

# Martha L. Wall – Whitfield, Ph.D.

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Bryant, AR

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## **Personal Profile**

I am a passionate educational leader with varied experiences within the academic setting.

## **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

**Specialist in Education, Reading Instruction**, Arkansas State University, August 2025 (anticipated graduation)

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

Magna Cum Laude

**Education Specialist Degree, Reading Instruction**, Arkansas State University, anticipated graduation August 2025

## **Employment**

### **Founder – Legacy Christian Academy – Arkansas**

*March 2023-Present*

Founder and Administrator of a small private Christian school for at-risk students. Students enrolled include students who are foster/adopted and from trauma, have behavioral issues, or have learning disabilities. Work with families to provide wrap-around support for all educational services.

### **Special Education Teacher – Sylvan Hills Junior High School – Arkansas**

*August 2023 – June 2024*

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*

### **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 in maximizing their full potential through coaching and guidance. Encouraged regularly. Collaborated with community stakeholders to support the academic environment. Enforced discipline when necessary. Ensured compliance with 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 related 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 best practices in online teaching and learning, developing assessments, and providing quality feedback. Organized 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, *and* Parent Conferences, and provided support to school leadership by creating training documents.

## **Teacher Trainer**

Family Church Bryant Preschool

*Academic year 2015-2016*

Monitored Teacher performance, observed classes, made assessments, scheduled workshops, and conducted one 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, and 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, and talent shows, and sponsored the Drama Club and International Thespian Honor Society. Directed and trained the IMPROV TEAM, and 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.

## **Other relevant experience**

Head of Residence Life, Senior Counselor, Staff trainer: Virginia Commonwealth University, Summer Arts Intensive: Summer 2006-2011.

Director of Child Care and Camping Services: Midlothian Family YMCA: December 2002-August 2004.

Summer Camp Trainer: Metro Richmond YMCA: Summer 1999-2009. Specialization in theatre arts for camping, systems for safety and effectiveness, and programming for teens.

Preschool Leadership: La Petite Academy, Mount Vernon Child Care, YMCA: October 1996- February 2000.

## **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 K-12 (ALP)

English Language Arts 7-12

## **Professional Associations**

National Gang Crime Research Center: Conference planning team, editing member 2022-present

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

## Publications

Knox, G., Wall-Whitfield, M., & Semark, D. (2025). The 2024 NGCRC National Law Enforcement Gang Analysis Survey. *Journal of Gang Research*, 32.

## 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. (2025, February). Strategies for foster and adoptive families to advocate for their children in schools and with special education services. *Research and practical applications for those working with youth presented to teachers and staff for the Immerse Arkansas and Youth Homes, Little Rock, Arkansas*.

Wall-Whitfield, M. (2024, 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. (2024, 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. (2024, 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 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*

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.*