

Nakisha D. Whittington
(225) 636-7420 • ndw8@psu.edu

Local Address

The Pennsylvania State University
256 Chambers Building
University Park, PA 16802

EDUCATION

The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA **August 2016-present**
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Curriculum and Instruction
Program-Language, Culture, and Society
AACTE/Holmes Scholar

Dissertation Topic:

Exploring Digital Literacy Practices of Urban Youth in a New Orleans Charter School

Key Terms: *Qualitative, Case Study, Ethnography, Elem/Ed, STEM learning, Literacy Practices, Multiliteracies, New Literacy Studies, Digital Literacies, Multimodal literacy, Culturally Sustaining Teaching, Culturally Responsive Computing*

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Ashley Patterson

Xavier University, New Orleans, LA **May 2011**
Masters of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T)
Elementary Education (1-5)

CERTIFICATION(S)

Elementary Education Grades 1-5
Reading Specialist Grades K-12
Penn State Online Teaching Certificate

University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA **May 2005**
Bachelor of Arts
Major: Political Science
Minor: English

Ascension Catholic High School, Donaldsonville, LA **May 2001**
High School Diploma

HONORS/AWARDS

Golden Key International Honor Society

2019-present

AACTE/Holmes Scholar-2020

Bunton-Waller Fellow

2016-2019

Kappa Gamma Pi (Honor)

2011-present

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Dean's List-May 2003-May 2005

National Dean's List

Spring 2004; Spring 2005

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UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- LLED 401 (3 credits)- Writing Methods/ Elementary Ed. *The Pennsylvania State University* (Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018)- Instructor of Record
- LLED 497 (3 credits)- Multimodal Literacy/Elementary Ed. *The Pennsylvania State University* (Fall 2018, Spring 2019)- Instructor of Record
- CI 297 (3 credits)-Philadelphia Urban Seminar *The Pennsylvania State University* (Maymester 2018, 2019, 2020)- Graduate Teaching Assistant

Teaching Assistant for Dr. Jeanine Staples (Summer 2020-Fall 2020)

Literacy for Life, LLC, State College, PA

- Facilitated discussions on anti-racist leadership, race, and gender with the Council of Chief State School Officers
- Created and managed weekly newsletter for members of anti-racist leadership program
- Collaborated with teaching team to create professional development for educational leaders in Ed. Policy, Grants, and the Council of Chief State School Officers

K-12 TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Upward Bound Instructor (9-11TH Grade) Computer Coding in Scratch**, *The Pennsylvania State University* (Summer 2017, Summer 2018, Summer 2019, Summer 2020)
- **1st Grade Teacher** *Fannie C. Williams Charter School, New Orleans, Louisiana* (2011-2015)
- **Kindergarten Teacher** *Episcopal High School, Baton Rouge, Louisiana* (2009-2011)

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Center for Black Digital Research, Curriculum Developer Co-Chair (Fall 2020-Spring 2021)

The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

- Design and develop eight (8) Teaching Tabs for the eight online exhibits which correspond the Colored Conventions Project anthology
- Design and develop a learning unit that includes four lessons and accompanying materials for K-12 learners
- Recruitment and management of teachers to serve on a Teaching Advisory Board TAB
- Collaboration with the Library of Congress, Learning and Innovation Office

Upward Bound STEM Curriculum Developer (Spring 2019-Summer 2019)

The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

- Designed lessons for STEM instructors in accordance with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
- Coordinated with Upward Bound Instructors and Executive Director to implement STEM lessons
- Facilitated STEM lessons in Computer Coding, Math, and Science

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Co-Director (SROP & McNair Scholars) (Summer 2019)

Office of Graduate Educational Equity Programs, *The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA*

- Facilitated professional development for undergraduate scholars
- Organized workshops for faculty mentors and department deans
- Managed scholar research and weekly commitments

Editorial Assistant for P. Karen Murphy, *Review of Educational Research* (Fall 2017-Summer 2019)

The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

- Processed all manuscripts for the journal
- Managed editor's calendar, meeting events, and weekly communication
- Coordinated annual meetings and aggregated data for annual publication report

Early Literacy Specialist (K-3) (Summer 2105-Summer 2016)

Children's Literacy Initiative (Hartranft Elementary/Philadelphia, PA)

- Analyzed teacher practice through ongoing classroom observations, data analysis, and examination of student work.
- Provided instructional coaching through clear and direct feedback to teachers based on analysis of practice and tracked student and teacher progress.
- Facilitated professional development based on administrator and teacher needs

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Richard, G. T., Giri, S., Ashley, R. W., & **Whittington, N.** (2019). Scaffolding inclusivity through making: A preliminary analysis of diverse learners' meaning making through complex systems. *Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning CSCL*, (2) 688-691.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Whittington, N. (in press). Never Would Have Made It: Our Hopes. In Fasching-Varner, K., Bickmore, S., Hayes, D., Schrader, P.G., et. al. *The Corona Chronicles Volume Two: On Process, Leadership, and Commitment in Uncertain Times*. Dio Press.

Whittington, N., Cunningham, A., & Jackson, M. Q. (in press). Possibilities of Healing Through Virtual "Chat and Chill." In *Freedom Teachers, Freedom Dreamers: Black Girls' and Womxn's Embodiments of Healing and Liberation*.

REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

Faulkner, A., **Whittington, N.**, Jones, N., Zin, A., Lomeli, H. (2019, November) *Conceptions of Race and Belonging in Early Childhood Settings*, Reconceptualizing Early Childhood Education (RECE) Conference, Las Cruces, NM.

Richard, G., Giri, S., Ashley, W., **Whittington, N.** (2019, June) *Scaffolding Inclusivity Through Making: A Preliminary Analysis of Diverse Learners' Meaning Making Through Complex Systems*, Computer Supported Collaborative Learning, Lyon, France.

Whittington, N. Ashley, W. (2019, April), *Code Switching with Code: Exploring Bilingual Latinx High*

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School Students, Making, Coding, and E-Crafting, American Education Research Association Conference (AERA), Toronto, Canada.

Whittington, N. (2018, October) *Exploring the Peer Relationships of 2 African American Girls in a Predominately White Afterschool Program*, Reconceptualizing Early Childhood Education, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Whittington, N. (2018, November) *Examining the Literacy Practices of 2 African American girls in a Predominately White After School Program*, Literacy Research Association (LRA), Indian Wells, CA.

Whittington, N. (2017, October/November) *Learning, Design, and Technology: Coding Math Games in Scratch*, Graduate Women in Science, STEM Girl Scout Workshop, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA.

Whittington, N. (2017, October) *Planning for Literacy Instruction Using Mobile Technology*”, Louisiana Reading Association Conference, Alexandria, LA.

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

UNIVERSITY

AACTE Holmes Scholar

Historian-2020

Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA)

Chair of Community Service Committee-2016-present

Curriculum and Instruction Graduate Student Association (CIGSA)

President-2018-2019

PROFESSIONAL

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

Member-2017-present

Graduate Women in Science (GWIS)

Member/2017-present

International Literacy Association (ILA)

Member/2017-present

Literacy Research Association (LRA)

Reviewer/Member 2017-present

Louisiana Middle School Association (LMSA)

Member-2011

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Member-2011-present

COMMUNITY

STEMNOLA

K-2 Facilitator 2019

Moton Charter School After School Program

Computer Coding Instructor 2019

Girls Scouts- State College, PA Chapter

Volunteer & Facilitator 2017-present

International Rett Syndrome Foundation

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Louisiana Regional Representative, Summer 2007-2016