

Martha L. Wall – Whitfield, Ph.D.

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Personal Profile

Passionate educational leader with varied experiences within the academic setting. Possesses a strong desire for building human capacity within the school setting through problem-solving, strategic planning, and creativity. Seeks to accommodate the individual needs of school communities with hard work and ethics as core foundational values.

Education

Ph.D., Educational Leadership, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2010,

Dissertation: *Listening to their Voices: Gang Members' Perceptions of their Schooling and their Teachers*

Master of Education, Administration and Supervision, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2002

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Theatre Performance, Virginia Commonwealth University, 1996

Magna Cum Laude

Employment

Special Education Teacher – Sylvan Hills Junior High School – Arkansas

August 2023 – Present

Classroom teacher for students with disabilities. Course load includes teaching English, Math, Algebra, and Advisory in three settings. Member of the Crisis Management team and organizer of a teacher prayer group.

Adjunct Faculty

School of Education, Arkansas State University

August 2022 – Present

District Principal – Rite of Passage – Arkansas

July 2020 – July 2023

Overseer of five juvenile treatment centers. Responsible for the implementation of principles surrounding a Positive Operational Culture within a juvenile treatment center. Promoted the emphasis of evidence-based practices and positive skill development with a combination of a supportive therapeutic approach. Worked collaboratively with staff in support of instructional services to students. Aided Teachers and Administrators with maximizing their full potential through coaching and guidance. Provided encouragement on a regular basis. Collaborated with community stakeholders in order to support the academic environment. Enforced discipline when necessary. Ensured compliances of state and federal regulations. Promoted successful instructional strategies and programs. Assisted with daily operations at each location as needed. Aided in the opening of new sites that serve at-risk youth in Arkansas.

Principal – Rite of Passage – Arkansas

December 2016 – July 2020

Advised the Site Director on all matters pertaining to Educational Services. Chief Administrator of the Education Department. Developed and implemented policies, programs, curriculum activities, and budgets in a manner that promoted the educational development of each student and the professional development of staff. Involved faculty and support staff in the development of objectives.

Assistant Department Chair for Education and Assistant Professor, Averett University

August 2012-June 2016

May 2010-August 2012

Supervision and evaluation of adjunct faculty (staff of 40). Conducted online classroom observations which targeted instructional needs and increased efficiency of teaching and learning. Developed and implemented faculty training for all academic programs. Assisted with new degree program development and all course development in Education programs. Planned, organized, and conducted three on ground trainings yearly in each of the Averett regions (Richmond, Tidewater, and Danville). Provided training that included sessions in pedagogical and andragogical best practices in online teaching and learning, developing assessments, and providing quality feedback. Organized on-going online training sessions and monthly “mini” sessions to promote comfort and adaptability to the online learning environment. Created and implemented four online training courses for both new and tenured faculty. Performed monthly training calls for all regions.

Adjunct Faculty

School of Education, University of Arkansas Little Rock

August 2016 – August 2022

Adjunct Faculty

Virginia Commonwealth University

May 2006-December 2012

Adjunct duties

Developed and new academic instructional materials as a curriculum writer. Reviewed and improved syllabi, understood the needs of students, engaged with students through instruction, ensured relevant learning resources are available, evaluated student’s performance, created a positive learning environment that promoted student professional and academic growth. Provided instruction and curriculum writing on courses related to Educational Studies, Education and Administration and Supervision, and Adult Education and Training.

PreK-12 Leadership Experiences

Professional Consultant/School Administrator

Arkansas Christian Academy

May 2016-December 2016

Assisted school administration in day-to-day operations. Assisted in opening a new secondary building and managed enrollment increase. Provided Instructional Leadership for all teachers and leadership coaching to administration. Established systems for managing accreditation regulations and Department of Human Services regulations. Responsible for ensuring services for special needs students, including testing and managing accommodations. Conducted grant writing. Assisted with the recruitment of new staff members, communicated with parents, teachers, and students. Kept track of student successes and challenges when devising interventions/strategies.

Faculty Trainer

Arkansas Christian Academy

Academic year 2015-2016

Assessed and evaluated staff and faculty training needs. Conducted training sessions based on need. Conducted Classroom Management, Differentiated Instruction, Parent Conferences, and provided support to school leadership through creating training documents

Teacher Trainer

Family Church Bryant Preschool

Academic year 2015-2016

Monitored Teacher performance, observed classes, made assessments, scheduled workshops, conducted one on one training. Engaged with Teachers from a range of different backgrounds and provided helpful feedback.

