

# **OVERCOMING DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING YOUR PHD**

JAMIKA D. BURGE, PHD

# YOU'VE CHOSEN TO PURSUE A DOCTORATE BECAUSE...

.....you enjoy the pursuit of knowledge in a particular field.

..... you don't know what you want to be when you grow up.

..... you want to be a college professor.

..... you want a deep understanding of research methodology.

..... you want the credentials.

The list goes on...

Take-away: Identify your reason, your motivation.

# BOTTOM LINE: WHAT KEEPS YOU GOING?



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You will have some bad days. In the end, *something* has to keep you going...through it all.

# OBSTACLES ALONG THE WAY

## Tangible

- Funding
- Lack of Mentorship, Support

## Intangible

- Fatigue
- Personal Challenges

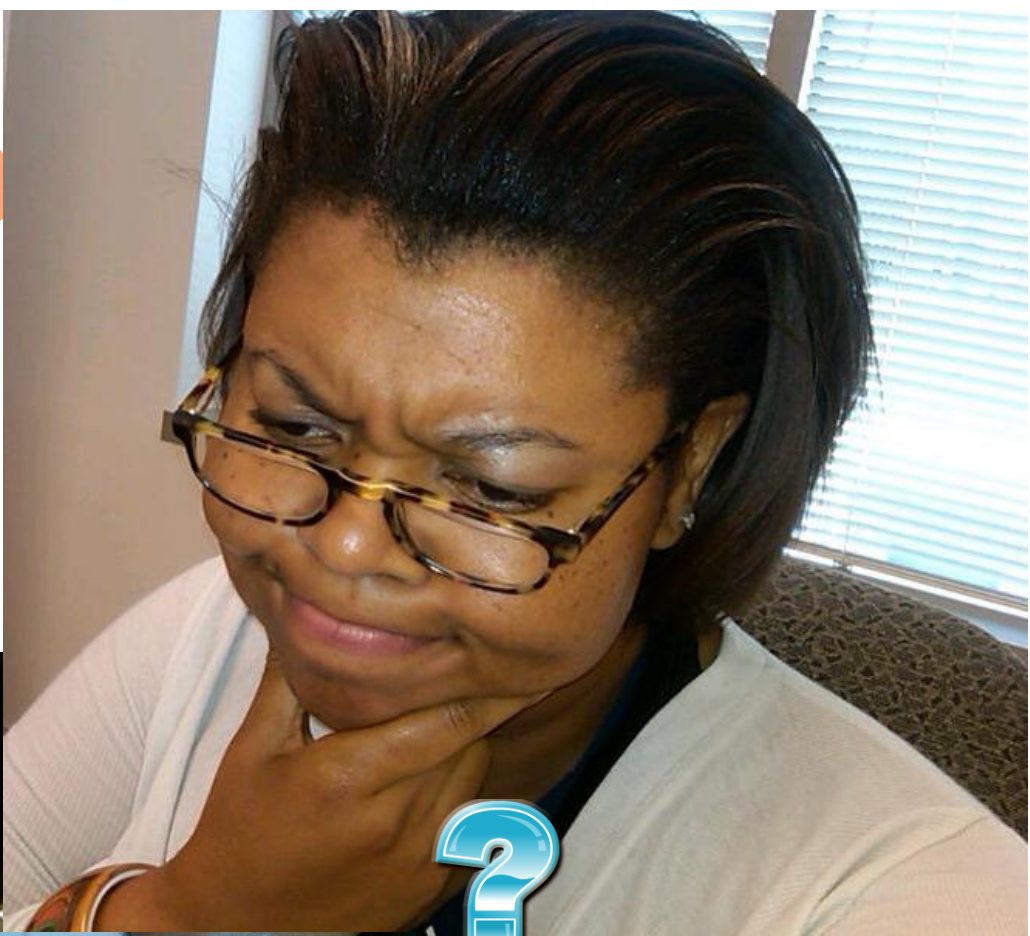
## Academic

- Advisor
- Making Progress

Other challenges ?

Take-away: Identify the problem, then attack it!

HOW DO I FIND THE RIGHT SOLUTIONS?



# YOUR GOAL IS COMPLETING YOUR DEGREE

What will lead you to this goal most effectively?

Who can help you most effectively?

What are you going to do about it?

This of it this way:

- You are your own enterprise. How would you run your company?
- Who do you want working on your board of directors? advisors? confidantes?
- What kind of relationships do you want to establish with others?
- How do you fund your enterprise?

Take-away: The solution depends on YOU.

# MY OBSTACLE(S)

Finding a new advisor

Finding funding: for summer and academic year

Finding a career

Take-away: Use what you learn, and keep moving forward.

# THIS IS YOUR TIME

Having focused “me” time is rare.

Realize that *how* you handle the obstacles/challenges you face while earning your degree will serve you well as you advance in your career.

The skills you learn in your program (beyond the academics) is part of the process.

Take-away: Have fun!



# CONTACT INFO:

Email: [jamika.burge@gmail.com](mailto:jamika.burge@gmail.com)

Social Media: FB, LinkedIn

