Crystal R. Sanders, Ph.D. Associate Professor of History Director, Africana Research Center Pennsylvania State University

Crystal R. Sanders is an Associate Professor of History and the Director of the Africana Research Center at Pennsylvania State University. She earned a bachelor's degree in history and public policy from Duke and a Ph.D. in history from Northwestern University. Her dissertation received both the C. Vann Woodward Prize from the Southern Historical Association and the Claude Eggertsen Prize from the History of Education Society. Sanders is the author of numerous articles, essays, and op-eds that have appeared in a variety of outlets including the Journal of Southern History, the Journal of African American History, the History of Education Quarterly, and the North Carolina Historical Review. Her first book, A Chance for Change: Head Start and Mississippi's Black Freedom Struggle, was published by UNC Press as part of its John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture. The book received several awards and was a finalist for the Benjamin Hooks National Book Award. Sanders is currently completing a new book project tentatively titled, America's Forgotten Migration about African American efforts to secure graduate education during the age of Jim Crow. Rather than create graduate and professional programs at public black colleges or desegregate white colleges, more than twelve border and southern state legislatures appropriated tax dollars to send black citizens out-of-state for graduate training.