Introducing LaTanya Veronica Williams, PhD
Associate Director for STEM

The Office of Fellowships is delighted to welcome Dr. LaTanya Williams to our staff in a newly created role, Associate Director for STEM. In this capacity, LaTanya serves as the campus representative for the Churchill and Goldwater Scholarships as well as the point person for students at all levels in STEM fields. LaTanya seeks to share knowledge she gained negotiating the world of higher education as a first-generation, low-income college student while advising applications for the broad swathe of fellowship opportunities from internships to research grants to scholarships for graduate study.

Born and raised in Chicago, IL, LaTanya inherited her love of life sciences from her mother, who cultivated her interest in the human body and nutrition. LaTanya earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in biology from Howard University, where her master’s thesis investigated protein changes in drought response in Arabidopsis Thalaina.

LaTanya discovered the world of fellowships while working for the National Science Foundation. Thanks to knowledge gained in that role, LaTanya applied to and secured an East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes Fellowship, on which she conducted research projects in Tsukuba, Japan.

LaTanya completed her doctorate in Northwestern University’s Driskill Graduate Program. Her dissertation investigated the regulation of microRNA mediated EMT in prostate cancer with support from the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Fellowship.

As a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Illinois at Chicago, LaTanya continued her research on microRNA regulation in the prostate and helped her group secure funding from the National Institutes of Health.

LaTanya has over 13 years of experience in teaching and advising undergraduate and graduate students and wants to ensure all students have the resources to pursue their ambitions. In addition to her role in the Office of Fellowships, she is a fellow at Northwestern’s science and engineering focused Slivka Residential College.

When off campus, LaTanya enjoys spending time with her husband, a fellow Northwestern alum and scientist, as well as her two young sons, who keep her busy and thoroughly entertained. She also enjoys reading biographies, traveling, and trying new restaurants when she can get a babysitter!