Fine Arts Department Chair

Matoaca High School, Chesterfield County Public Schools

August 2004 - June 2007

Provided instructional leadership to a department of ten, including both performing arts and visual arts teachers. Trained incoming teachers on behavior management. Staff Development Committee member (2007-2008). County trainer (2008-2011). New teacher mentor (2005-2006, 2008-2009, 2009-2010). Managed department budgets, both spending and fundraising. Managed substitutes for the department. Upon resignation (due to responsibilities as an adjunct at VCU), helped choose and train the incoming department chair for duties.

Administrative Intern/Interim Principal

The Blake School at Elk Hill Farm

January 2002-December 2002

Observed classrooms, conducted employee evaluations, provided crisis intervention and prevention for classrooms. Master Scheduler for all students. Hired new teachers and provided new teacher training. Maintained student and employee files. Developed and implemented Virginia Standards of Learning preparation program for staff.

K-12 Teaching Experience

Theatre Teacher: Grades 9-12

Matoaca High School, Chesterfield County Public Schools

August 2004-June 2011

Developed and implemented a multi-faceted theatre curriculum for high school students of all learning styles. Directed main stage shows and musicals, one-acts, talent shows, and sponsored the Drama Club and International Thespian Honor Society. Directed and trained the IMPROV TEAM, supervised six shows a year. Developed and implemented a Special Education Theatre Program which taught theatre and sensory lessons to all 75 self-contained special education students.

Theatre Teacher/ELA Teacher: Grades 8-12

The Blake School at Elk Hill Farm Residential Treatment Facility:

February 2000-December 2002

Developed and implemented English, reading, and theatre arts curriculum for middle and high school boys with behavioral problems and/or learning disabilities. Utilized crisis training in de-escalation techniques and restraints. Substitute cottage worker and counseling staff. Directed one play per year. Reading coach for eighth grade students or students reading at an eighth-grade level.

Instruction and Curriculum Writing

Instructor – Arkansas State University
Qualitative Research Design

Instructor and Curriculum Writer – University of Arkansas Little Rock
Education Administration and Supervision Studies
Comparative Leadership between Urban and Rural Schools
Culturally Responsive School and Community Relations
Advanced Seminar in School Law and Ethics

Instructor– Averett University
Educational Studies 501: Research Methods in Education
Educational Studies 505: Curriculum Development
Educational Studies 556: Models and Theories of Teaching II
Educational Studies 591, Portfolio Development
Education Administration and Supervision 610: Communication and Community Relations
Education Administration and Supervision 612: Education Law
Education Administration and Supervision 613 Seminar: Learning to Work with all Generations
Education Administration and Supervision 616: Curriculum Development and Evaluation
Education Administration and Supervision 617 Seminar: Learning to Work with Parents and Teachers
Education Administration and Supervision 618: Instructional Leadership and Student Academic Achievement
Education Administration and Supervision 621: Preparing for the School Leaders Licensure Assessment
Education Administration and Supervision 622: Portfolio Development
Education Administration and Supervision 634: School Climate and School Improvement
Education Administration and Supervision 690: Research in Education and Applications to School Leadership
Education Administration and Supervision 691: Internship

Instructor and Curriculum Writer – Averett University
Educational Studies 502: Child and Adolescent Psychology
Educational Studies 504: Philosophy of Education
Educational Studies 555: Models and Theories of Teaching I
Education Administration and Supervision 636: Ethics Policy, and Professional Development
Education Administration and Supervision 620: Organizational Management
Educational Studies 599: Urban Education
Educational Studies 599: Ethics in Education

Instructor – Virginia Commonwealth University
Educational Studies 300: Foundations of Education
Educational Studies 301: Human Development and Learning
Educational Studies 607: Advanced Educational Psychology
Educational Studies 673: Ethics and Policy in Education

Instructor – University of Phoenix Online
Adult Education and Training 525: Facilitating Instruction for Diverse Adult Learners
Adult Education and Training 535: Assessment and Evaluation in Adult Learning
Adult Education and Training 550: Performance Improvement and Management

