

# NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION CENTER TRAUMA-SKILLED SCHOOLS FACULTY and ADVISORS

Trauma-Skilled Schools Faculty and Advisors provide guidance and support in development and refinement of the Trauma-Skilled Schools Model, assist the National Dropout Prevention Center in delivery of Trauma-Skilled Schools training, and consult with schools and districts on model implementation.



**Dr. Sandy Addis**  
Director, National Dropout Prevention Center  
haddis@dropoutprevention.org

Dr. Addis has over 44 years of experience in public education in a variety of roles that include teacher, counselor, coach, principal, system-level administrator, and also director of a regional educational service agency.



**John Gailer**  
Assistant Director for Outreach & Events,  
National Dropout Prevention Center  
jgailer@dropoutprevention.org

Mr. Gailer earned his Master's in Education from the University of Georgia and has more than 25 years of experience in the field of youth development in the contexts of youth at risk and third-culture kids.



**Lynn Dunlap**  
Assistant Director for Research & Communications,  
National Dropout Prevention Center  
ldunlap@dropoutprevention.org

Mrs. Dunlap earned a Master's in Professional Communications and taught both secondary and post-secondary communications classes. She also has extensive experience in marketing and public relations for local and international healthcare organizations.



**Tommy Stephens**  
Project Director, National Dropout Prevention Center  
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Mr. Stephens has had a lengthy career of education service and is a former Superintendent in both Georgia and New Hampshire, principal, assistant principal, teacher, and educational consultant. He now serves as a Project Director for the National Dropout Prevention Center.



**Ray McNulty**  
President, Successful Practice Network and NDPC  
rmcnulty@spnetwork.org

Mr. McNulty served as president of the International Center for Leadership and Education and as Senior Fellow at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. An educator since 1973, he has been a teacher, vice principal, principal, superintendent, and education commissioner.



**Todd Daggett**  
President, Successful Practice Network  
tdaggett@spnet.us

For the last 20 years, Mr. Daggett has supported schools and districts seeking to ensure a rigorous and relevant education for all students. Prior to joining SPN in 2016, he served in senior leadership positions at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and Scholastic.



**Dr. Alicia Dunn**  
Coordinator of School Counseling & Mentorship,  
Clayton County Public Schools  
alicia.dunn@clayton.k12.ga.us

Dr. Dunn is currently responsible for the K-12 School Counseling Comprehensive Program in Georgia's Clayton County Public Schools. In addition, she supervises the ChildTec Dropout Prevention Program and is a Certified National Dropout Prevention Specialist.



**Dr. Kathie Greer**  
Director of Alternative Programs, Greenville, SC  
greer1514@yahoo.com

Dr. Greer is certified as a superintendent, secondary principal/supervisor, school psychologist, and school social worker. A licensed master social worker and adolescent counselor, she also earned designation as a Principal Specialist, Principal Leader, and S.C. Education Fellow. She serves the nation's 44th largest district as Director of Alternative Programs.



**Dr. Patrick O'Connor**  
Associate Professor, Kent State University (Ret.)  
poconnor@kent.edu

Dr. O'Connor serves as a Research Fellow with the National Dropout Prevention Center. At Kent State, he coordinated teacher education programs in Career-Technical Education. His scholarship includes research, teaching, publishing, and consulting.



**Michael DeCenzo**  
Agency Consultant, Educational Service Center of  
Central Ohio  
diabruzzo34@aol.com

Mr. DeCenzo has served as Director of Special Education, teacher, and behavior consultant and as an agency consultant supporting alternative school development and leading low performing schools through the Ohio Improvement Process. He has also trained schools in PBIS.



**Dr. Sandy Bales**  
Educational Consultant, Pioneer RESA  
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Dr. Bales is a National Dropout Prevention Research Fellow. She holds a doctorate from Nova Southeastern in Education Leadership and has served as a teacher, administrator, and a consultant and school improvement specialist.



**Dr. Pamela Davis**  
Executive Director, Dropout Prevention, Duval Co., FL  
pamela.moody.davis@gmail.com

Dr. Davis holds a Bachelor's and Master's in Math Education from Florida A&M University and a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University. She is a Certified National Dropout Prevention Specialist.

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**Norman Burdette**  
7th Grade Science Teacher, Anderson District 5, SC  
normanburdette@anderson5.net

A second career teacher, Mr. Burdette worked as a Textile Engineer for over 25 years. After starting manufacturing plants in the Middle East, he earned a Master's from Clemson and began teaching middle school. He is the 2018 Teacher of the Year at Southwood Academy of the Arts in Anderson, SC.



