

Felicia Cumings Smith, Ed.D.

EDUCATION

- 2017 **Rank I, Instructional Leadership- School Superintendent Certification**
Certification: Superintendent Certification
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
- 2014 **Ed.D. Instruction and Administration**
Research foci: African American Female Literacy and Identity Development
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
- 2000 **Master of Education, Elementary Education**
Endorsement: K-12 Reading Specialist Endorsement
University of Louisville, Louisville, KY
- 1996 **Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education**
Certification: Elementary Teaching Certificate K-4 (and self-contained grades 5-6)
University of Louisville, KY
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Present - **Assistant Superintendent, Jefferson County Public Schools**
- October 2017 JCPS executive leadership team member and direct report to the chief academic officer. Oversight of the district strategy for improving teaching and learning (preschool – 12th grade). The following departments are charged with executing the district strategic plan – Vision 2020. Departments within my portfolio include: Curriculum Design and Learning Innovations, Library Media Services, Systemwide Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, Title I, Title II, and Title IV. Gifted Services/Advanced Placement Programming, Professional Development, and Teacher and Leader Development. Includes 10 direct reports and approximately 80+ district-level employees.
- Budget management and oversight of federal, state, and grant funding sources
- Support the cross functional team work across district departments focused on professional learning, assessment, deeper learning, leadership development and equity initiatives. Includes leadership of approximately 10-15 individuals per work team.
- October 2017 - **Senior Program Officer, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**
- March 2015 Served on the K12 Strategy Refresh Steering Committee – 2017-beyond
 Redesigning K12 national programmatic initiatives for future investments
- Portfolio Included:
Instructional Leadership Strategy (national and state strategy)
 Development and execution on the foundation’s strategy focus on leadership development. Partner with consultancy firms and organizations to gather analytics for strategy development.
- State Lead for Kentucky and Colorado

Create opportunities for strategic investments for impact on college ready goals with state partners. Design and implement sub-initiative investments aligned with college/career ready strategies. Align strategies, activities, and relationships to drive systems change with key foundation partners. Manage multimillion-dollar budgets to support and align college and career ready strategies for state partners/grantees. Lead others through directing, managing, and delivering on performance goals or the organizational unit. Effectively represent and communicate the complexity of the Foundation's work to key programmatic external constituencies related to education reform.

March 2015- **Director, National Center on Education and the Economy; CEO**

March 2014 Director, Kentucky Field Work

Coordinating emerging innovation activity related to Kentucky Reform Agenda toward Top Performing status. Communicated and translated international educational evidence and reports to build a compelling case for continued transformation efforts to establish a vision for a world-class system in Kentucky. Convened statewide partners to advance a strategic vision for education reform.

CEO, National Institute for School Leadership (NISL)

Directed the strategic leadership and visioning for the NISL focused on professional development for district/school leaders. Provided oversight for a \$13.5 million budget for program activity. Sustained and created new partnerships with system level leadership across 15 states to establish priorities and focus on instructional leadership for systems change. Facilitated grant writing and marketing/sales activities.

March 2014 - **Associate Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education**

Sept. 2009 Direct report to the Commissioner of Education and the Kentucky Board of Education as Chief Academic Officer

Coordinate, initiate, and implement state policy development for improved learning outcomes toward college and career readiness for students (P-20). Lead the work of three branches and two state schools, approximately 200 employees. Primary responsibilities include a focus on improving teaching and learning for all students and support for educator effectiveness (e.g., school readiness initiatives, implementation of the Common Core Standards, oversight of special education, professional learning, principal leadership and development, design and implementation of the state's evaluation systems for principals and teachers, and P-20 partnerships in support of transforming educator preparation programs). Served as the goal lead for the College and Career Readiness, Proficiency, and Next Generation Professionals Delivery plans (strategic priorities for the agency) - these plans outline the goals, strategies, milestones, and metrics for state-level success. Secured and provided oversight of several state, federal, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grants approximately \$200 million.

Manage strong relationships with various national, state, and foundation partner organizations, partnerships included:

National: United States Department of Education (USDE), The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), National Associate of School Boards (NASB), Achieve

State: Kentucky State Legislature and Governor's; Office Council on Post-Secondary Education (CPE); The Prichard Committee; Kentucky State Chamber of Commerce; K-groups – Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA), Kentucky Association of School Administrators, Kentucky Association of School Superintendents, and Kentucky Education Association (KEA), and Kentucky Education Cooperatives

Foundation Partners: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Hewlett Foundation

Sept. 2009 - **Executive Director and Lecturer/Faculty line, University of Kentucky (dual appointment)**

Aug. 2005 Directed the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development (CCLD): Early Childhood through Adult, a partnership among the eight (8) state public universities and the National Center for Family Literacy. Coordinated the professional development initiatives and research efforts for the center, approximately \$7 million per year. Lead the strategic planning efforts for the CCLD board made up of local district leaders, business and community leaders, university faculty, preschool-12th grade teachers. Taught literacy methods courses in the University of Kentucky's Curriculum and Instruction department (teacher preparation program experience). Provided oversight of student teachers

