

SEDA Spring Conference 2024



Keynote Title: You are your best thing: Addressing differential gaps through values based, person centred education.

Session Type: Keynote

Main presenter(s): Dr Iwi Ugiagbe-Green

Short bio: Dr Iwi Ugiagbe-Green has over 20 years' experience of working in higher education and nearly 15 years' experience of supporting students in higher education. She is Reader and a Learning Enhancement and Education Development (LEED) institutional innovation scholar at Manchester Metropolitan University, with strategic responsibility for degree award gaps and differential outcomes. She describes herself as an academic activist and anti-racism scholar. In the last five years her research has focused on race equity issues within the context of student education, experience, transition, and progression to graduate labour market and postgraduate study. She developed the very successful OfS/UKRI funded ASPIRE programme and STRIVE 100 programme. Both programmes have supported student success and led to incredible outcomes of groups of students, who are typically awarded lower degree awards or employment outcomes than other student groups.

Session Summary: The often short-termism, instrumentalist approach to addressing the complex issue of differential outcomes has proven to be ineffective. Approaches that are adopted are often in response to policy changes e.g., B3 conditions, reducing students to data points and positioning them as problems that need to be fixed. Adopting a values- based approach in which student identity is centred in our approach to addressing differential outcomes, is undoubtedly a challenge in learning and teaching environments typified by large and diverse cohorts. However, if we, as educators do not do this, if we fail to do our own unlearning, to challenge the status quo and to take responsibility and accountability to create the conditions in which every student has the opportunity to thrive, why are we in education?