



Friday, March 5, 2021

It is with great enthusiasm that we announce the appointment of Dr. Kimberly Parker as Director of the Crimson Summer Academy (CSA) at Harvard, beginning in May. Dr. Parker, currently the Assistant Director of the Teacher Training Center (TTC) at Shady Hill School and long-time CSA faculty member, succeeds Maxine Rodburg, the CSA's founder and director from 2003 until her recent retirement.

"I am thrilled that Kim will be leading the CSA into the future," said Rodburg. "She has always made a deep and meaningful impact on our students and will now be able to build on her 11-year connection with the program to continue to inspire the young people we work with while keeping the CSA community strong and growing."

A teacher and scholar in the field of literacy, Dr. Parker is an experienced leader at the TTC who has worked to make positive and progressive change in the classroom by preparing teachers to create class climates that disrupt dominant narratives about students and their learning identities. Dr. Parker is also the co-founder of #DisruptTexts, President of the Black Educators' Alliance of Massachusetts, and an educational consultant, passionately focusing her energy on supporting the academic excellence of underrepresented students.

"I have had the privilege of working with Kim over the past many years and can't say enough about her ability to challenge and connect to students in ways that leave them empowered and even more curious about themselves and the world around them," said Jamie Shushan, the CSA's Acting Director.

Dr. Parker earned her B.A. in English and American Studies at Colby College, pursued graduate studies at The Ohio State University, and gained a Master's in English Teaching from Boston College. She then went on to earn a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, fully launching a meaningful career in the field of education.

"I am overjoyed to take on this leadership role," said Dr. Parker. "The Crimson Summer Academy at Harvard has always had a deep belief in our young people and a commitment to their excellence. From the moment I began teaching in the program years ago, I have remained impressed and inspired by the dedication of the entire CSA family—which includes mentors, students, faculty, staff, and alumni—to support the success of our young people. I look forward to building on the history and legacy of this important program by fostering our young people's brilliance in a loving, supportive community that is invested in their long-term success."

As Director of the CSA, Dr. Parker will oversee all aspects of the program, work closely with DCE and FAS colleagues who offer essential support, maintain and build on existing high school and college partnerships, and keep the CSA community focused on its mission of educational access and excellence.

"The future of the CSA is so bright," said Joe Lewis, the CSA's Acting Associate Director and member of the CSA Class of 2009. "Having experienced all aspects of the CSA as a student, alumnus, mentor, and now staff member, I know that Kim will not only nurture the heart of the CSA, but she will bring renewed energy to a program that is profoundly transformative for so many."