

Janelle Jackson - Terry - Candidate Biography:



Janelle (Jackson) Terry was born in Newark, New Jersey, raised in the Bronx, and now proudly calls Durham, North Carolina home. She has been part of the Bull City community since attending North Carolina Central University, where she earned the distinction of “Double Eagle,” receiving both a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master of Public Administration.

Janelle is a seasoned product and strategy leader with more than two decades of experience driving innovation across healthcare, education, and technology. She currently serves as Lead AI Product Manager, where she leads the development of impactful digital solutions. Prior to this role, she held multiple leadership positions, including Principal Strategic Advisor and Manager of Healthcare Product Development, where she helped shape products and strategies that improve access, outcomes, and operational efficiency.

Her career reflects a unique ability to bridge business, technology, and policy—bringing a strategic lens to complex challenges in government contracting, finance, and software development.

Outside of her professional work, Janelle enjoys time in the kitchen and garden, often creating spaces that bring family and friends together. She is also deeply committed to community engagement, with volunteering remaining one of her highest priorities.

In truth and service, I stand ready to serve!

Responses:

What motivates you to serve on the alumni executive committee at this time?

I am motivated to serve at this time, and in the past, because I believe in the power of aligned leadership and intentional alumni community building. As my professional journey has evolved, I’ve gained experiences and perspectives that I feel uniquely position me to contribute meaningfully to the continued growth of our alumni network. This is a season where I can both give back and help shape opportunities for others—creating spaces for connection, mentorship, and collective advancement.

Serving on the executive committee feels like a natural extension of my commitment to leadership, service, and empowerment.

2. What do you see as the biggest opportunity for our alumni community over the next 2–3 years?

The biggest opportunity lies in strengthening engagement through strategic connection and Eagle value-driven programming. There is significant potential to better leverage the diversity of talent, experience, and influence within our alumni base. By creating more intentional pathways for mentorship, professional development, and collaboration, we can deepen relationships and increase participation. Additionally, embracing digital platforms and innovative engagement strategies will allow us to reach alumni more consistently and inclusively, ensuring that everyone feels connected and invested in our Eagle community.

3. What specific impact would you like to have if elected?

If elected, I would focus on building sustainable systems that foster engagement, leadership development, and community impact. I want to help create meaningful opportunities for alumni to connect across generations, industries, and interests. Specifically, I would work to enhance mentorship initiatives, expand professional development offerings, and support programming that reflects the evolving needs of our alumni driven by financial accuracy. My goal is to contribute to a culture where every member feels seen, valued, and empowered to both benefit from and give back to our beloved alma mater.