



Summer Principals Academy

Teachers College, Columbia University

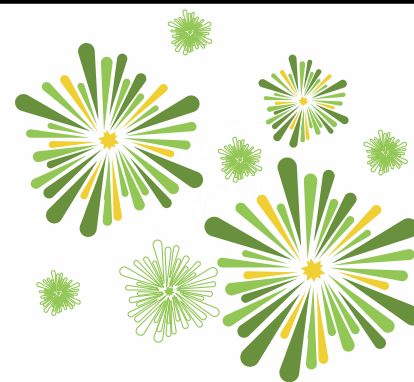
March, 2025

Dear SPA Students, Alumni, and Friends,

As we move through recruitment season, it has been a privilege to visit schools across the country, reconnecting with our alumni and current students and witnessing their incredible work in action. Seeing the impact of SPA graduates in their school communities reaffirms the importance of our mission. From classrooms to leadership meetings, these visits have not only strengthened our ties but also introduced us to prospective students eager to join our program. With just a month left in the recruitment cycle, we look forward to continuing these meaningful conversations and expanding our network of future leaders.

Best,
The SPA Team

Upcoming SPA Events



IN MARCH



2025

**THUR
6**

MEET AND GREET: WASHINGTON DC

Join us for a casual meet and greet to connect with current students and alumni SPA! Enjoy great company, meaningful conversations, and discover what makes SPA such a transformative journey for future school leaders!

5:30 PM EST
801 Restaurant and Bar | 801 Florida Ave NW | Washington DC 20001



**FRI
14**

SPA VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION

Join us for an information session about the Summer Principals Academy at Columbia University! Discover how SPA prepares future school leaders with hands-on learning, mentorship, and a rigorous curriculum.

5:30 PM EST | Virtual



**WED
19**

SPA APPLICATION POWER HOUR: FINAL TOUCHES & FINANCIAL AID Q&A

Join us for a cozy session to put the finishing touches on your Summer Principals Academy (SPA) application! Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea while you get expert guidance on your materials and connect with our financial aid liaison!

5:00 PM EST | Virtual
Dear Mama | 611 West 129th Street | New York, NY 10027

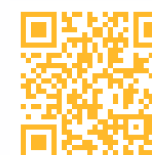


**MON
24**

PERSONAL STATEMENT WORKSHOP

Come learn more about SPA and finalize your application! Staff will be present to assist with brainstorming, reviewing, and any application questions!

5:00 PM EST | Virtual



**WED
26**

CAMPUS TOUR AND INFO SESSION

Join us for a campus tour and information session about the Summer Principals Academy at TC! Discover how SPA prepares future leaders and experience what life is like at TC!

4:30 PM EST
525 West 120th Street | Russel Hall 17 | New York, New York



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

EXPLORING LEADERSHIP THROUGH REFLECTION: **Showcasing Student Infographics**



By: Dr. Antija Allen

Edited by: Shelby Jarvis

In ORLA 5018: School Leadership for Adult Development, students examine leadership through the lenses of systems thinking, adult learning, and adult development. The course is grounded in the belief that effective leadership begins with self-awareness — understanding one's strengths, perspectives, and the ways in which personal experiences shape decision-making. Leaders must navigate complexity and ambiguity while remaining true to themselves, and this course provides a framework for developing those capabilities. As part of their learning journey, students create infographics that map out pivotal moments in their personal and professional development. These visual representations help them reflect on how their experiences have influenced their growth — and in some cases, even reshaped their career aspirations. Some students who present their infographics later in the semester often realize that their initial goals have evolved throughout the course, demonstrating the power of ongoing self-discovery. In this edition, we're excited to showcase some of the thought-provoking infographics our students have created. We hope their reflections inspire you to consider your own leadership journey.

Marie Yves Theodule

Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. Mama of 3 beautiful children who have been my greatest inspiration. They keep me on my toes, constantly finding ways to engage them, stay organized while being a leader in the household or should I say in the daily chaos. Married to an amazing partner who supports me unconditionally and helps me thrive day in and day out. We moved to Long Island and bought our forever home to raise our children.



Assistant Principal
The Academy Charter School
Uniondale Middle School

Career Aspirations

Principal in Lower Income Neighborhoods
Superintendent
Chief Academic Officer
Dean of Math Department
Provost at an HBCU

Mental Health Wellness

Something I prioritize is my mental health and emotional well-being. I cannot be my best self if I don't prioritize self-care, doing the things that make me the happiest allow me to be effective in all facets of life. I also strive to implement effective social emotional learning in our schools.