Aug. 2005 – **K-12 Education Program Consultant, Kentucky Department of Education**

Nov. 2001 Served as P-12 Literacy Consultant in the Office of Academic and Professional Development to develop standards and assessment for districts/schools. Provided professional development statewide, participated on scholastic audit team visits, served on various cross-agency leadership teams. Launched and implemented the state's Reading First Initiative, an \$82m federal USDE grant for early reading (K-3rd grades). Facilitated conversation for KDE with USDE. Managed KDE team and KDE Reading First Coaches and facilitated work for the statewide implementation efforts. Focused on 73 elementary schools (and respective districts) for school and district-wide improvement in early reading.

Nov. 2001 - **District Reading Resource Teacher and Elementary Educator, Jefferson County Public Schools**

Aug. 1996 Co-designed and lead the district curricular work in literacy alongside the District Reading Specialist. Facilitated district-wide support for literacy planning and improvement. Co-designed the formative assessment/benchmarks for the district in literacy.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS (State and National) & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

2019 Aurora Institute Board of Directors (former known as iNACOL)

The Aurora Institute transforms the policy landscape to provide better policies and practices to advance powerful, personalized, learner-centered experiences.

<https://www.inacol.org/>

2019 Kentucky Center for the Arts Foundation Board - Louisville, KY

The Kentucky Center for the Arts Foundation supports the mission of The Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts to lead and enrich the artistic, educational and economic vitality of the region by providing unparalleled programming and cultural events. As an integral member of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts, and Heritage cabinet, The Center, along with the other agencies seek to preserve and promote the history, heritage and arts of the Commonwealth. <https://www.kentuckyperformingarts.org/>

Present-2016 Reading Recovery Council of North America (RRCNA) Board of Directors

<https://readingrecovery.org/>

Present-2015 Collaborative for Teaching and Learning, <https://ctlonline.org>,

CTL is a non-profit aimed at improving instruction for all students - Louisville, Kentucky

2015 - 2014 Longview Foundation, <http://www.longviewfdn.org>

The Longview Foundation builds purposeful partnerships between state government, NGOs, colleges of education, and communities to integrate global competence into teacher and student experiences to prepare them for tomorrow.

PAST (5 years or older)

National:

Council of Chief State School Officers Deputy Executive Leadership Team

State:

Franklin County United Way, Board of Directors

Kentucky Reading Association (KRA), President

Kentucky Council of Teachers of English/Language Arts (KCTE/LA), Board member

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2018 - present University of Louisville, Dean of Education Advisory Committee

2018 – present Evolve 502 Operating Committee

Special Recognition in Leadership

Winter, 2019 Carnegie Corporation of New York Grant Reviewer and Facilitator

Spring, 2018 Hall of Fame, Pleasure Ridge Park High School
Special recognition for contributions in the field of education (alma mater)

Nov 2017 **Special Contributor, George W Bush Foundation Series on Accountability**
<https://www.the74million.org/article/bush-institute-felicia-cummings-smith/>

May 2017 **Deeper Learning Equity Fellowship Mentor**
Serve as a mentor with a 24-month cohort-based leadership program that aims to develop, strengthen, and sustain a group of *diverse* and exceptional leaders who will influence the policies and practices that expand access to [Deeper Learning](#) in public education across the country. In addition to participating in several key activities—convenings, work sessions, online communications, and webinars—each Fellow will design and conduct a Capstone Action Project that addresses a major challenge related to equitable access to deeper learning. The intention is to give national experts a role in mentoring the Fellows as they design and implement their projects.

Winter 2017 Cohort Pahara-Aspen Education Fellow

Building on the model of the Aspen Institute’s renowned Henry Crown Fellowship Program, as well as the Pahara-Aspen Education Fellows program, the pilot Pahara-Aspen Teacher Leader Fellows program convene participants in four seminars over the course of two years.

These seminars feature thought-provoking reading and discussions about leadership, diversity, and important issues in public education and social change. In addition, Fellows design and undertake projects aimed at strengthening the teaching profession and the capacity of educators to improve student achievement.

When they complete the program, Fellows become part of the Aspen Global Leadership Network, which now includes nearly 2,100 entrepreneurial leaders from 49 countries who share a commitment to enlightened leadership and to using their extraordinary creativity, energy and resources to tackle the foremost societal challenges of our times.

For more information: <https://pahara.org/our-work/aspens-teacher-leader-fellowship/our-fellows/pahara-aspens-education-fellowship/ourfellows>

July 2014 Aspen Institute, Program on Education and Society, Special Invitation, Aligning Strategies, Systems, and Policy for Powerful Professional Learning in Schools Convening

May 2013 Global Education Leaders Program (GELP) Global Event. Sydney, Australia

November 2012 Global Education Leaders Program (GELP). Global Event. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

<http://gelponline.org>

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
