

WANDA E. CHESNEY

LECTURER

868-499-6603 wanchzy@gmail.com Port of Spain

Career Objective

PERSONAL PROFILE

An educator by profession and vocation, I utilize various forms of creative pedagogies to facilitate the learning process. My approach is grounded in critical praxis and my style is very interactive and engaging. My journalistic background has enabled me to develop good interpersonal communication skills and rapport with my students, and these attributes foster empowerment and stimulate critical thinking. I am a quality-oriented professional with more than 28 years' experience and a proven knowledge of education administration, education policy development, communication studies, curriculum development, leadership, academic advisement, research and creative scholarship. My mission is to continually leverage my abilities to make a significant contribution to the Caribbean Region.

Experience

Jan 2024

LECTURER

University of the West Indies
School of Humanities & Education
Department of Literary, Culture and
Communication Studies
St. Augustine Campus

Jan 2020 - Aug 2022

PROVOST

University of the Southern Caribbean, St.
Joseph, Tunapuna/Piarco

- Academic Administration
- University of the Southern Caribbean, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
- Managed the Six Academic Schools and the Academic Departments of the University such as the Library, the Registry, the Research Department, the Department

Education

Aug 2011

PHD IN EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

University of Sheffield

Relevant Coursework

Quantitative Research Methods
Qualitative Research Methods
Education Philosophy

Extracurricular Activities

Volunteering at the Dyslexia Centre
Working at the Career Centre
Teaching English (ESOL) to Refugees

Nov 2005

POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION

University of Guyana,
Georgetown

Relevant Coursework

Foundations of Education
Education Management
Education Philosophy

Awards & Honors

Pass with Distinction
Teacher's Award for the Best
Graduating Student

Extracurricular Activities

Teacher's Union Award for the Best
Performing Student

Nov 1998

MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) IN

of Professional Studies and Continuing Education, and the Student Advisement and Success Centre

- Chaired Academic Council, Academic Policies Committee, Faculty Meeting, Graduate Council, Deans Council and Registration Committee
- Chaired various academic committees
- Prepared the university and satellite sites for accreditation by AAA and ACTT
- Inspected and audited the Extension Campuses
- Organized and planned the Graduation activities
- Supervised the performance evaluation of faculty
- Chaired the Sabbatical approval process
- Conducted a cyclical programme prioritization and review
- Prepared and implemented the Academic Strategic Plan
- Prepared the annual academic report

Jan 2012 - Jul 2022

THESIS SUPERVISOR/EXTERNAL EXAMINER

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

- Supervised students at USC, UWI-ROYTEC and Bakke University in the US

Jan 2012 - Jul 2021

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR - GRADUATE STUDIES

University of the Southern Caribbean, St. Joseph

- Chaired the Thesis Defense for all Graduate Degrees
- Reviewed and revised various Graduate Degrees
- Developed Communication Courses for the MA in Communication Studies
- Taught on the MA in Communication Studies, the MS in Education Leadership and Administration, the MS in Education Psychology and the MBA

DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

University of the West Indies,
Mona

Relevant Coursework

Public Policy
Social Policy
Development Studies

Awards & Honors

Second Class Honours

Nov 1996

POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

University of Guyana

Relevant Coursework

International Relations Theory
Diplomacy and Negotiation
US and Latin American Politics

Nov 1994

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.) IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES

University of Guyana

Relevant Coursework

Communication Theory
Communication Research
Television Broadcast Journalism

Awards & Honors

Pass with Credit

Jun 2013 - Aug 2018

**VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC
ADMINISTRATION**

University of the Southern Caribbean, St.
Joseph

- University of the Southern Caribbean,
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
- Managed the Six Academic Schools and
the Academic Departments of the
University
- Resuscitated the Faculty Senate, the Rank
and Tenure Committee, established the
Advisement and Success Centre, the
School of Distance Education and the
Centre for African Studies
- Chaired Academic Council, Academic
Policies Committee, Faculty Meeting,
Graduate Council, Deans Council and
Registration Committee
- Chaired various academic committees
- Prepared the university and satellite sites
for accreditation by AAA and ACTT

