



# Summer Principals Academy

## Teachers College, Columbia University

December, 2024

Dear SPA Students, Alumni, and Friends,

As we embrace this season of joy and thankfulness, we are reminded of the incredible community that makes the Summer Principals Academy so special.

To our students and alumni, your dedication to creating meaningful change in education fuels the impact of our program. It is because of your work, alongside the unwavering support of our staff and faculty, that SPA continues to shine as one of the top leadership programs in the country—an achievement we are proud to celebrate this season.

As part of the nation's number one graduate school of education, SPA is committed to preparing transformative leaders in education. This success is made possible by the collaboration of our entire community—students, alumni, faculty, staff, and valued partners—who embody our shared vision of educational excellence.

We are deeply grateful for your contributions and look forward to continuing this journey together. May this season bring you joy, reflection, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Warm Regards,  
The SPA Program



# Upcoming SPA Events



**IN DECEMBER**



**2024**

**TUES  
10**

## **INSIDE SPA WITH DR. ANTIJA ALLEN**

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  
18**

## **CAMPUS TOUR & INFO SESSION**

Come visit the historic TC campus and see where SPA classes are held! Also come learn more about the program!

↘ 5:00 PM EST

525 West 120th Street | New York, New York 10025  
Russel Hall 17



**ONGOING**

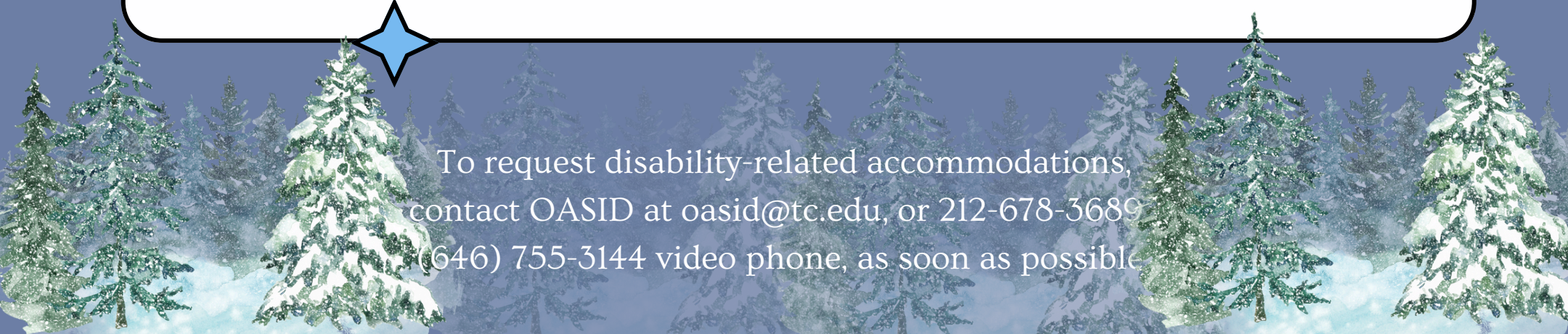
## **ASK ME ANYTHING!**

Learn more about the SPA program! Talk with Dr. Young!

↘ Schedule at your convenience!



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.







Summer Principals Academy  
Teachers College, Columbia University

# WE ARE HIRING

## 2025 INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS

### QUALIFICATIONS

- Availability between July 7-August 9 (assignments are usually 2 weeks within those given dates)
- Previous graduate of the SPA program

### Benefits

- \$1,500 compensation
  - Please note: Housing and food stipends are not covered
- Working and learning from a dynamic teaching team

Send Your Resume and  
Cover Letter to  
[cy2288@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:cy2288@tc.columbia.edu)  
by January 16, 2024



# A Champion for Global Educational Leadership: Kelsey Bull

By: Dr. Colette Young

## SHAPING THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION: A LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVE

Kelsey Bull's career has been anything but ordinary, shaped by a deep passion for education and a commitment to creating equitable opportunities for students worldwide. As a middle school principal at the American International School of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, Kelsey is at the forefront of international education, navigating the complexities of leading in a multicultural environment while fostering a strong sense of community and academic excellence.

