



## **BRANDI STONE BIO**

Brandi Stone serves as the Interim Director of African American Student Services (AASS) and Special Advisor to the President for African American Affairs at the University of New Mexico. During her 7- year tenure with AASS, Brandi started serving through the work-study program and transitioned into various professional staff roles, which led her to her appointment as Interim Director. As Interim Director, Brandi has led and supported the development, expansion and implementation of undergraduate and graduate programs inclusive of targeted recruitment, first-year mentoring, research exposure through the annual research symposium, and retention based programming such as the new Black Minds Matter 3 credit hour transition course and Black Cultural Conference which has gained regional participation of Black scholars and practitioners.

Brandi's passion is creating a community inclusive of Black Scholars and cultivating a culture of Black Excellence. Brandi pursues her passion through collaboration with campus partners, Black Alumni, and the community while leading her team of professional and support staff. Collectively, these efforts have led to Black student 3<sup>rd</sup>-semester retention rate of 75%, showcasing a 15% increase from last year's report.

Brandi also currently serves as a national board member for the Association of Black Culture Centers (ABCC), where she is responsible for communicating the unique needs of Black students in the southwest region and leading cross-cultural center collaborative efforts in addressing those needs. As a New Mexico native, Brandi received both her bachelor's degree in Political Science and master's degree in Public Administration from the University of New Mexico and is a proud second-generation Lobo! Brandi's interest is in researching the role of Black Culture Centers at Hispanic Serving Institutions. Outside of work, Brandi enjoys being outdoors and exploring New Mexico's natural beauty with her family as well as assisting her husband on independent film projects.