

Leah Austin, Ed.D

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Education

Ed. D, Educational and Organizational Leadership, University of Pennsylvania

Dissertation Topic: *Examining the Role of Parent Expectations and Desires in their Engagement in a Two-Generation Program*

M. Ed, School Psychology, Howard University

BA, Psychology, Fisk University

Professional Experience

National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI), President & CEO, August 2021 - Present

Provides day-to-day management of the organization and leads implementation of organizational vision and strategic plan.

Keeps the Board of Directors, Council of Elders and National Affiliate Network informed and engaged in NBCDI's work.

Ensures that NBCDI has robust and compliant finances and accounting.

Provides supervision to the senior management team.

Manages staff relationships to create a positive and supportive work environment with HR support.

Southern Education Foundation, Vice President of Programs, Feb 2016 – July 2021

Advise and work closely with the president and CEO on organizational strategy and tactics to advance SEF's mission.

Lead the process of design, implementation and evaluation of program strategy.

Manage staff and provide oversight of programs, including rigorous oversight of program effectiveness.

Expand and strengthen SEF's strategic partnerships and organizational influence.

Annie E. Casey Foundation, Senior Associate, Feb 2011- Feb 2016

Managed multi-million-dollar investment portfolio to provide children and families with opportunities to achieve educational and economic well-being.

Led the expansion of the education achievement strategy.

Provided technical assistance and content expertise to grantees.

Developed a boys and men of color strategy for the Atlanta Civic Site.

Published several reports on the impact of investments.

United Way of Greater Atlanta, Family Literacy Coordinator, Nov 2007-Jun 2009/Director, Early Reading First, Jun 2009- Feb 2011

Provided oversight of the daily operations of project and management of \$4.5 million budget.

Fostered a creative and productive working environment for staff of five early literacy coaches.

Served as principal contact with community partners and stakeholders.

Established Marietta City Schools' inaugural transition advisory council.

DC Parent Information Resource Center, Washington, DC Statewide Early Childhood Coordinator, Apr 2007- Nov 2007

Coordinated parent leadership program in early childhood centers throughout Washington DC.

Supervised staff of professional development facilitators.

Co-designed quasi-experimental research study with Howard University to evaluate effectiveness of program.

National Black Child Development Institute, Washington, DC Policy Fellow, PreK for ALL DC, Sep 2006- Apr 2007

Led grassroots effort to expand universal prekindergarten in Washington D.C.

Managed campaign field workers in outreach and education efforts, resulting in the collection of over 10,000 signatures of support for universal PreK.

Prepared updates on policy developments, drafted reports and developed fact sheets on local and national early childhood issues for government officials.

National Black Child Development Institute, Washington, DC Early Childhood Consultant, Sep 2002- Sep 2006

Achieved NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) accreditation for prekindergarten sites as lead technical assistant.

Co-planned Universal School Readiness Conference in partnership with the Office of Early Childhood Development.

Submitted “Roadmap to Universal School Readiness in the District of Columbia” which became the education platform for the 2005 legislative session.

James G. Birney Elementary School, Washington, DC Teach For America Kindergarten/First Grade Teacher, Aug 2002–Aug 2006

Annually increased the percentage of students entering next grade on grade level.

Created special parent engagement initiatives to bolster parent involvement.

Pursued and received multiple grants to support classroom needs.

Village Foundation, Alexandria, VA Program Coordinator, Mar 2001-Aug 2002

Established a national literacy campaign to encourage reading between men and boys.

Founded and co-chaired campaign advisory board.

Secured private and public investments to expand campaign for second year.

Professional Development

Annie E. Casey Foundation – Atlanta Leaders for Results Fellowship, 2012-2013

Teach For America /Center for Reform of School Systems School Board Fellow, 2009-2010

Early Childhood Leadership Institute, University of the District of Columbia Young Leaders Fellow, 2006-2007

Awards

Schott Foundation for Public Education, Honoree for “Advocacy in Public Education”, 2018