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Preston's research interests focus on the activism of Black women during the early 20th century, particularly the work of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune. She is the author of [*Mary McLeod Bethune in Florida: Bringing Social Justice to the Sunshine State*](#), which examines how the educator rose to prominence while fighting for equality during a period of racial unrest in Florida. Her most recent book, [*Mary McLeod Bethune the Pan-Africanist*](#), was published by the University Press of Florida and was shortlisted for the 2024 MAAH Stone Book Award.

Preston's previous positions in public history include serving as director of the Mary McLeod Bethune Foundation-National Historic Landmark at Bethune-Cookman University and as an archives technician for the National Archives for Black Women's History at the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House-National Historic Site. She earned a Ph.D. from Howard University, a master's degree from Temple University and a bachelor's degree from Bowie State University. Her research has been published in *Phylon*, *Journal of Black Studies* and *The Journal of Negro Education*.