

LA ROCHE UNIVERSITY
2022 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI CIRCLE AWARD RECIPIENT



Christian Okitondo '15, M.A.

Doctoral Student Researcher

University of Georgia

Adjunct Professor

Belmont University

Christian Okitondo '15 is a Doctoral Student Researcher in epidemiology and biostatistics, with an emphasis in data analysis and modeling at the University of Georgia. In this role, Mr. Okitondo seeks to ensure the integrity of scientific research by strengthening his quantitative research skills, and by applying epidemiology and biostatistics to better understand the most pervasive issues facing the health care field, particularly cancer.

Mr. Okitondo obtained a bachelor's degree in mathematics from La Roche University in 2014. After graduating from La Roche, his position as a data analyst in Pittsburgh inspired and motivated him to continue his education. In 2017 he earned his master's degree in statistics from Ball State University.

Following graduate school, Mr. Okitondo worked as a biostatistician for Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. In this role, he established clarity of analytical plans to integrate statistical methods and techniques. He analyzed behavioral data to learn more about the sensations, perceptions, emotions, and special interests in children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders. He also contributed to peer-reviewed publications as a co-first author and co-author.

As an adjunct statistics professor at Belmont University, Mr. Okitondo has trained and mentored nearly 300 students in the last four years, providing growth and guidance in their personal, academic and professional lives.

He is a board member of Congo Renaissance Breath Corporation (CRBC). The organization advocates for orphaned children and individuals with disabilities in the Democratic Republic of Congo, providing them with the necessary care, educational opportunities, and health and wellness assistance. CRBC also is committed to empowering immigrants, refugees, and youth to adapt, integrate and thrive in the United States.

"Helping others has been a strong force for me," he said. "I always live by the quote from Winston Churchill that says, 'We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.' I always wanted to help people and perhaps change a life for the better. I hope to serve others and help others succeed. May our presence be a blessing to others, and that tomorrow be a more complete, healed place because we were here today. I wish you all the very best in life."