



# Summer Principals Academy

## Teachers College, Columbia University

November, 2024

Dear SPA Students, Alumni, and Friends,

Welcome to the Fall edition of the Summer Principals Academy (SPA) newsletter! Our students are currently in the internship phase, gaining invaluable, hands-on experience in educational leadership. We're also thrilled to celebrate our Cohort 2023 graduates, who have now officially had their degrees conferred—a huge milestone in their journey as transformative leaders.

As we look ahead, we are actively recruiting for Cohort 2025! If you know someone who would be a great fit for SPA's dynamic and supportive learning community, please encourage them to reach out. Inside this issue, you'll find an overview of our upcoming events for November and a feature on one of our esteemed faculty members and Teachers College graduate, Dr. Antija Allen.

Thank you for being a vital part of our community, and here's to another impactful season!

Warm Regards,  
The SPA Program

# Upcoming Events



**IN NOVEMBER**



**2024**

**MON  
4**

## APPLICATION PARTY

Come learn about SPA and get started on your application! Staff will be present to assist with brainstorming and reviewing applications!

⌵ 5:00 PM EST

Teachers College 525 W 120th St | New York, NY 10027  
Room: Russell Hall 17



**FRI  
8**

## VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION

Discover how SPA prepares future school leaders with hands-on learning, mentorship, and a rigorous curriculum.

⌵ 3:30 PM EST Virtual



**WED  
13**

## BOSTON MEET AND GREET

Come meet alumni from the program over yummy bites! Learn about their experience and how our program helped them take their next steps in their career!

⌵ 5:00 PM EST

Lucy's American Tavern: 13 Granite Ave | Dorchester, MA 02124



**TUE  
19**

## INSIDE SPA WITH DR. PLOEGER

Attend a workshop on Ecology of Data-Driven Leadership, one of the core classes of the SPA! Get an inside view of how to use data to make decisions to best lead and transform schools!

⌵ 6:00 PM EST Virtual



**WED  
20**

## LEADERSHIP PANEL & RECEPTION

Leadership panel featuring accomplished graduates of SPA. These leaders will share their experiences navigating challenges and opportunities in today's educational landscape.

⌵ 5:00 PM EST

444 North 3rd St. | Philadelphia, PA 19123



To request disability-related accommodations, contact OASID at [oasid@tc.edu](mailto:oasid@tc.edu), or 212-678-3689, (646) 755-3144 video phone, as soon as possible.





# DR. ANTIJA ALLEN

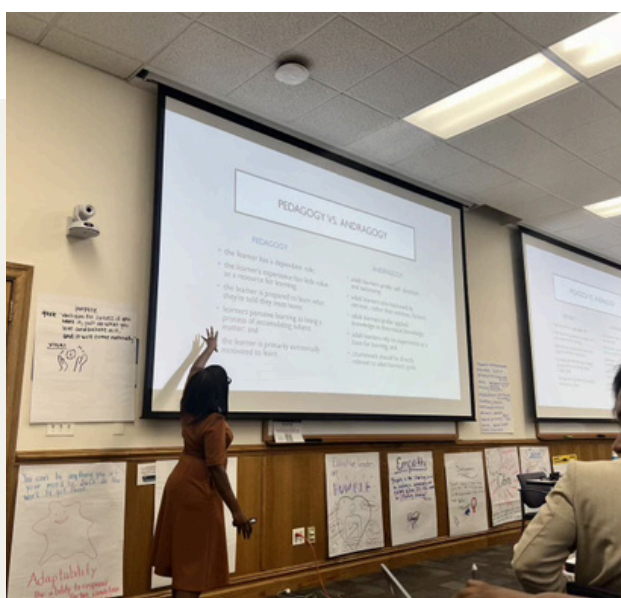
By: Peter Fynn

## SPA Faculty

A changemaker both inside and outside the classroom, Dr. Antija Allen is one of the Summer Principals Academy Program (SPA) leaders and professors making change across the country. A graduate of Teachers College's Adult Learning & Leadership doctoral program and a seasoned educator, Dr. Allen brings a wealth of expertise in adult learning methodologies and psychological research. In her current and full time role as Associate Professor of Psychology at



*Christopher Michael (Instructional Assistant and SPA graduate), Dr. Taiwana Walker, and Dr. Antija Allen*

