

Worcester Polytechnic Institute Project Inclusion Facilitator Bios

Jenene Cook

Jenene Cook is a graduate assistant and doctoral candidate in the Higher Education Doctoral program at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She also serves as the Area Reference Person (ARP) for the Dorchester/Roxbury area in the Boston Re-evaluation Counseling (RC) region (www.rc.org), where she focuses on putting liberation theory into action for African-heritage people, people of color, women, young people, and care of the environment. She regularly leads classes, support groups, and workshops, and is active in the NGO United to End Racism; one of the most meaningful occurred in 2011, when she co-facilitated a “Healing the Damage Caused by Racism” workshop at the National Race Amity Conference. In March 2016, she led a workshop, "Eliminating the Effects of Racism in the Environmental Movement," at the 2016 Local Environmental Action Conference at Northeastern University. She is currently part of NERCHE's Project Inclusion team and is co-teaching a graduate course, “Effecting Changing in Higher Education: Strategies and Processes for Social Justice.” In addition, she is writing a chapter for the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) manuscript, "Campus Sexual Violence: From Public Policy Development to Institutional Action." She can be reached at Jenene.Cook001@umb.edu.

Alane Shanks

Alane Shanks, EdD, is president of Renga Consulting and a Visiting Scholar at the New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE). She provides expertise in helping higher educational institutions become effective and inclusive multicultural environments. She provides organization-wide strategic planning; facilitates the realignment of resources to strengthen institutions; and builds strong and effective management and working teams—matching job duties to the overall mission of the organization, improving campus climate, and leading organizations through significant cultural change. She is also an executive coach, specializing in faculty transitions from academic to administrative positions. She has held senior leadership positions in private and public institutions of higher education, serving as Associate Dean of Educational Administration and Finance at Harvard Medical School, Vice President/CFO at Roxbury Community College, and President of Pine Manor College. She has taught graduate-level courses in higher education administration and finance as well as strategies for systemic change. Her dissertation and continuing research focus on best practices for recruiting and retaining students and faculty of color. She can be reached at alane.shanks@umb.edu or alane.shanks@gmail.com.