognized by Montana State University with the College of Letters and Science Meritorious Research Award and honored multiple times for undergraduate student mentoring.

Prior to her current role, Dr. Eitle served as Associate Dean of the College of Letters and Science and as Director of Liberal Studies at Montana State University.

She earned an M.A and Ph.D. in Sociology from Indiana University and came to Montana State University in 2006 from the University of Miami, where she was an Associate Professor of Sociology.

In her free time, Tami enjoys running half-marathons, hiking, and reading biographies. She said she carries bear spray on her trail runs and has seen two moose, one bear and millions of wildflowers. This feeds her soul.



Dr. Camellia Okpodu is a plant biochemist with more than twenty-five years of experience in higher education. She graduated from North Carolina State University, where she received her B.S. degree in biochemistry and her Ph.D. degree in plant physiology and biochemistry.

She is currently Professor of Biology and Dean of Arts and Sciences at Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA), New Orleans, LA. She was Professor (2003-2018) and former Chair of Biology (2003–2008) at Norfolk State University (NSU) and the 2007–2008 American Council on Education Fellow. She was the second director of the DIA-designated Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence at Norfolk State University.

Dr. Okpodu has served as an educational consultant to governmental agencies, private foundations, public school divisions, and institutions of higher learning. She is a "STEMotivator and Edu-tainer" and enjoys sharing her passion, purpose, persist model for resilience with others. In 2006, Dr. Okpodu began her research on understanding how both flora and fauna react to changes in the environment. In 2015, she received a DHS grant to work with ODU on a multi-disciplinary and cross-institutional project to examine the effect that coast flooding has on resilience, especially in under-resourced communities.

In 2019, Dr. Okpodu was named the State of Louisiana's Endowed Professor of Science. This endowed position allows her to continue her research on understanding coastal perspectives in the Great New Orleans area and works with four undergraduate students on this project. She was recently awarded a NSF award for GeoPathways and will use this funding to encourage Xavier students to consider geosciences as a viable career.

Dr Okpodu is a member of Sigma Xi, Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society, the American Society of Plant Biology, and the Ecological Society of America. Her academic and professional awards include a study award at Oxford University, Gordon Research Conference Travel Award, the Intelligence Community Faculty Scholar Award, and both the Award of Recognition and the Special Recognition of Merit Award from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. In 2013, she was inducted into the History Makers as a ScienceMaker. And, in 2015, her biography became a part of the National Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

Although she enjoys the professional accolades, she takes great pride in being a mother and grandmother. She has three college-educated daughters - two who have followed her into STEM and one who shares her love of the Arts. She delights in being the "GG" (i.e., Greatest Grandma) to her only grandchild, Daniel Maximus. In 2018, she and her daughter co-authored a case-report on "over-hydration in making baby formula -Importance of the metric system." Dr. Okpodu sees her family is a prime example of her strategy of offering an integrated approach to learning STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics).



Donal C. Skinner received his PhD from the University of Cambridge, England, in 1994, following a BS (Hons) in Zoology and Computer Science from Rhodes University in South Africa. After post-doctoral fellowships at Cambridge and the Institute Nationale de Recherche Agronomique (INRA) in France, he was appointed to an Assistant Professorship in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Bristol, before relocating to the University of Wyoming in 2002 where he spent the next 18 years.

In 2019, following a national search, he was appointed Dean of the nationally acclaimed Honors Tutorial College at Ohio University. During his tenure he drafted the first strategic plan for the College focusing in the university-wide directive of increasing the number of students graduating with Honors.

Dr. Skinner's research during the past 30 years focused on the mechanisms driving reproductive hormone secretion and on the roles of reproductive hormones outside their traditional targets. Skinner has an h-index of 33 and has published 80 papers in scientific journals, mostly on hormones secreted by the brain. He has been an editorial board member of several international journals.

Working with colleagues, he helped develop the Physiology bachelor's degree at UW in direct response to increasing student preparedness for engaging in the health care professions in Wyoming. After serving as a professor in the Department of Zoology and Physiology he was appointed Head of the Department of Zoology and Physiology and served in this role for four years. In 2017 he became the inaugural Dean of the University of Wyoming's Honors College.

Donal's best days start with a 5 mile run and end with a British crime drama on Netflix.