**Nancy Nielsen**  
District At-Risk School Counselor, Suwannee, FL (Ret.)  
nnielsen56@gmail.com

Mrs. Nielsen is a Certified National Dropout Prevention Specialist. In her district she designed, implemented, and monitored individual graduation plans for district students who had dropped out or were at risk for dropping out.



**Dr. Susan Szachowicz**  
Senior Fellow and Board Member, SPN  
sueszach@aol.com

Currently a Senior Fellow with SPN, Dr. Szachowicz served Brockton High School, a large comprehensive urban high school for her entire career. She earned her doctorate in Educational Leadership and Administration from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.



**Hal Dunlap**  
Teacher & Coach, Oconee Co. School District, SC (Ret.)  
hdunlap55@gmail.com

Mr. Dunlap served for over 30 years as an assistant principal, teacher, basketball coach, and athletic director. He has directed Tomorrow's America Youth Leadership Conferences and is a motivational speaker to business, professional, and educational groups.



**Dr. Merrienne Dyer**  
Professional Development, Scholastic  
dyer2@bellsouth.net

At Scholastic Education, Dr. Dyer's specialty is in leadership and school design to address barriers to learning. She is a Certified National Dropout Prevention Specialist and has served as a superintendent in Gainesville, Georgia, and a project manager for the Alabama State Department of Ed.



**Jacinda Goodwin**  
Program Specialist, National Center for Homeless Education  
jgoodwin@serve.org

Ms. Goodwin provides training, professional development and technical assistance nationwide to key stakeholders for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program. She is also an adjunct professor in psychology and mental health.



**Dr. Dina Pacis**  
Associate Professor and Educational Administration Chair, National University  
dpacis@nu.edu

Dr. Pacis is a faculty member and Department Chair for Educational Administration School Counseling and Psychology at the Sanford College of Education at National University. She also serves as a Research Fellow for the National Dropout Prevention Center.



**Dr. Irving Jones**  
Independent Consultant, ICJ & Associates LTD & International Center for Leadership and Education  
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Dr. Jones has traveled extensively providing leadership coaching in New York City; East Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



**Tim McGowan**  
Tim McGowan Consulting and Networks of Support  
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Mr. McGowan has served as a teacher, counselor, and a principal. He is a National Certified Trainer for Sources of Strength and earned a Master's in Counseling and Human Development.



**Dr. Randy Nelson**  
Associate Professor, Bethune-Cookman University  
nelsonr@cookman.edu

Dr. Nelson currently serves as the Program Director for the Bethune-Cookman University Criminal Justice Administration Graduate Program. He is also a Research Fellow for the National Dropout Prevention Center.



**Lori Heffer**  
Trauma Therapist, Turning Points Counseling  
loriheffer@windstream.net

Mrs. Heffer is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who provides therapy to children and adults. She has worked for Chestatee Counseling and Stephens County Department of Family and Children's Services in Georgia.



**Morgan Ford**  
Senior Manager, Scholastic Education  
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Ms. Ford currently conducts research and product development for family and community engagement for Literacy Initiatives. She previously served as systems manager for Learning Supports and Family Engagement Professional Development and consulting services for Scholastic Education.

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Dr. Jerome Hudson  
Asst. Superintendent Student Services, Anderson 5, SC  
jeromehudson@anderson5.net

Dr. Hudson serves as Assistant Superintendent of Student Services ifor Anderson District 5, SC, where he oversees attendance, discipline, nursing, special education, an alternative school, and active shooter drills. He is also an adjunct college professor.



Debra Kidd  
Consultant, Kidd Educational Group, LLC  
debra@kiddedu.com

Mrs. Kidd recently retired after 15 years as a middle school counselor. Prior to counseling, she was a consultant with McGraw-Hill Publishing company where she was responsible for sales and inservice presentations to districts throughout the northeast.



Dr. Paul Ezen  
Director of Graduate Programs, Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU)  
pezen03@gmail.com

Dr. Ezen currently develops and maintains MEd and Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies programs. He has worked as the Deputy Commissioner of New Hampshire and now works with SPN in addition to teaching at SNHU.



Rep. Jerry Govan  
South Carolina House of Representatives, District 95  
Jerry.Govan@ocsd5.net

Representative Govan is a member of the National Dropout Prevention Center Advisory Board. He serves on the South Carolina Education and Public Works Committee and is the Orangeburg County Schools (SC) Attendance Supervisor.



Dr. Jay Smink  
Director, National Dropout Prevention Center (Ret.)  
sjay@clemsn.edu

Dr. Smink served as the executive director of the National Dropout Prevention Center for 24 years. He now is a part of the Center's Advisory Board. His work in dropout prevention led to the identification of the 15 Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention in addition to numerous other tools and resources.