Jan 2012 - Nov 2013

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT

University of the Southern Caribbean, St.
Joseph

- University of the Southern Caribbean,
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
- Managed and supervised all the academic
departments of the university, such as the
Library, the Registry, the Research
Department, the Institute of Educational
Technology, the Department of
Professional Studies and Continuing
Education, the Student Advisement and
Success Centre and all the Extension
Campuses
- Chaired the Graduate Council, Admissions
Committee, and various academic
committees
- Developed a Handbook of Academic
Policies
- Used benchmark data from internal and
external sources to identify opportunities
for programme improvement

Aug 1999 - Oct 2006

LECTURER - COMMUNICATION STUDIES

University of Guyana
Health Communication
Mass Communication
Organizational Communication

Jan 2008 - Dec 2011

MODULE COORDINATOR

Sheffield International College of the
University of Sheffield, Sheffield, South
Yorkshire

- Coordinated, organized, managed the teaching of the Social Sciences and Research Methods and Design Courses
- Revised the modules and the developed module materials
- Setting and grading of assessments for the courses

Jan 2007 - Dec 2011

ACADEMIC TUTOR

Sheffield International College of the
University of Sheffield, Sheffield, South
Yorkshire

- Taught Academic Writing, Research Methods, Philosophy and Social Sciences to International Students
- Provided academic advisement

Jan 2000 - Aug 2010

HEAD - CENTRE FOR COMMUNICATION STUDIES

University of Guyana

- Centre for Communication Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences
- Supervised the academic and non-academic staff of the CCS
- Developed, evaluated and revised various modules
- Managed the Degrees and Diplomas in Communication Studies

Jan 1997 - Jun 1998

LECTURER

University of Technology, Mona

- Taught Sociology and Research methods during the summer to undergraduate students pursuing degrees on a part-time programme
- Taught contractual load of courses as assigned by department or school

Jan 1991 - Aug 1995

BROADCAST JOURNALIST

Television

- Evening News - VCT CH 28
- Reported the News
- Served as News Anchor on Weekends

Jan 1990 - Jan 1991

JOURNALIST

Guyana Times Newspaper

- Presented news stories and feature stories

Jan 1985 - Aug 1990

CURRENT AFFAIRS ASSISTANT & ANNOUNCER/PRODUCER

Guyana Broadcasting Corporation

- Continuity Announcer
- Produced several radio programmes

Skills

- Problem Solving
- Communication
- Computing
- Thesis Supervision
- Problem Solving
- Interpersonal Communication
- Remote & Online Teaching
- Leadership
- Collaborating
- Coaching
- Planning & Organising

Languages

ENGLISH

Fluent

SPANISH

Beginner Conversational
University

Publications

Chesney, W. (2021) "The Intersectionality of Race, Religion and Cultural Traditions of Death Rituals within the Guyanese Society." Book Chapter in Caribbean Cultures of Funerary Rituals and Practices.

Chesney, W. (2022) Academic Advisement as Praxis in Higher Education: A Transformative Education Experience." Caribbean Educational Research Journal: Special Issue on Academic Advising and Mentoring Caribbean Perspectives.

Chesney, W., Mitchell, C., (2022) "Crisis within a Crisis: Threats of Covid-19 to the Health, Wellbeing and Resilience of the University Students at a Tertiary Level Institution in Trinidad and Tobago." Journal of Developing Studies.

Campbell-George, L., Cassie, D., & Chesney, W., (2022) "Covid-19 Vaccine Acceptance and Conspiracy Beliefs Among Students at a Caribbean University." Journal of Developing Societies.

