

NIKOLE Y. HOLLINS-SIMS, Ed.D.

EDUCATION

EdD	Indiana University of Pennsylvania, School Psychology Dissertation: <i>Caregivers of Children of Incarcerated Parents – Motivations for Engagement in the Family-School Partnership</i> Committee: Dr. Mark McGowan (chair), Dr. Lynanne Black, Dr. Mark Staszkiwicz, Dr. Shannon Phaneuf	May 2016
MS	Millersville University, School Psychology Advisor: Dr. Amelia Lopez	May 2005
BA	Millersville University, Psychology	May 2002

HONORS AND AWARDS

2021 Pennsylvania School Psychologist of the Year (SPOTY)	2021
The Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania (ASPP) annually awards a school psychologist who has demonstrated exemplary school psychology practice and influence to the field.	
2021 Moral and Courageous Commitment to Equity Award	2021
Presented by Cabrini University	
2021 Outstanding Commitment to Anti-Racism in School Psychology Award	2021
Presented by the American Psychological Association (APA)	

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dissertation , Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA	2016
Advisor: Dr. Mark McGowan	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Caregivers of Children of Incarcerated Parents – Motivations for Engagement in the Family-School Partnership</i>• Results indicated contextual motivators such as, specific child demands, as strong individual predictors of school-based and home-based involvement for caregivers of children of incarcerated parents.	

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- *August 2022 - Present* **Educational Strategist/Consultant**
Hollins-Sims Consultation, L.L.C.
- *August 2022 - Present* **Technical Assistance Coordinator**
Midwest PBIS Network
- *July 2021 – July 2022* **Special Assistant to the Secretary**
Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)
- *January 2018- July 2021* **Special Advisor for Equity**
Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)
- *June 2014 – July 2021* **Educational Consultant**
Pennsylvania Training & Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)
- *December 2013 – June 2014* **Certified School Psychologist**
Susquehanna Township School District
- *August 2005 – Dec. 2013* **Certified School Psychologist**
Harrisburg School District
- *August 2004 – June 2005* **School Psychology Intern**
Harrisburg School District
- *August 2002 - August 2004* **Graduate Assistant**
Office of Academic Advisement
Millersville University

Professional Experience Highlights

- Supported 14 in-district Emotional Support Classrooms, by providing social skills groups on a monthly basis, as well as participating in Behavior Management Through Adventure (BMTA) activities.
- District Crisis Team Leader
- Support of 3 school buildings in the development of crisis drills and parent-child reunification plans, in the event of an emergency.
- Have received extensive training in school crisis management, development of emergency drills, and parent-child reunification planning.
- Provided district trainings on crisis management
- Supported two 5th-8th grade buildings in the role of school psychologist, by completing psycho-educational evaluations, re-evaluation reviews, pre-referral development of intervention strategies, and consultation with parents and staff. In the past, assignments have included 2 elementary level buildings with similar duties.
- Served as an External Coach for the 5th-8th grade buildings, as part of the Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) initiative.
- Served as a member of the Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII) team at a 5th-8th grade building.
- Supported two schools in the role of school psychologist, K-2 and 3-5, respectively.
- Served as an educational consultant providing training and technical assistance to schools across the central region of Pennsylvania in the following areas:
 - Behavior
 - Family Engagement
 - Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
 - School Psychology

- Increasing the Graduation Rates of Students with Disabilities
- Served on special assignment to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) around equity
- Developed an Act 45 blended equity course -- *Equity in Education: Why Leadership Matters*
- Development of two Act 48 equity courses via the Standards Aligned System (SAS) portal.
- Internal professional learning of Equity Intermediate Unit (IU) Points of Contact and other Equity representatives from various school districts and organizations.
 - Monthly Lunch and Learns
- Collaboration opportunities with School Improvement, STEM, Bullying Prevention, School Climate, Trauma-Informed practices
- Creation of the Equitable Practices Hub with 6 Equity Pillars of Practice
- Creation of the PDE Equity & Inclusion Task Force [multiple agency stakeholders]
- Providing professional learning across multiple stakeholders on equitable practices.
 - PA Student Assistance Programs (SAP) Liaisons
 - Pennsylvania Associations of Intermediate Units (PAIU)
 - Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA)
 - Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)
 - Center for Schools and Communities (CSC)
 - PDE Data Summit
 - PDE SAS (Standards Aligned Systems) Institute
 - Public Broadcasting Systems (PBS) – PDE Partners
 - Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA)
 - Pennsylvania Positive Behavior Support (PaPBS) Network
 - Philadelphia Regional Noyce Partnership
 - Delaware Valley Center for Equity & Excellence
- Technical assistance to Pennsylvania schools/districts seeking coaching around equity
- Continued coordination of 29 intermediate unit equity points of contact
- Updating and supporting the viability of the PDE equitable practices hub
- Participation with equity leads from New Jersey, Delaware, and Virginia departments of education.
- Testified before the U.S. Office of Civil Rights on behalf of PDE addressing the School to Prison Pipeline
- Connected to CCSSO as a PA representative for equity
- Connected to the PA Department of Health – Health Equity Team

