

# CYDNEE C. PATTERSON, PhD, M.Ed.

*Instructional Designer, Educational Leader, and Program Coordinator*

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## SUMMARY

Dedicated and results-driven Educational Leader with over a decade of experience leading cross-functional teams in the successful planning, execution, and delivery of inclusive education practices and optimizing student success. Proven track record of driving process improvements through data and evaluation, researching and employing best practices to meet the diverse needs of students and staff. Adept at collaborating with stakeholders at all levels to create individualized education plans (IEPS) to define learning objectives and goals to create equitable learning opportunities and improve their quality of life. Known for fostering a positive learning environment and leveraging strong interpersonal skills to build lasting relationships. I am seeking to contribute my leadership experience and passion for preparing tomorrow's leaders to a community dedicated to enhancing the learning experience.

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D.** Pepperdine University GSEP

December 2023

Doctor of Philosophy in Global Leadership and Change

**M.Ed.** Prairie View A&M University

May 2018

Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction-Reading Education Specialization in Literacy Development

**B.S.** Lamar University

December 2015

Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies

## EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Higher Learning LA

2018-Present

Academic Advisor

Los Angeles, California

- Educating students and parents about colleges, the college admissions process, trends, procedures and testing; advising and supporting students and families as they go through the process; and maintaining professional relationships
- Meeting with juniors and seniors, individually and in groups, to talk about the college process and individual college choices
- Use verbal and electronic communication to provide information (including caregiver workshops) on financial aid and planning and assistance with FAFSA and scholarship applications
- Assisting with college choice, exploration, and completion of college applications promptly.
- Overseeing college trips and other events aimed at building excitement around the college process

Pepperdine University

2022-2023

Scholar Researcher

Los Angeles, California

- In collaboration with the office of the Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Education, the Excellence and Innovation Program (EIP) at Pepperdine University advances scholarship in the field of leadership best practices through rigorous qualitative and mixed methods research methodologies
- Develop theoretical and applied models, including measurement instruments and assessment tools, training, and systems of implementation

Elementary Teacher – First Grade  
KIPP Vida Preparatory Academy

2018-2021  
Los Angeles, California

- Teach all academic core subjects to a classroom of English language learners
- Implement goal-setting techniques with students to raise California Achievement Test scores
- Assist and support the implementation of blended learning models at campus levels to engage students
- Increased MAP reading scores by 20% and Math scores by 22% for 30 students in 7 months
- Develop individualized education plans (IEPS) in collaboration with parents, counselors, teachers, and administrators for students with special needs
- Integrate multimedia tools to enhance the learning experience, increase engagement, and create distance learning opportunities
- Monitor student progress and maintain records of academic and behavioral data to inform instructional decision-making and IEP goal attainment

Elementary Teacher – First Grade  
Anderson Academy

2016-2018  
Houston, Texas

- Collaborated with a team of 2nd-grade teachers to develop grade-appropriate activities. Worked with individual students to identify learning goals and provide additional tutoring where needed
- Consulted with resource specialists on strategies for the English Language Learners
- Plan and implement developmentally appropriate lessons that align with the first-grade curriculum and state standards, integrating hands-on activities, technology, and differentiated instruction to meet students' diverse needs
- Foster a positive and inclusive classroom environment where all students feel valued, respected, and safe to take risks and participate actively in their learning
- Communicate regularly with parents through newsletters, conferences, and progress reports to share student achievements, address concerns, and foster home-school partnerships
- Participate in professional development opportunities to stay current with best practices in elementary education, including literacy instruction, math strategies, and classroom management techniques
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Elementary Teacher – First Grade  
Charlton-Pollard Elementary

2015-2016  
Beaumont, Texas

- Utilize formative and summative assessments to monitor student progress and adjust instruction accordingly, providing targeted intervention and enrichment opportunities as needed
- Collaborate with colleagues, parents, and support staff to address individual student needs, develop individualized education plans, and implement effective academic and behavioral support strategies
- Incorporate social-emotional learning activities and mindfulness practices into daily routines to promote self-regulation, empathy, and positive relationships among students

