

AFE University Faculty Fellows

Academy of Faculty Enrichment | Virginia State University

AI Technology/Research Fellow

Dr. Sade M Younger

Assistant Professor and Director, MSW Program
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of Social Work

Project Title:

The Financial Vitals Project: AI-Powered Assessment of Financial Wellbeing as a Social Determinant of Mental Health

Dr. Sade M. Younger has been selected as the AI Technology/Research Fellow for the Thurgood Marshall AI Fellows Program. Her project, The Financial Vitals Project: AI-Powered Assessment of Financial Wellbeing as a Social Determinant of Mental Health, will develop and pilot an artificial intelligence-enabled Financial Stress Inventory designed to assess financial wellbeing as a measurable factor influencing mental health outcomes. Building upon her previous research in financial social work, the project will create an innovative assessment tool and practitioner toolkit that integrates financial wellbeing into routine mental health assessment practices. Through student-engaged research, ethical AI framework development, scholarly dissemination, and community partnerships, the initiative positions Virginia State University as a leader in the responsible application of AI to advance health equity, clinical practice, and interdisciplinary scholarship.