

# AMELIA BLAKELY

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## SUMMARY

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A public historian with a background in journalism, historic preservation, and education policy. Experienced in completing National Register of Historic Places nominations, historic structure reports, and preservation assessments. Specialized in architectural classification, assessing cultural landscapes, and planning historic interpretation. Knowledgeable in federal historic preservation law. Fluent in Microsoft programs, Adobe Suite, and ArcGIS. Effective public speaker and communicator. Works well independently and in collaboration with others.

## PROFESSIONAL WEBSITE

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[ameliablakelywrites.com](http://ameliablakelywrites.com)

## EDUCATION

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**Dual Degree in Bachelor of Arts and Sciences - Journalism and Philosophy**  
**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE, August 2017 - May 2020**

**Master of Arts – Public History with a specialization in Cultural Resource Management**  
**MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, Expected Graduation in August 2026**

**Master's Thesis: *White Lies: Tracing the Roots of Power and Organized Crime in Alexander and Pulaski Counties, Illinois, 1936 - 1975***

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Journal Articles

Aldrige, Amy, Katherine Brackett, and Amelia Blakely. "The Story of one state: how workforce alignment prioritized in university credential approvals in the past 20 years." *Communication Education*. (February 2026): 1–10.  
doi:10.1080/03634523.2026.2625984.

## EXPERIENCE

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### Graduate Research Assistant

**THE CENTER FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, October 2023 – Present**

Completed National Register of Historic Places nominations. Developed expertise in Section 106 and Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979. Prepared historic structure reports, preservation assessments, and interpretation plans for rural communities in Middle Tennessee. Collaborated with the Cherokee Nation, National Park Service, and the US Forest Service in developing, writing, and designing interpretation panels for the Trail of Tears National Trail at Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. Conducted historical, genealogical, and property research using online databases and local public archives.

### Graduate Academic Affairs Fellow

**TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION, May 2025 – December 2025**

Contributed to the agency's revision of academic program approval policies following recent legislative changes through researching contexts and parameters across seven states and authoring policy briefs. Developed interview questions and protocol. Solicited and facilitated interviews with higher education agencies in other states.

Supported the work of the entire bureau through participating in convenings with higher education stakeholders, attending site visits for new programming, and providing technical support.

**ISACorps Community Outreach Worker**

**THE ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION, June 2021 – May 2023**

Coordinated and delivered college planning and financial aid services that engaged 888 southern Illinois students, parents, and school professionals in seven counties between 2021 and 2023. Publicly presented information about the college and financial aid process for first-generation and rural college students. Advised 132 students in eight public schools.

## **REFERENCES**

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**Dr. Carroll Van West — Executive Director at the Center for Historic Preservation and Tennessee State Historian**

**Email:** [carroll.west@mtsu.edu](mailto:carroll.west@mtsu.edu)

**Phone:** 615-898-2947

**Dr. Antoinette van Zelm — Assistant Director at the Center for Historic Preservation**

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**Phone:** 615-898-2948

**Savannah Grandey Knies — Fieldwork Coordinator at the Center for Historic Preservation**

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