Professional Licensure

Virginia

Administration and Supervision, PreK-12
Theatre Arts, PreK-12

Arkansas

Educator's License
Drama 7-12
Building Administrator K-12
Special Education (ALP)
English Language Arts 7-12

Professional Associations

Group Violence Intervention Program, Pine Bluff Arkansas, 2022-present.
Editing Member and Staff, National Gang Crime Research Center, 2012 – Present
Reviewer, Educational Foundations, An Anthology of Critical Readings, 3e, 2012

Research Interests

School Leadership
Trauma Informed Care for at-risk youth
Kids in foster care
Working with Gang affiliated youth in schools
Incarcerated Youth
Urban Education
Race and Class in Education
Theatre Education
English Education
Reading challenges in today's schools

Manuscripts in Preparation

Wall-Whitfield, Martha. *How to Love the Hard to Love, Care Theory and Biblical Principles.*

Wall-Whitfield, Martha. *The Crisis in American Education.*

Professional Presentations

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2023, August). Strategies for Working With Gang Involved Youth in Juvenile Facilities *Research and practical applications for juvenile facilities presented to the participants at the National Gang Crime Research Center's International Gang Specialist Training Conference, Chicago, Illinois.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2023, August). Care Theory and Gangs: Implications for Prevention/Intervention Programming in K-12 Schools. *Research and practical applications for the classroom presented to the participants at the National Gang Crime Research Center's International Gang Specialist Training Conference, Chicago, Illinois.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2023, August). The Link Between Childhood Trauma and Gang Membership: Developing Intervention Service Components. *Research and practical applications for those working with gang involved or at-risk youth presented to the participants at the National Gang Crime Research Center's International Gang Specialist Training Conference, Chicago, Illinois.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2023, August). Strategies for working with gang-involved and at-risk youth in a public school setting. *Research and practical applications for those working with youth presented to teachers and staff for the Pine Bluff School District, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2019, August). How to love the hard to love, using the care theory and Biblical principles to reach gang members. *Research and practical applications presented to participants at The Call, Foster and Adoptive Parent Training Session, Saline County Arkansas.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2019, February). How to love the hard to love, using the care theory and Biblical principles to reach gang members. *Research and practical applications presented to participants at the Hope Conference, Saline County Arkansas.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2018, October). Tips on being a teenage Mom. *Research and practical applications presented to participants of Teen MOPS, Saline County Arkansas.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2017, August). How to love the hard to love, using the care theory and Biblical principles to reach gang members. *Research and practical applications presented to participants at The Call, Foster and Adoptive Parent Training Session, Saline County Arkansas.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2017, March). How to love the hard to love, using the care theory and Biblical principles to reach foster children. *Research and practical applications presented to participants at the HOPE conference for foster and adoptive families, Arkansas.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2016, October). Navigating Challenging Behaviors in School-Age Children. *The Call, Foster and Adoptive Parent Training Session, Saline County Arkansas.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2016, August). Gangs in Schools, understanding the gang culture and how to work with gang members in the classroom. *Research and practical applications for the classroom presented to the participants at the National Gang Crime Research Center's International Gang Specialist Training Conference, Chicago, Illinois.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2016, August). Gangs in Schools, understanding the gang culture and how to work with gang members as a school leader. *Research and practical applications for school leadership presented to participants at the National Gang Crime Research Center's International Gang Specialist Training Conference, Chicago, Illinois.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2016, August). How to love the hard to love, using the care theory and Biblical principles to reach gang members. *Research and practical applications presented to participants at the National Gang Crime Research Center's International Gang Specialist Training Conference, Chicago, Illinois.*

