



Reggie R. Holifield (Class of '18, '20) is an alumnus of the University of Montevallo, where he participated in TRIO Upward Bound, Student Support Services, the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement programs, and Undergraduate Research. He received a dual Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Chemistry (Biochemistry concentration) in 2018, and a Master of Education in Secondary Education (General Science) in 2020, all from the University of Montevallo. He is currently a doctoral student in Higher Education Administration at the University of Southern Mississippi ('24). Reggie's research focuses on the impact of asynchronous and synchronous learning modalities on the success and retention of African American students.

Beyond academia, Reggie is deeply involved in community engagement and advocacy. He is a co-founder of the [Montevallo Legacy Project](#) and serves as the Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Montevallo Legacy Project—a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving stories of the past, fostering community unity, and promoting cultural diversity. Reggie is also the founder and host of the podcast [TalkinUpward](#), which aims to amplify the experiences of TRIO students, professionals, and stakeholders.

In addition to his academic pursuits and community involvement, Reggie is passionate about transforming STEM education in the West Alabama Black Belt region. He is actively engaged in the [UWA Black Belt STEM Education Institute](#), which serves as the hub organization central to a network of stakeholders dedicated to this transformational endeavor. Through collaborative efforts informed by research and best practices, Reggie and his colleagues aim to address the primary areas impacting student achievement, recruitment, and retention of STEM teachers, while equipping students with the skills needed by business and industry. In his free time, Reggie enjoys playing music (guitar and bass), competitive gaming, cooking, and exploring new recipes.

