

Dr. Alade S. McKen is a native New Yorker and diversity, equity, and inclusion thought leader with more than 15 years of experience in developing, managing, and evaluating initiatives to enhance policy, programming, belongingness, and equity. He currently serves as the Assistant Dean of Recruitment, Diversity, and Inclusion at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at Columbia University in New York.

In this role, Dr. McKen is responsible for providing oversight for the school's anti-racism action plan and curriculum awards, as well as community fellows partnership programs. He manages broad-based comprehensive engagement, recruitment, and retention programs/services to create an environment in which students are engaged, persist, thrive, and feel a sense of belonging.

Dr. McKen values social justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, academic excellence, and access through collaborative partnerships. At Columbia University, he leads all the initiatives outlined in the school's Anti-Racism Action Plan, which details the ongoing work of addressing anti-Black racism and racial injustice for faculty, staff, and students.

Dr. McKen's research interests include critical race theory, inclusive educational design, community-school partnerships, and engaging in a thoughtful, rigorous, and sustained inquiry into social justice struggles in educational systems. He received his B.A. in English and Creative Writing from Binghamton University, Masters in Higher Education from Baruch College, and his Doctorate in Education with a Social and Cultural Studies emphasis from Iowa State University.