



Brian Peterson is an author and educator based in Philadelphia. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and launching a successful career in Information Technology at the university, Peterson transitioned to student affairs, becoming the director of Makuu, Penn's Black Cultural Center, in 2011. He earned his Masters in Secondary Teacher Education and Ph.D. in Education, Culture, and Society from Penn's Graduate School of Education.

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In addition to writing about college completion, Peterson is also a co-founder of Ase Academy, an academic and cultural enrichment program for youth in Philadelphia. He also consults and works with other nonprofits and youth empowerment programs to create curriculum, program models, strategic plans, collaboration opportunities, annual campaigns, and assessment strategies.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Peterson has developed and taught or co-taught a number of courses at Penn including Topics in Africana Studies: The History of Women and Men of African Descent at the University of Pennsylvania; Culturally Relevant Teaching, Learning, and Intervention; and Education in American Culture. He has also created and led numerous seminars and course modules for Ase Academy and other partners, and has facilitated a number of student leadership programs including the Paul Robeson and Anna Julia Cooper Scholars Program and BMU (Black Men United). His research interests include social entrepreneurship, race in higher education, student engagement and success, culturally relevant education, and community empowerment.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Peterson is also the author of two published works of fiction and was a former staff writer at one of the longest-running hip-hop culture websites, Okayplayer.com. He enjoys sports and fitness, music, great books, and cookouts. He resides in Philadelphia with his wife and their five children.