

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 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 Degree 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 has taught both secondary and post-secondary communications classes for 10 years. She has extensive experience in marketing and public relations at a local not-for-profit and international healthcare organizations.



Tommy Stephens
Project Director, National Dropout Prevention Center
tsteph6@dropoutprevention.org

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
Vice Chairman, Successful Practice Network
rmcnulty@spnetwork.org

Mr. McNulty has served as president of the International Center for Leadership and Education and he was a 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 Clayton County Public Schools. In addition to the aforementioned, Dr. Dunn supervises the ChildTec Dropout Prevention Program.



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.



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. He coordinates teacher education programs in Career-Technical Education at Kent State. His scholarship includes research, teaching, publishing, and consulting.



Michael DeCenzo
Program 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.



Dr. Sandy Bales
Educational Consultant, Pioneer RESA
sandybales@gmail.com

Dr. Bales was recently named a National Dropout Prevention Research Fellow. She has 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
Education Consultant, Jacksonville, FL
pamela.moody.davis@gmail.com

Dr. Davis holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Math Education from Florida A&M University and a Doctor of Education degree 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 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 his Master's in Teaching from Clemson and began teaching middle school. He is the 2018 Teacher of the Year at Robert Anderson Middle School.



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 have dropped out or who are at risk of dropping out.



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

Currently a Senior Fellow with SPN, Dr. Szachowicz works with schools and districts on leadership. Previously she was principal of Brockton High in Massachusetts and led this large urban school to national recognition for an academic turnaround earning the school state and national awards.



Hal Dunlap
Teacher & Coach, Oconee County School District, SC,
(Ret.)
hldunlap55@gmail.com

Mr. Dunlap recently retired from Oconee County School District in SC where for over 30 years served as a teacher, basketball coach, and athletic director. In his retirement he is a motivational speaker to business, professional, and school groups.



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

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 Education.



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
ijones.depd@gmail.com

Dr. Jones has traveled extensively providing leadership coaching in New York City, East Cleveland, Ohio, Detroit, Michigan, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Philadelphia, and Pennsylvania.



Tim McGowan
Executive Director, Networks of Support
tim@networksofsupport.com

Mr. McGowan has served as a teacher, counselor, and a principal. He is a nationally certified prevention trainer and designs programming for schools and state agencies addressing workplace culture.



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
mford1@scholastic.com

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
jeromehudson@anderson5.net

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



Debra Kidd
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 graduate MEd and CAGS programs. He has worked as the Deputy Commissioner of New Hampshire and now works with SPN and 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@clemsun.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.



Dr. John Barge
Superintendent of McIntosh County Schools (Ret.)
john.barge@yahoo.com

Dr. John Barge is a 30 year-veteran educator, having served as a high school English teacher, assistant principal, principal, curriculum director at the local and state levels, local superintendent and as the Georgia State Superintendent of Schools.