



## **Ainsley Thomas Biography**

Ainsley Thomas is the Chief Diversity Officer at Hudson Valley Community College.

Ainsley came to the College from Albany County, where he served as Director of Affirmative Action for four years and oversaw the county-wide development, implementation and monitoring of anti-discrimination, equal employment opportunity, sexual harassment and ADA compliance policies.

As Chief Diversity Officer, he oversees the following areas:

- Education and training initiatives on campus diversity;
- Student recruitment, enrollment, and retention;
- Employee recruitment, retention; and
- Acts as a community liaison for the college.

Earlier in his career, Ainsley was employed in state government, working as a Legislative Analyst for the New York State Senate Majority Office, where he focused on issues impacting higher education. He is also a certified teacher and taught Social Studies for seven years in the Albany City School District and Bishop Maginn High School.

Ainsley is a graduate of LeMoyne College, where he received his bachelor's degree in political science. He received his M.A. in political science and education from the University at Albany. He is co-chair the Albany County District Attorney's Felony Youth Diversion Program, a board member of the Capital District Educational Opportunity Center, former board member of the Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commission, a statewide network of independent screening panels for judicial candidates, a board member of the Albany County Zero Youth Detention Task Force and sits on numerous committees for Hudson Valley. He has won numerous awards including being a 2016 recipient of the "Outstanding Public Servant Award" from the Cameroonian Association of the Capital District, Inc. In addition, in 2018, he was awarded the "Adult Achiever Award" from the Capital District YMCA Black and Latino Achievers Program.