Significant Events

Taking a Solo Trip to Morocco and Spain in 2015
Graduating with my Masters in Math Education in 2016
Getting Married in 2017
Having my first son in 2018
Teach English to elementary students in Israel in 2019
Becoming a first time homeowner in 2020
Having my second child in 2022
After 8 years of teaching in elementary and math middle school grades being promoted to Math Instructional Coach
Having my third son April of 2024 (yes I have a 2 month old lol)!!!!!!
Accepted and Enrolled in the Summer Principals Academy!!!
Promoted to Assistant Principal for school year 2024-2025!!

Flatbush Brooklyn

The place that has shaped me the most is my home sweet home Brooklyn. Living in a one-bedroom apartment made me creative, organized and most importantly ambitious. Being raised by immigrants coming from Mexican and Haitian descent has motivated me to give back to communities of underserved children.

Monterrey Mexico

Every summer I would return to my grandmother's house and stay for a month long. Spend time with my family, learned how to be humble and embrace the different cultural experiences. Being the only relative that lived in America allowed me to inspire my cousins and lead by example.



William Talbott-Shere

All About Will

Educator

I am going into my 4th year of teaching middle school ELA. What I enjoy most about teaching is connecting with my students and getting to know them on a personal level. My favorite books that I have read with my classes are "The Hate U Give" and "The Outsiders."

Coach

I am the Head Lacrosse coach at Shaker Heights High School. I was also the Head Coach of my schools 7/8 grade basketball team. I find coaching to be a great tool in connecting with others and learning about yourself as a leader and mentor.



Student

I graduated Suny Binghamton with a bachelor's degree in Psychology in 2021. I am now attending Teachers College Columbia University with a goal of becoming a principal or superintendent.



Son/Brother

My parents names are Rex and Rina. They currently reside in Cleveland. I also have a younger brother named JC, who lives in Chicago with his dog, Yoshi.



Friend

I keep in touch with many of my friends from high school and college on a daily basis. Thank goodness for groupchats!



Athlete

While at Binghamton, I was a member of the Division 1 lacrosse team. I enjoy staying active and still love to play lacrosse and basketball as often as possible.



JOHN MUIR

ABOUT ME!

I am a fifth-generation New Yorker with a rich legacy of education, as both my parents were educators—my mother graduated from Teachers College and my father from Columbia. I have been married to the greatest woman in the world, April, for 35 years, and together we have four wonderful children: John, Jordan, Jenell, and Jeneice. We are also blessed with four beautiful grandchildren: Saige, Stone, Kassidy, and Steele. Currently, I teach 12th-grade diverse learners at United Charter High School at August Martin in Queens, continuing my lifelong commitment to making a meaningful impact in education.



CAREER ASPIRATIONS

I aspire to become a principal, guiding and shaping the educational journeys of young minds. My future goals include becoming the CEO of Wisdom 31, an organization dedicated to integrating wisdom from the Book of Proverbs into modern education, and Praying Principals, a support network for faith-driven educational leaders. Additionally, I aim to serve as the Director of Recruitment at the Summer Principals Academy, where I can help identify and nurture the next generation of transformative school leaders.



SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

01 My journey to becoming the person and educator I am today started at Agnes Russell Elementary School within Teachers College. It's incredible to see how life has come full circle, as those experiences continue to influence my path. Now, as I work towards becoming a principal and leading initiatives that blend faith, wisdom, and leadership, I draw on those formative moments to guide and inspire me.



02 Meeting my wife, April, 35 years ago was a turning point in my life. Without her, none of my achievements would have been possible. She's been my rock, guiding and supporting me through everything. Her unwavering support and love have shaped me into the person I am today, both personally and professionally.



JOSHUA 1:9 GNBDC

"REMEMBER THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU TO BE DETERMINED AND CONFIDENT! DON'T BE AFRAID OR DISCOURAGED, FOR I, THE LORD YOUR GOD, AM WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO"

Anna Campbell

SUMMER PRINCIPALS ACADEMY NEW YORK

WHO AM I?

- Minnesotan living in Chicago
- 2012 Chicago Teach for America Corps Member
- 12 Year Career in Public Education
- 7 Years as a 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Grade Teacher
- 5 Years as an Interventionist/Instructional Coach
- Avid World Traveler
- Lover of the Outdoors



Teach For America
Greater Chicago–
Northwest Indiana

WHERE I AM NOW...