Elementary Teacher – Reading and Writing Interventionist  
Lamar University

2014-2015  
Beaumont, Texas

- Assess grades 2-6 students' literacy levels through standardized tests, observations, and diagnostic assessments to identify areas for improvement
- Develop and implement individualized intervention plans tailored to each student's needs, focusing on phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing skills
- Utilize evidence-based instructional strategies and resources to deliver explicit, systematic, and scaffolded instruction in reading and writing

- Monitor students' progress through ongoing assessments and data analysis, adjusting intervention plans as needed to ensure continuous growth
- Collaborate with classroom teachers, special education staff, and parents to provide coordinated support and implement strategies for differentiation and accommodations
- Provide teachers with professional development workshops and coaching sessions on effective literacy instruction and intervention strategies
- Maintain accurate records of student progress, interventions provided, and outcomes achieved to inform decision-making and program evaluation

## RESEARCH AND CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

Patterson, C. , & Fastzkie, E. M. (2025). Dr. Jessica Henderson Daniel: Mentor, Activist, and Inspiration. In R. S. Mason, J. Graphs, & M. Ceyner (Eds.), *Early Psychological Research Contributions from Women of Color, Volume II* (pp. 517-533). Sage Publications.

Patterson, C. (2023). "What is a book: best practices for literacy specialists to engage K-5 students in reading". *Theses and Dissertations*. 1417.

<https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/etd/1417>

Patterson, C. (2023, November). Project firstline: Aiding in healthcare professionals' and students' ability to provide equitable care through infectious disease prevention training. Oral presentation at American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA.

Patterson, C. (2023, February). Hidden Figures of Black History. Oral presentation at the Pepperdine University GSEP Black History Month for the Center for Global Partnerships and Learning Forum in Los Angeles, CA.

Patterson, C. (2022, February). Mental Health - Reintegrating children after trauma/loss of learning from COVID/learners and educators with disabilities. Oral presentation at The Forum for the Future of Education in Africa in Los Angeles, CA.

Patterson, C. (2018, September). Pros and Cons of Attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Oral presentation at KIPP Through College HBCU Forum in Los Angeles, CA.

Patterson, C. (2017, July). Phonemes in Use: Multiple Activities for a Critical Process. Poster presented at the Seventeenth Annual Family Literacy Day in Prairie View, TX.

Patterson, C. (2017, July). Enhancing the Culture of Literacy in Primary Education. Oral presentation at the Twelfth Annual Curriculum and Instruction Educational Research Symposium in Prairie View, TX.

Patterson, C. (2017, April). Improving Word Knowledge: Fluency. Oral presentation at the Spring Reading Workshop in Prairie View, TX.

## ADMINISTRATION AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

City of Houston

Co-Chair, My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Initiative

2024-Present

Houston, Texas

- Lead strategic efforts to advance MBK's mission, focusing on critical life milestones that research predicts later success, particularly in education, employment, and life.
- Spearheaded initiatives promoting Milestone 2: Reading at Grade Level by Third Grade, emphasizing the importance of early literacy for long-term educational success.
- Collaborated with schools, families, and community organizations to foster partnerships that support joint book reading and in-home literacy practices, ensuring all children are reading at grade level by the end of third grade.
- Advocated for the scale-up of evidence-based practices that enhance early childhood literacy, focusing on the role of libraries, community organizations, and educators in driving literacy outcomes.
- Championed continuous professional development for early childhood educators to improve instructional quality and child outcomes, ensuring high-quality, evidence-informed support for active learning.
- Promoted family involvement in early learning, encouraging meaningful parent and family engagement to support school readiness and academic success in early grades.
- Worked closely with local libraries and community-based organizations to design and implement literacy programs for youth and their parents, enhancing educational access and community development.
- Led community-wide campaigns to close the achievement gap, advocating for policies and practices that increase reading proficiency and improve educational outcomes for all students.