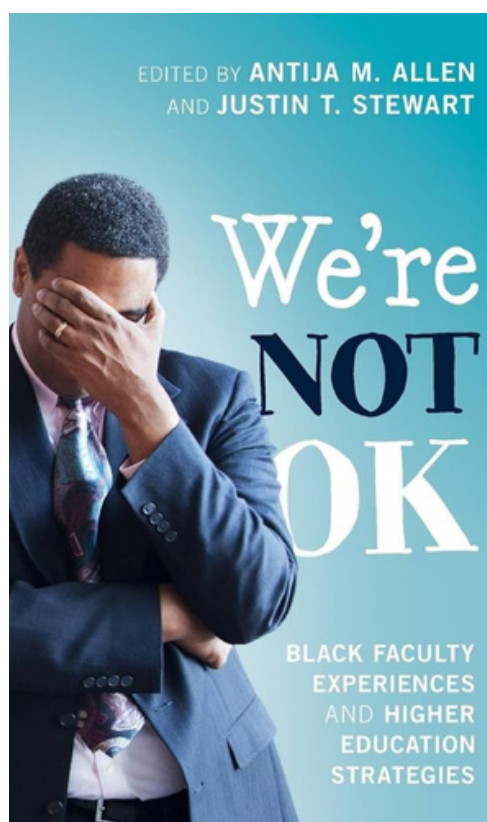


*Dr. Allen lecturing on pedagogy vs. andragogy*

Pellissippi State Community College, she also serves as the Director of the Pellissippi Academic Center for Excellence, where she leads faculty development initiatives that enhance teaching and learning across the college.

Dr. Allen co-teaches ORLA 5018: Adult Development and School Leadership specializing in the theory of the subject and how the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) aspect contributes to it. Much of her teaching in the classroom focuses on how equity and understanding different backgrounds and perspectives are involved in leadership, especially regarding building trust and relationships with your faculty. This is mostly





accomplished through class discussions, case studies, and other real-life examples to simulate situations future leaders may need to tackle. With her co-teacher, Dr. Taiwana Walker, the two professors are able to run an efficient and effective class, sometimes even including former faculty members to provide more perspective. They also do their best to make the classroom as welcoming as possible in order to make students feel more comfortable and hopefully make it easier for them to retain the information, which can be quite dense at times and so it is important for everyone to be at their best.

As a graduate of Teachers College herself, Dr. Allen has found the learning environment and cohort system of SPA to be quite remarkable and invigorating in terms of helping the young leaders who attend taking the next step in becoming a future school leader. Students are easily able to develop relationships with each other and the faculty despite the relatively short sessions of classes, which gives them a strong support system for the rigorous learning they do. She has also found the students themselves to be some of the more talented people she has worked with, as many are already on track to becoming school leaders.

Dr. Antija Allen, recently co-edited the powerful anthology “We’re Not OK: Black Faculty Experiences & Higher Education Strategies” (“We’re Not OK”) with Justin T. Stewart. This impactful collection explores the historical and ongoing struggles of Black educators within predominantly white institutions, offering readers a poignant perspective on the challenges of achieving equity

in higher education. “We’re Not OK” not only documents the experiences of Black faculty from their initial hiring to navigating the complexities of these spaces, but it also offers actionable strategies for students, faculty, administrators, and advocates seeking to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) on campus. The anthology has earned high praise, including the honor of Outstanding Academic Title of 2023, and continues to drive discussions on DEI as Dr. Allen presents at various institutions across the country.

In addition, Dr. Allen and Mr. Stewart has launched a podcast, “We’re Not OK: A Community of Healing,” where they foster meaningful dialogue around these critical issues. The podcast provides a dedicated space for reflection, support, and the development of inclusive practices—be sure to check it out!

Dr. Allen’s research interests span open educational resources (OER), faculty development, diversity recruitment and retention, DEI, belonging and inclusion, online teaching, mental wellness, adult learning, leadership, and student engagement.

Next month, we’re excited to welcome Dr. Allen as a featured presenter in our Inside SPA series, where she will lead a session on ORLA 5018: Adult Development and School Leadership. Keep an eye out for more details in our upcoming newsletter!

# JOB OPPORTUNITIES



Explore the latest job opportunities in education and leadership roles to advance your career.

## **Assistant Principal**

*Malcolm X Shabazz High School*

Newark, New Jersey

Contact: Assistant Principal Steven Lawrence

[SLawrence@nps.k12.nj.us](mailto:SLawrence@nps.k12.nj.us)

## **English AND Special Education Teaching Positions**

*Brooklyn High School for Law and Technology*

The ideal candidate is open to deep-level collaboration across grade and content teams and has a working knowledge of:

- Standards-based curriculum
- Curriculum-aligned formative and summative assessment
- Pedagogical strategies for diverse learners
- Culturally sustaining-responsive pedagogy
- Literacy across the content areas
- Project-based learning
- Data-driven inquiry learning

Interested candidates should send a resume to

[aeversleymilton@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:aeversleymilton@schools.nyc.gov)

## **Assistant Principal (Grades 7-12)**

*Casablanca American School*

Morocco

More information [HERE](#)

## **Upper School Counselor**

*Casablanca American School*

Morocco

More information [HERE](#)

## **Upper School Principal**

Malaysia

Contact: Jonathan Gastel [jagastel@hotmail.com](mailto:jagastel@hotmail.com)

## **Assistant Principal**

*Advanced Math & Science IV, United Charter High Schools*

New York, New York

Link [HERE](#)

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The Summer Principals Academy (SPA) at Teachers College, Columbia University is a transformative graduate program that is committed to promoting equity and excellence in education and overcoming the gap in educational access and achievement between the most and least advantaged groups in this country



[tc.edu/SPA](https://tc.edu/SPA)