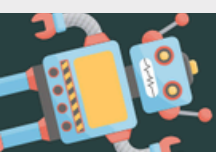
- 9th Year at Piccolo School of Excellence in Chicago Public Schools
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Lead and Interventionist
- Create and manage school-wide systems for Attendance, Assessments, Tier 2 and Tier 3 Academic and SEL Interventions, and Data Analysis





WHERE I HOPE TO GO...

- Urban School Building Leadership
- District-Level Multi-Tiered Systems of Support or Instructional Lead
- Educational Consulting: Systems and Data-Analysis Focus
- Travel to all continents!
- Complete one multi-day trek a year







KIRILL ALAVERDYAN




HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS, AND BIOLOGY TEACHER



Teach at Kingsborough Early College Secondary School (KECSS). KECSS is part of the Early College Initiative (ECI) that grants students an opportunity to obtain up to 60 college credits (granting an Associates Degree) and a high school diploma at the same time.






Live in Brooklyn, New York



Graduated from Hunter College with a B.S - Biochemistry



Graduated from Relay Graduate School of Education - 7-12 in Chemistry (NYC Teaching Fellows)

CURRENT ROLES



- High school Chemistry, Biology, and Physics teacher
- Coordinator of Student Activities
- College Program Advisor
- Lab Supervisor
- Science Olympiad Coach


CAREER ASPIRATIONS




- Principal
- Superintendent
- Expanding accessibility of Science Education
- Expanding the Early College Initiative

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Immigrating to the United States of America



Attending an Early College Initiative School





Hello! It's Me, Maria



they/them



Current Role

Middle ELA Lead

Future Role

Education Professor, Philosopher



I moved from Minnesota to Texas for my TFA commitment... Only to come right back this past month!

Significant Events:

- As both student and teacher, I have spent my entire life in Title I schools.
- After attending my grandmother's funeral, and seeing her student impact in full force, I committed to education.
- My mother was my first, and most important, literacy teacher.





Professional Development

TC Academy

Teachers College, Columbia University

[Learn More >](#)



SCHOOL TURNAROUND PROGRAM

July 28 – August 1, 2025



WHO IS IT FOR?

STP is designed for K-12 state, district, school, and teacher leaders directly responsible for leading ambitious school turnaround initiatives.

WHAT IS THE STP?

The School Turnaround Program (STP)* is an innovative and comprehensive professional development program designed to equip education leaders with the tools, strategies, and insights needed to transform underperforming schools into thriving learning environments.



*This program does not lead to a degree or recommendation for leadership licensure in any state.

JOIN NOW!



+212-678-4142



Email: tcacademy@tc.columbia.edu

TO REQUEST DISABILITY-RELATED ACCOMMODATIONS, CONTACT OASID AT OASID@TC.EDU, OR (212) 678-3689, (646) 755-3144 VIDEO PHONE, AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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

The Intrinsic Schools

Principal, Downtown Campus

Chicago, Illinois

Intrinsic Schools is a small charter network in Chicago that is implementing a revolutionary new model for public education that prepares all students for postsecondary success and world-changing endeavors.

Read more about the role and apply [HERE](#)

East Mountain High School

Middle School Principal and Chief Financial Officer (MS & HS)

Sandia Park, New Mexico

Positions Overview

East Mountain High School is seeking an outstanding Principal with a proven track record of success to lead the new middle school for the 2026 – 2027 school year with a year devoted to planning for the new school during the 2025-2026 school year.

East Mountain is also seeking an exceptional Chief Financial Officer (CFO) with a proven track record of success to oversee and manage all financial operations of the organization.

Both job posts are [HERE](#) and can be found on their [website](#).

Please email resume and letter of interest to

gbrown@eastmountainhigh.net by March 14, 2025 for best consideration.

Malcolm X Shabazz High School

Assistant Principal

Newark, New Jersey

Contact: Assistant Principal Steven Lawrence

SLawrence@nps.k12.nj.us

Fishtank Learning

ELA Curriculum Director, 6-8

- Remote, northeast preferred
- More information about Fishtank Learning [HERE](#)
- More information about the job [HERE](#)

Contact: Cristina Howery, SPA | NYC 2012 Cohort

cristina.howery@fishtanklearning.org

Uncommon Schools

Multiple Leadership Opportunities including *Dean of Curriculum and Instruction, Director of Operations, Associate Director of Operations, and Principal Fellow* [HERE](#)

Locations: Camden, Newark, New York, and Rochester

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