City of Houston

Human Service Program Manager

2024-Present

Houston, Texas

- Oversee operations and management of multiple Diabetes Awareness and Wellness Network (DAWN) sites, ensuring effective diabetes education and wellness services.
- Lead a multi-disciplinary team, aligning program activities with organizational goals and ensuring optimal patient outcomes.
- Develop and implement Chronic Disease and Diabetes programs, leveraging data to assess community needs and evaluate program effectiveness.
- Manage program budgets, resources, and staffing, ensuring efficient operations and cost-effective service delivery.
- Build and maintain partnerships with healthcare providers, community organizations, and public agencies to enhance program impact.
- Lead patient education sessions, support groups, and wellness programs to promote diabetes management.
- Monitor program metrics, drive continuous improvement, and provide leadership and mentorship to staff.
- Stay informed on trends in diabetes prevention and education, integrating best practices into program design.

City of Houston ·

2022 - 2024

Program Manager

Houston, Texas

- Project Manager and Training Administrator for the Infection Prevention and Control Training Program in Collaboration with the CDC
- Coaching, reviewing, and delegating work to lower-level professionals
- Coordinates training courses for 2.2k+ Houstonians from community colleges and universities, professional/industry organizations, and various school systems
- Utilize various interdisciplinary, communication, and marketing techniques to translate unusually complex public health issues, promote and disseminate actionable health and wellness data, and advocate for health equity via service learning
- Manage and allocate \$800k+ Office of Chronic Disease, Health Education, and Wellness federal grant budget
- Conducts seminars and conferences to acquaint partners with new programs and course objectives
- Research, analyze, and monitor various infectious disease trends and quantitative and qualitative reports

KIPP: Vida Preparatory

2020-2021

Grade Level Lead

Los Angeles, California

- Overseeing 117 students' discipline and academics for the grade with diverse learning needs, including those with autism spectrum disorder, learning disabilities, and emotional/behavioral disorders, in self-contained classrooms
- Direct teams, make broad-based decisions and secure the dedicated resources needed to implement initiatives toward transformation
- Lead ongoing professional development and coaching aligned to implementation plans for new instructional models to ensure early wins and long-term sustainability using verbal and written communication
- Setting grade-level priorities, data drives, and course development
- Collaborating with Regional Staff to create strategic plan and implement best practices to increase student engagement and academic achievement

KIPP: Vida Preparatory Council

2018-2021

Co-Chair

Los Angeles, California

- Develop and approve the school's LEA Plan and recommend it to the local governing board. Regularly monitor and revise the school plan, including expenditures and implementation
- Participate in all local, state, and federal reviews of the school's program for compliance and quality
- Identify and support appropriate school-level actions, courses, interventions, and support to impact student achievement
- Implemented evidence-based instructional strategies and behavior interventions to support student learning and social-emotional development

Beaumont. I.S.D Roar (Reach Out and Read) Reading Program

2015-2016

Campus Program Coordinator

Beaumont, Texas

- Conducted consultations with the principal, teachers, parents, students, social workers, and community officials toward the improvement of reading instruction, learning environments, and policies in the school system to enhance leadership skills
- Provided planned objectives and instruction for 75+ struggling elementary readers.
- Evaluated student progress for six months and assisted with course development based on data

- They aided teachers in developing their own reading programs, curriculum, teaching plans, techniques, and the selection of materials.
- Identify areas for innovation and process improvement to further the mission of the district's strategic plan through collaborative efforts

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Tuition Scholarship September 2019

Pepperdine University Merit Scholarship September 2019

Lamar University Dean's List December 2015

## **CREDENTIALS AND CERTIFICATIONS**

EC-6 Generalist Texas Educator Certification

Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Texas Educator Certification