### A JOURNEY ROOTED IN PURPOSE

Kelsey's path to educational leadership began in Tennessee, where she developed a passion



**"I believe in the power of education to change lives"**

for teaching and serving diverse communities. Her early experiences in public schools gave her a front-row seat to the challenges many students face, from inequitable resources to systemic barriers. These moments inspired her to think beyond local boundaries and explore how education systems function on a global scale.

This sense of purpose led Kelsey to teach abroad, with assignments in Ghana, Cairo, and Taiwan. Each experience deepened her understanding of cultural contexts, socioeconomic disparities, and the universal need for education

systems to adapt to the unique needs of their students. In Ghana, she worked with under-resourced schools, developing strategies to maximize student engagement with limited materials. In Cairo, she navigated the complexities of teaching in a bustling international metropolis, balancing local customs with global expectations. Taiwan introduced her to the nuances of East Asian education systems, where academic rigor is often coupled with immense pressure.



These diverse experiences shaped Kelsey into a leader who values adaptability and inclusivity. She developed a keen ability to see challenges as opportunities and foster environments where all stakeholders—students, teachers, and parents—feel heard and supported.





## LEADERSHIP AT THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF JEDDAH

At the American International School of Jeddah (AISJ), Kelsey has taken on the responsibility of leading a multicultural middle school in a rapidly evolving region. Saudi Arabia's educational landscape has undergone significant reforms in recent years, emphasizing the need for school leaders who can navigate change with vision and skill. Kelsey's approach centers on building strong relationships within her school community, prioritizing transparency, and fostering an environment of mutual respect.

One of her key initiatives at AISJ has been implementing a student-centered curriculum that integrates academic rigor with social-emotional learning. Recognizing the importance of developing well-rounded individuals, she has championed programs that encourage critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration. Under her leadership, the school has also expanded its professional development opportunities for teachers, ensuring that educators are equipped with the latest

tools and strategies to meet the diverse needs of their students.

## PURSUING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Kelsey's connection to the Summer Principals Academy (SPA) at Teachers College, Columbia University, is another cornerstone of her career. As an alumna of the program, she credits SPA with shaping her understanding of transformational leadership and the importance of data-driven decision-making. Over the past few years she has served as an Instructional Assistant (IA) for the program, supporting courses such as Introduction to School Leadership & Decision Making and Ecology of Data-Driven Leadership.



Beyond her work in Jeddah and SPA, Kelsey is deeply committed to her own professional growth. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership at Johns Hopkins University, where her research focuses on equity-driven practices in international schools. This academic pursuit allows her to bridge theory and practice, bringing evidence-based strategies to her daily work

while contributing to the broader discourse on global education reform.

## A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

As Kelsey looks to the future, her vision is clear: to continue building educational systems that empower all learners, regardless of their background. She hopes to expand her impact by contributing to global conversations on leadership and equity, sharing the lessons she has learned from her years in the field.



Her commitment to education extends beyond her professional roles. Kelsey frequently participates in conferences and workshops, sharing her expertise with other educators and policymakers. She also mentors emerging leaders, recognizing the importance of cultivating the next generation of change-makers in education.

Kelsey's career is a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when passion meets purpose. Her unwavering dedication to her students, colleagues, and the broader education community makes her a true leader in her field. As she continues to navigate the complexities of global education, she remains a beacon of hope and inspiration for those committed to creating a brighter, more equitable future.

COME & JOIN US FOR

# BOOK LAUNCH EVENT

*with SPA Adjunct Assistant  
Professor and her associates*

● *Nancy Gutiérrez, Michelle  
Jarney, and Michael Kim*

*for  
Their New  
Released  
Title:*

*" Coaching  
Education  
Leaders "*

**Thursday, February 13, 6:00pm**  
at Teachers College, Columbia University  
525 West 120th Street | NY, NY 10027

**Dr. Colette Young**  
*Assistant Director|NYC*  
spa@tc.columbia.edu  
212-870-8605

**REGISTER NOW**



**COACHING  
EDUCATION  
LEADERS**



**A CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE APPROACH  
TO TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS AND SYSTEMS**

Nancy B. Gutiérrez,  
Michelle Jarney,  
and Michael Kim

An Eye On Education Book

ROUTLEDGE

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possible**



# 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)

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

***Casablanca American School***

Morocco

More information [HERE](#)

## **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)

## **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)