




TATIANA D. WELLS, PhD

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Community educator and early childhood specialist with a passion for pursuing high quality education experiences and opportunities for all children, particularly children of color from concentrated poverty communities, with the understanding that transformation within communities, schools, and policymakers requires collaboration built on trust.

EDUCATION

PhD	Walden University, Education <i>Specialization: Leadership, Policy, Management in Education P-20</i> Dissertation: Developing Shared Leadership and Trust Within School-Community Partnerships Serving Concentrated Poverty Communities	Nov 2022
MA	University of Phoenix, Early Childhood Education Thesis: “The Importance of Parent Engagement in Urban Schools”	Nov 2007
BS	Washington & Jefferson College, Child Development and Education	May 2003

HONORS AND AWARDS

<u>Carolyn Grossman Award</u>	2018 Nominated by Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland and the Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood for Family Connections, Carolyn Grossman Award recognizing extraordinary Cleveland-area educators who advance early literacy, parent support, and school readiness.
<u>Servant Leadership Award</u>	2020 Recognized by the Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood as a Servant Leadership Award acknowledging my work with Starting Point as Promise Early Learning Navigator.
L.I.F.T (Leadership Integration for Tomorrow) Award	2022 Cuyahoga Community College leadership mentoring group for new managers and directors.
Professional Excellence Award	2023 Cuyahoga Community College

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dissertation , Walden University	2022
<u>Developing Shared Leadership and Trust Within School-Community Partnerships Serving Concentrated Poverty Communities</u>	

TEACHING & ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE

Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland, OH

December 2020 – Present

Program Director, Early Childhood Education

- Grants management and principal investigator for state, federal, and private grants and donations for the early childhood education program
- Community partner leader for Cleveland State University Project HEART (Higher Education Advancement of Resident BIPOC Teachers) and school district to create a pipeline for prospective BIPOC teachers
- Systems coordinator of school-community partnerships to create pathways to college
- Coordinate teacher education courses among faculty and adjuncts
- Convener of early childhood education advisory council to enhance the Early Childhood Education Program
- Engage early childhood education partners for student teaching and job placements
- Advice and mentor students toward completion of the ECED program

Starting Point, Cleveland, OH

September 2013 – December 2020

Early Learning Navigator, Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood

- Conduct early care and education director network meetings
- Educate families about the importance of early care and education
- Facilitate coordination meetings with early childhood partners
- Prepare and present reports to councils and early childhood partners
- Review data for enrollment, vacancy, and capacity
- Coordinate resident focus groups
- Lead partner in development of the Literacy Playroom in Central
- Developed training for Central Promise Ambassadors to educate residents about enrolling their children in high quality early learning programs within their community
- Partner with stakeholders to help families register on to ensure children have a smooth transition to kindergarten

East End Neighborhood House, Cleveland, OH

September 2004 – July 2013

Childcare Director

- Provided safe and healthy childcare environment for infants, preschool, and school age children
- Built promising community collaborations with community stakeholders to enhance student achievement including Hathaway Brown School, Case Western Reserve University, Foster Grandparent Program, Americorp
- Grant writer and budget management (\$9,000 - \$1.5M): 21st Century Community Learning Center, Head Start, Universal Prekindergarten, TANF Out of School Time and School Readiness, and other federal, state, and private funding
- Trained teaching staff to provide quality early learning practices to children (birth – 6th grade)
- Introduced training programs enhancing employee performance and building a motivated cohesive team and working environment (*Ubuntu* philosophy)
- Developed curriculum for and taught school age students (K-6) resulting in improved academics and standardized testing scores, student behavior, and instituted a strong parent engagement program to encourage and support parents as their child's primary teachers and advocates for their child's education

Hope Academy East, Cleveland, OH
4th Grade Teacher

August 2003 – August 2004

- Taught 4th grade using Odyssey online curriculum
- Developed quizzes and exams
- Conducted parent-teacher conferences
- Manager of aftercare program
- Coached the middle school girls' basketball team (undefeated)

PUBLICATIONS

Dissertation

Wells, T. D. (2022). *Developing Shared Leadership and Trust Within School-Community Partnerships Serving Concentrated Poverty Communities*. Proquest

Books

Wells, T., *Live Like a Toddler: Be the Young Explorer of your Life*, Cleveland, OH: Aurelius Wells Education, 2018.

Wells, T. (2023). *Mommy, When I Fall*. Aurelius Wells Education. ISBN 979-8218188290

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

Speaker, Ohio Association for Educating Young Children (OAEYC) Conference 2022: Live “Like a Toddler: Encouraging the Educator in You”

Commencement Speaker, Rhodes Environmental Studies High School, June 2023

Notre Dame College, Education, “School-Community Collaborations from a Teacher’s Perspective,” Foundations of Early Childhood and Middle Childhood, Notre Dame College, January 2018.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Live Like a Toddler: Encouraging the Educator Explorer in You

Ohio Approved Training.

Presenter for the Ohio Association for Educating Young Children Conference, April 2022

The Uniting of Families, Communities, & Schools

Ohio Approved Training

Workshop

Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood, Cleveland, OH, 2014 – 2019

Description: Training Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood resident leaders and community ambassadors on the importance of early childhood education and the various early learning opportunities to help families navigate the early learning system.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Cuyahoga Democratic Women's Caucus, 2021 – Present
Steering Committee Member

East End Neighborhood House, 2019 – Present
Board Chair

National Black Child Development Institute, Ohio Affiliate, 2020 – Present
Member

The Centers, 2021 – Present
Member

Urban League of Greater Cleveland, 2019 – Present
Cuyahoga County Stakeholder Circle member