Michael J. E. Grier is a DrPH student with an interest in behavioral health and the intersection with healthcare payments, drug accessibility, and workforce development. He holds an MPH in Health Policy and Management from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and a BS in Biology from Philander Smith College. He hails from Tulsa, Oklahoma, by way of Brooklyn, New York. Michael has experience working on the Federal, state, and local levels of public health,working in aging, behavioral health, disabilities, HIV/AIDS, immunizations, and infectious diseases. He chose GW because "[He] felt that the faculty knew how to support students returning to school after being in their careers –[his] case after nearly ten years." His mother inspired him to pursue public health after earning her MPH, and he discovered his passion after enrolling in a 4+1 program at Philander Smith. Michael is active in the Washington, DC community and is a member of several community groups, including Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He is a resident of DC with his dog Bailey.