



Craig Younce

Candidate for 2018 Academic Director

Originally interested in pursuing medical school., Dr. Younce was drawn to the excitement that a research and teaching career offered. Inspired by his undergraduate mentor, Dr. Peggy VanArman, Dr. Younce performed undergraduate projects including identifying microbial specimens associated with crayfish from the Florida everglades and assisting in data collection on native alligators. Dr. Younce was also active in restoration projects involving the Florida everglades. In 2003, Dr. Younce earned his B.S. in Biology from Palm Beach Atlantic University, Florida.

In 2009, Dr. Younce earned his Ph.D. in Biomedical Science under the mentorship of Dr. Pappachan Kolattukudy at the University of Central Florida. Interested in heart disease, Dr. Younce studied and characterized the involvement of a novel transcription factor, MCP-1-induced protein, in cell death and differentiation. This work was published in several journals and presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions. After earning his Ph.D., Dr. Younce continued his postdoctoral work at Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute.

During his time at Sanford Burnham Prebys, Dr. Younce researched the cardioprotective effects of GLP-1 receptor activation on diabetic cardiomyopathy and myocarditis. This work was published and presented at the American Heart Association's and the American Diabetes Association's Scientific Sessions. During his time at Sanford Burnham Prebys, Dr. Younce was Vice President of the institute's local postdoctoral association. He also founded a research travel grant for the association and served as the travel award administrator.

Desiring to pursue his calling to teach, Dr. Younce moved to Brownwood, Texas in 2013 to serve as an Assistant Professor of Biology at Howard Payne University. Dr. Younce currently serves as Associate Professor of Biology and Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at HPU. Dr. Younce oversees

undergraduate research projects and annually takes a group of students to the Texas Academy's Scientific conference.

Dr. Younce joined the Texas Academy of Science in 2014, shortly after his move to Texas. In 2016, he served as the Vice Chair of the Cell and Molecular Biology Section. In 2017, he served as Chair of the same section. Dr. Younce is highly supportive of the mission of the Texas Academy of Science and is passionate about guiding students to careers in research.