- Wall-Whitfield, M. (2016, March). How to love the hard to love, using the care theory and Biblical principles to reach foster children. *Research and practical applications presented to participants at the **HOPE conference** for foster and adoptive families, Arkansas.*
- Wall-Whitfield, M. (2016, February). Working with Three- and Four-Year Old Children. *Professional Development offered to **Family Church Bryant Preschool Staff**. Bryant, Arkansas.*
- Wall-Whitfield, M. (2016, February). Using creative techniques in the classroom. *Professional Development offered to **Arkansas Christian Academy's Faculty and Staff**. Bryant, Arkansas.*
- Wall-Whitfield, M. (2016, January). Working with Infants and Toddlers. *Professional Development offered to **Family Church Bryant Preschool Staff**. Bryant, Arkansas.*
- Wall-Whitfield, M. (2016, January). Working with challenging students. *Professional Development offered to **Arkansas Christian Academy's Faculty and Staff**. Bryant, Arkansas.*
- Wall-Whitfield, M. (2015, October). Differentiated Instruction. *Professional Development offered to **Arkansas Christian Academy's Faculty and Staff**. Bryant, Arkansas.*
- Wall-Whitfield, M. (2015, August). Classroom Management. *Professional Development offered to **Arkansas Christian Academy's Faculty and Staff**. Bryant, Arkansas.*
- Wall-Whitfield, M. (2014, October). Giving appropriate feedback to students. *Professional development offered for **Averett University's Adjunct Faculty**. This seminar was offered all over the state of Virginia to over 60 different adjunct faculty. Virginia.*
- Wall-Whitfield, M. (2014, August). Gangs in Schools, understanding the gang culture and how to work with gang members in the classroom. *Research and practical applications for the classroom presented to participants at the National Gang Crime Research Center's **International Gang Specialist Training Conference**, Chicago, Illinois.*
- Wall-Whitfield, M. (2014, August). Gangs in Schools, understanding the gang culture and how to work with gang members as a school leader. *Research and practical applications for school leadership presented to participants at the National Gang Crime Research Center's **International Gang Specialist Training Conference**, Chicago, Illinois.*
- Wall-Whitfield, M. (2014, May and June). Adult learning theory. *Professional development offered for **Averett University's Adjunct Faculty**. This seminar was offered all over the state of Virginia to over 60 different adjunct faculty. Virginia.*
- Wall-Whitfield, M. (2013, August). Gangs in Schools, understanding the gang culture and how to work with gang members in the classroom. *Research and practical applications for the classroom presented to participants at the National Gang Crime Research Center's **International Gang Specialist Training Conference**, Chicago, Illinois.*
- Wall-Whitfield, M. (2013, August). Gangs in Schools, understanding the gang culture and how to work with gang members as a school leader. *Research and practical applications for school leadership presented to participants at the National Gang Crime Research Center's **International Gang Specialist Training***

Conference, Chicago, Illinois.

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2013, August). Things that work, workshop on gang intervention strategies. *Research and practical applications for schools and communities presented to participants at the National Gang Crime Research Center's **International Gang Specialist Training Conference**, Chicago, Illinois.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2012, September). Gangs in Schools, gang members' perceptions of care and their teachers. *Research presented to participants at the **Virginia Educational Research Association Conference**, Charlottesville, Virginia.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2012, July). Gangs in Schools, understanding the gang culture and how to work with gang members in the classroom. *Research and practical applications for the classroom presented to participants at the National Gang Crime Research Center's **International Gang Specialist Training Conference**, Chicago, Illinois.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2012, April). Gangs in Schools, understanding the gang culture and how to work with gang members in the classroom. *Research and practical applications for the classroom presented to students at **Virginia Commonwealth University**, Richmond, Virginia.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2011, November). Gangs in Schools, understanding the gang culture and how to work with gang members in the classroom. *Research and practical applications for the classroom presented to students at **Virginia Commonwealth University**, Richmond, Virginia.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2011, October). Gangs in Schools, understanding the gang culture and how to work with gang members in the classroom. *Research and practical applications for the classroom presented to teachers and administrators of the **Houston public school system**, Houston, Texas.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2011, June). Gangs in Schools, understanding the gang culture and how to work with gang members in the classroom. *Research and practical applications for the classroom presented to students at **Virginia Commonwealth University**, Richmond, Virginia.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2009, March). Using Creative Techniques in Your Classroom, understanding learning styles and ideas for engaging classroom instruction. *Research and practical applications presented to teachers at **Matoaca High School** for In-service training, Chesterfield, Virginia.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2009, January). Classroom Management, strategies for classroom arrangement, organization, and structure. Strategies for dealing with difficult students. *Research and practical applications for the classroom presented to teachers, counselors, and administrators at **Matoaca High School**, Chesterfield, Virginia.*

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2008, March). Using Creative Techniques in Your Classroom, understanding learning styles and ideas for engaging classroom instruction. *Research and practical applications presented at the **Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium**, Richmond, Virginia.*