



OFFICE OF  
DIVERSITY AND  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS

**PCOM**

South  
Georgia

**ODCR AND SOAR PRESENT:**

**MANAGING YOUR CAREER  
WHEN IT (SEEMS LIKE) YOU'RE ALONE -  
ADVICE FROM THE TRENCHES**



**OCTOBER 20, 12:00 - 1:30 PM  
CLASSROOM A**

Panelists: Joanne Jones, MBA, Dana Brooks,  
Jason Walker, PhD and Jennifer Mitchell, EdD



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# AGENDA



WELCOME

INTRODUCTION

PANEL DISCUSSION

CLOSING REMARKS

LUNCH AND NETWORKING



Join at  
**slido.com**  
**#SOAR1020**



## JOANNE JONES, MBA

In 2018, Joanne Jones, MBA, was named campus officer for PCOM South Georgia in Moultrie, Georgia. Joanne brings more than 30 years of experience with PCOM to the position in which she directs the operational, non-academic activities of the campus. In addition, Joanne is charged with fostering productive relationships between the campus and community, state and local governments. In July of this year she was promoted to Chief of Campus Operations.

In her previous position, Joanne served as the College's designated institutional official which ensured that all residency programs under PCOM's authority adhere to Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) compliance standards. During her career with PCOM she has also held the position of Practices Manager for the PCOM Healthcare Centers. Joanne serves as the Board Chair for the Moultrie Colquitt County Chamber of Commerce when she recognized the lack of diversity on the board and that it did not fully represent the business community. She is leveraging her role as ally to foster a more diverse Board and Chamber staff that represents her community.

Joanne earned a bachelor's degree in administration in organizational management from Cabrini College in Radnor, Pennsylvania, and her Master of Business Administration from Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania. She is a member of the Leadership Gwinnett Class of 2014.

*"I am a first generation college graduate, former Cathlioc, converted to Methodism after marrying a Baptist (there is a long story behind that). My ancestry includes Irish, French, German, and Dutch. I am a proud mother of one son and a bonus mom to a stepson. I understand the struggles and hardships of taking care of aging parents."*





**DANA BROOKS**

Dana Brooks is the Director of Admissions at PCOM South Georgia. Brooks has been working in higher education for over 10 years. Brooks has been with PCOM South Georgia since November 2018. Brooks is a highly motivated higher education advocate that values diversity and equal opportunities. Brooks have been a part of two record enrollments at undergraduate and technical colleges in South Georgia. In Fall 2022,

PCOM South Georgia welcomed its most diverse DO class with 68% Georgia residents and 44% underrepresented in medicine. Brooks enjoys spending time with family, anything outdoors and running! Brooks believes that trust is essential to effective teams.



**JASON WALKER, PhD**

Jason Walker, PhD, is a graduate of Alcorn State University, Southern Illinois University and University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Under the leadership of Dr. Jian Xing Ma, he completed his postdoctoral research at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center in Physiology. He is currently serving as an Associate Professor of Physiology at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

His experiences over the last decade as a graduate student, assistant professor, scientist, and associate professor has further cemented the value of critical thinking, application, but also the importance of support and structure for students of diverse populations to succeed and progress through graduate and terminal degree programs. Being able to have access to mentors, who are of the same race and background, would provide further support and self-confidence to students who otherwise are unsupported, unguided, and lack mentorship. Jason's goal is to provide academic and professional guidance to help more minority students develop the desire to matriculate through graduate and professional degrees.



**JENNIFER MITCHELL, EdD**

Jennifer Mitchell received her B.A. degree in Sociology from Georgia State University, M.S. degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Thomas University, and EdD from the University of Georgia. Her experience includes 15 years working in mental health and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, with nine years in higher education. She worked in the field of Disability Services for eight years, and the last year has been in the field of Diversity, Equity, and

Inclusion in Medical Education. Jennifer is currently an Assistant Director at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, South Georgia campus. Her research interests include resiliency and persistence amongst marginalized groups of college students, mainly focused on race and gender and disability inclusion and justice in professional schools..



**PROGRAM MODERATOR: ESTELLE REDDING, MBA, MS, PMP, PMI-ACP**

As the Director of ITS Service Delivery at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Estelle Redding supports the Development, Enterprise Applications, and Project Management Office (PMO) teams in delivering excellent customer service through technical, project, and general business process improvement support.

Estelle transitioned into project management full-time in 2019, enabling her to fulfill her passions for learning and knowledge-sharing by working with others to achieve their objectives. Before becoming a PM, she worked in the global capital markets industry for 20+ years. She managed several teams that provided third-party agency services ranging from escrow services to project finance and loan administrative agency on behalf of major infrastructure projects worldwide. In her personal life, Estelle is actively involved in her church, is a Board Member and Secretary for the non-profit Jo's Food Pantry in NEPA, and is an active member of Project Management Institute's Delaware Valley Chapter.

*"I am a Christian, African-American, Irish, cisgender mother of 3 whose oldest child is on the spectrum. My home is ADA-compliant in support of my mom's limited mobility. I am privileged to belong to the boarding school and Ivy League education circles and am an avid reader. Bookworms, unite!"*







## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



### PCOM CAREER PAGE

<https://my.pcom.edu/web/home/talent-acquisition-emp>

### DIVERSITY

<https://www.pcom.edu/about/departments/diversity/resources.html>

### TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

<https://my.pcom.edu/web/home/training-and-development-emp>

## About the Office of Diversity and Community Relations

The Office of Diversity and Community Relations provides the vision, leadership and management to advance PCOM's goals to support a culture of open inquiry, pluralism and mutual respect among students, faculty and staff. The office partners with all campus units to encourage an environment of shared responsibility and ownership for the diversity and inclusion philosophy across our three locations in Pennsylvania and Georgia. The office is committed to promoting programs and initiatives that improve the quality of life in underserved communities. To learn more, access our page in myPCOM at <https://my.pcom.edu/web/home/diversity>.

## About Supporting One Another as we Rise

SOAR is an informal all-campus colleague resource group whose purpose is to encourage the mental and professional development of the Black non-teaching full- and part-time staff of PCOM. We are a place to which we may bring our authentic selves and through which we connect with our allies and advocates in support of our diverse community. To learn more or to join as a community member or ally, contact any one of the below colleagues for more information:

[Adrienne Jones adriannjo@pcom.edu](mailto:adriannjo@pcom.edu)

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[Katresa Gardner katresaga@pcom.edu](mailto:katresaga@pcom.edu)

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