

Long Bio (word count: 432)

(Shorter Bios on page 2)

Wesley Jackson Wade is a licensed clinical mental health counselor, a licensed clinical addictions specialist, a certified clinical mental health counselor, and a national certified counselor. Wesley holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from NC State University, a master's degree from North Carolina Central University in clinical mental health counseling, and second master's degree in career counseling. As of 2022, Wesley is a PhD candidate at NC State University in the Educational Leadership, Policy, & Human Development department in the Counseling and Counselor Education program. Since 2017, he has owned and operated Forward Counseling & Consulting (FCC) where he has provided counseling services in virtual, in-home, and integrated healthcare environments. In addition, Wesley has provided consulting services to a range of organizations ranging from R1 universities to fortunate 500 companies as well as non-profits. In total, Wesley has 9 years of corporate experience, 7 years of experience working in higher education, and 5 years of experience running FCC.

Wesley is an action-oriented advocate centering mental health, neurodiversity, and anti-racism to help create cultural change in organizations and communities. At NC State University, he served on the advisory council for the Black Male Initiative; co-created and led a career-focused program for autistic college students called Students Moving Forward; started the NC Autistic Career Summit; and sat on the planning committee for LiNC-IT, a paid internship program organized by leaders in NC's government for autistic college students and alumni throughout the state. For five years he worked in the Career Development Center at NC State University where he primarily served over 4,100 undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Sciences helping students to re-define their approach to career development with consideration of their mental health.

Wesley has been awarded recognitions such as:

- Summer 2020 "Who's Who in Black Mental Health" from Black Mental Health Today
- 2022 "Outstanding Practitioner Student Award" from Nu Sigma Chi chapter of Chi Sigma Iota
- 2020 "New Professional of the Year" from the North Carolina Career Development Association (NCCDA)
- 2020 "Outstanding Staff in Creating Community" Chancellor's Award from NC State University
- 2018 "Pride of the Pack" from NC State University
- 2015 "Minority Addictions Counseling Fellowship" from a joint collaboration with the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA)

Lastly, Wesley has appeared on Pittsburgh PBS affiliate WQED's *iQ: Smartparent* series to discuss the "soft skills gap" and has given over 12 regional and national talks on neurodiversity, career development, and mental health, including the 2021 Stanford University Neurodiversity Summit and the 2022 National Association of Colleges and Employers annual conference.

Shorter Bios

#1 – Shorter Bio (Word count: 195)

Wesley Jackson Wade is a licensed clinical mental health counselor, a licensed clinical addictions specialist, a certified clinical mental health counselor, and a national certified counselor. Wesley holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from NC State University, a master's degree from North Carolina Central University in clinical mental health counseling, and a second master's degree in career counseling. As of 2022, Wesley is a PhD candidate at NC State University in the Educational Leadership, Policy, & Human Development department in the Counseling and Counselor Education program where he researches the associations between neurodivergence, career development, and components of racial identity. Wesley owns and operates Forward Counseling & Consulting where he partners with a network of therapists to provide a range of counseling, executive coaching, and consulting services. Wesley has 9 years of corporate experience and 7 years of experience working in higher education where he provided career counseling services for over 4,100 undergraduate and graduate students in STEM majors. Additionally, while in higher education, Wesley served on the advisory board for the Black Male Initiative and cultivated career programs for autistic college students such as Students Moving Forward and the North Carolina Autistic Career Summit.

#2 – Shortest Bio (Word count: 104)

Wesley Jackson Wade is a licensed clinical mental health counselor, a licensed clinical addictions specialist, a certified clinical mental health counselor, and a national certified counselor. He owns and operates Forward Counseling & Consulting, collaborates as a neurodiversity consultant with various organizations internationally, and has cultivated career programming in higher education throughout the state of North Carolina for neurodivergent students in addition to programs centering the experiences of undergraduate Black men attending PWIs. Currently, Wesley is a Ph.D. candidate in the Counseling and Counselor Education program at NC State University where he researches the associations between neurodivergence, career development, and components of racial identity.