Presentations

- 25/06/ 2021 Chesney, W., 'The Syncretism of Death Rituals within the Guyanese Society,' presented at the 2nd Virtual Conference of the Guyana Institute of Historical Research held in Guyana.
- 03/10/2021 Chesney, W., and Mitchell, C., '*Crisis with a Crisis: Exploring the threats of Covid-19 to the Health, Well-being and Resilience of University Student,*' A paper presented USC 15th Annual Research Day.
- 03/11/2021 Chesney, W., 'Panelist at the Round Table Discussion, '*Moving beyond a Pandemic Response – Success Stories and Future Endeavours*' USC 15th Annual Research Day.
- 03/10/2021 Chesney, W., '*Changing Gears: Re-engineering A New Higher Education Model.*' A Concept paper presented at the IAD Research Congress.
- 19-20/11/20 Chesney, W., and Mitchell, C., '*Everybody with a Box - Changing Food Consumption Patterns in Trinidad Tobago.*' Paper presented at the UWI National Health Research Conference.
- 2020 Chesney, W., Chand, S., Mitchell, C., Sealy, G., Pierre, G and Clarke, E. Woolford, P. and Pierre, L., '*Workplace Stressors and Stress Management in a Tertiary Institution in Trinidad and Tobago: Implications for Holistic Health and Wellness Program.*' Poster presented at the UWI National Health Research Conference.
- 2020 Chesney, W., Chand, S., Mitchell, C., Sealy, G., Pierre, G and Clarke, E. Woolford, P. and Pierre, L., '*The Impact of Dietary Practices among Employees at a Tertiary Institution in Trinidad.*' Poster presented at the UWI National Health Research Conference on 19-20th November 2020.
- 12/03/2020 Chesney, W., '*(Ms) Diagnosis or (Mis) Representation: A Socio-historical Analysis of the Response to and Treatment of Natural Disaster Victims in the Caribbean.*' Paper presented at the USC Annual Research Day.
- 2020 Chesney, W., '*The Student Advisement and Success Centre: An Integrated Approach to Student Success.*' Paper presented at the UWI Advising and Mentoring in Higher Education: A Caribbean Context Symposium.

- 13/03/2019 Chesney, W., *'Political participation or Ostracization: Navigating dialogic spaces on Social Media.'* Paper presented at the USC Research Day under the theme "Sustainable Cities and Communities.
- 2019 Chesney, W., *'Dismantling Ideological Structures and Disrupting Dependency in Higher Education - A Concept Paper.'* Paper presented at the UWI Education Biennial Conference.
- 14/03/2017 Chesney, W., *'Higher Education and Preparedness for the Job Market.'* Paper presented at the Research Day at the University of the Southern Caribbean in Maracas Valley, under the theme, 'Maintaining Relevance and Sustainability in a Changing Higher Education Environment.'
- 2016 Chesney, W., *'The Peer Evaluation Process and how it enhances Faculty Practice and Professional Development.'* Paper presented at the USC Peer Evaluations Workshop.
- 2015 Chesney, W., *'The Role of the Thesis Advisor - Methodology and Findings Qualitative Analysis'.* Papers presented at the USC Thesis Advisors Workshop.
- 23-24/04/2013 Chesney, W. and Bristol, L. *'The Intersection of Policy and Practice: Detranslation & Plantation Pedagogy.'* Paper presented at UWI Biennial Conference, St. Augustine Trinidad.
- 25-25/04/2013 Chesney, W. *'Education Policy in Guyana: An exploration in Indigenous Methodology.'* Presentation Strand - Indigenizing Research Methodology: Benefits and Challenges. Paper presented at UWI Biennial Conference, St. Augustine Trinidad.
- 01/2013 Chesney, W. *'Rethinking Indigenous Research: Methods and Methodologies.'* Paper presented at the Scientific Writing Workshop, University of the Southern Caribbean.
- 03/2008 Chesney, W. and Blaize, L. *'Liming as Cultural Resistance.'* Paper presented at the DPR 7th Conference, Manchester Metropolitan University.
- 03/2006 Chesney, W. *'Women in Education: Priorities & Challenges in the 21st Century.'* Paper Presented at a One Day Seminar to mark International Women's Day at the University of Guyana under the theme 'Women in Decision Making.'
- 16/05/2003 Chesney, W. *'Contact Coercion or Conflict: Rethinking Online Interpersonal Relationships: A Case Study of Emerging Behavioural trends of Virtual Communities.'* Public Lecture presented at the Brown Bag Colloquium Series, Humanities Centre, Wayne State University.
- 12/06/2003 Chesney, W. *'Gender and Organisational Communication.'* Public Lecture presented at the Department of Communication, Wayne State University, under the auspices of the Humanities Center, WSU, Michigan USA.
- 06/2003 Chesney, W. *'Gender Differences in Online Communication.'* Paper presented at a Public Lecture at the Department of Communication, Wayne State University, under the auspices of the Humanities Centre, WSU, Michigan USA, June 2003.

Awards and Honours

- 2003 Visiting Scholar Fellowship – I was awarded the prestigious Visiting Scholar Fellowship as a Visiting Professor to the Humanities Centre at Wayne State University in Michigan