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Hollins-Sims, N., Runge, T. & Kaurudar, E (in press, 2023) *Creating Equitable Practices in PBIS: Growing a positive school climate for sustainable outcomes*. Routledge.

Additional Publications

National Association of School Psychologists. (2018). *Implicit bias, part 2—Addressing disproportionality in discipline: A prospective look at culturally responsive positive behavior intervention and supports* [handout]. Bethesda, MD: Author

National Association of School Psychologists. (2021). *Promoting Just Special Education Identification and School Discipline Practices* [Position Statement].

Websites, Infographics & Toolkits

Pennsylvanian Department of Education: Equitable Practices Hub - [Equitable Practices Hub \(pa.gov\)](https://www.pde.pa.gov/Equitable-Practices-Hub)

What is Equity, Inclusion & Belonging in Pennsylvania? - [Equity, Inclusion and Belonging in Pennsylvania \(pa.gov\)](https://www.pde.pa.gov/Equity-Inclusion-and-Belonging-in-Pennsylvania)

PRESENTATIONS

Keynote Address, “*Transforming Systems through Equity*,” Michigan MTSS Conference, August 2021.

Keynote Address, “*A conversation with Dr. Nikole Hollins-Sims*,” Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Black History Event, February 2022.

Keynote Address, “*How are the children? Building Belonging in Education*,” Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) Women’s History Event, March 2022.

Keynote Address, “*Transforming Systems through Equity*,” Northeast PBIS Conference, May 2022.

Selected Workshops:

- *October 2013* ASPP Fall Conference – “School Psychology Interview Tips & Hints”
- *February 2016* Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Conference
“MTSS-SLD determination in Math K-12”
“Psychological Counseling as a Related Service”
- *April 2016* PaTTAN East, PaTTAN Pittsburgh, PaTTAN Harrisburg
“Equitable Academic and Disciplinary Practices: Considerations for AEDY”
- *May 2016* Mid-Atlantic Equity Center Conference
“Advancement to Equitable Disciplinary Practices in Pennsylvania: A Journey Towards Alignment of Tiered Behavioral Systems”
- *June 2016* Lancaster Lebanon Intermediate Unit Forum (IU 13)
“Overview of the PaPBS Network”

- *July 2016* Pennsylvania Special Education Leadership Conference
“Psychological Counseling as a Related Service”
- *August 2016* Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY) Conference
“Equitable Academic and Disciplinary Practices: Considerations for AEDY”
- *March 2017* Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Conference
“Psychological Counseling as a Related Service”
- *July 2018* Special Education Leadership Conference
“Achieving Equitable Disciplinary Practice through Culturally Responsive PBIS”
- *February 2021* Oregon RTI Conference
“Equity Bedrock: Setting Conditions at Tier 1”
- *February 2022* Pennsylvania School Personnel Association (PASPA) Conference
“Embedding Equity, Inclusion & Belonging in Pennsylvania Schools”

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association of the School Psychologists of Pennsylvania, 2021-Present

National Association of School Psychologists, 2021-Present

Association of Positive Behavior Supports, 2021-Present

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Forum Co-Organizer

Pennsylvania Positive Behavior Support (PaPBS) Forum, 2018-2020

PaTTAN MTSS Forum, 2017-2019

Dissertation Committee Member

- Dr. Jennifer Alicandri
- Dr. Amira Hill-Yancy
- Dr. Byron Wiley

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Trinity Church of God

Virtual Facilitator of Church Services, Harrisburg, PA, March 2020-March 2022

WITF - Public Broadcasting Station

Board Member, 2022

St. Stephen’s Episcopal School

Board Member, 2022