

Lauri Fitz-Pegado

Advisor, Advocate, Author, Teacher, Memoir: *Dancing in the Dash: My Story of Empowerment, Diplomacy, and Resilience*

An African American Woman's Path to Empowerment, Diplomacy and Resilience

Focus: Lauri's Memoir: *Dancing in the Dash*

The unique connection between life skills acquired through the rigors of dance and a career in the Foreign Service, communications, public affairs, international trade, telecommunications, and advocacy.

The Role of Cultural Diplomacy and Cultural Competence in U.S. Foreign Policy and National Security

Focus: Relevance to how U.S. policy, domestic and foreign, has undervalued cultural diplomacy; the importance of understanding the impact of culture and incorporating it into global relationships.

Debunking "Racialization" in the Creative Sector: Why Does it Matter?

Focus: Business, moral, and ethical imperatives