



Amy Ellis, Ed.D.

Director, Center for Community Schools

College of Community Innovation and Education
University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

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EDUCATION

Ed.D. in Educational Leadership (2019)
University of Central Florida

Dissertation: The Impact of Community Partnership Schools™ Model Community School on Graduation and Attendance Rates in One Florida High School

Educational Leadership, NCATE Modified Program (2012)

Master of Music Education, Florida State University (1993)

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

UCF Inclusion Champion Certification (2020)

Certified Trainer. Leadership Blueprint (2016-present)

Certified Leadership Coach Practitioner (2009-present)

Florida Educators Certificate: Educational Leadership (1993-present)

LEADERSHIP

Amy Ellis is the director of the Center for Community Schools at the University of Central Florida. The Center serves as a resource for technical assistance, university-assisted partnership, training, and assessment and evaluation in the development of high-quality community schools.

Ellis lives by embodying the philosophy iterated by Robert Ingersoll, “We rise by lifting others,” and it is with this ideology that she has shaped her life’s work and remained dedicated to elevating intention and raising the consciousness of those around her.

Early in her career, Ellis became dedicated to weaving wisdom and practice to empower others in imagining possibilities and clarifying their next steps, setting a vision for their grandest selves, and forging forward toward an inspiring future. She specializes in the development of partnerships that integrate prevention and intervention programs and services into K-12 schools, as well as the scale-up of initiatives that improve collective outcomes.

Ellis has over two decades of experience in leading the development of frameworks aimed to advance systems of practice; studying and honing needle-moving strategies; and harnessing the power of collectives. Proficient in start-ups and scale-ups, she worked for five years as a senior administrator for Orange County Public Schools, where she successfully launched the first community school of its kind in Florida: *Evans High School, A Community Partnership School*. Ellis has since grown and led Florida’s community school initiative from this single building concept in 2009 to a 26-site statewide model. That work engaged three distinct but complementary elements to ensure quality, fidelity, and continuous improvement: developing quality standards anchored in the relevant literature and responsive to context; guiding and supporting implementation that aligned to those standards; and developing and implementing a comprehensive assessment and evaluation system that directly informs policy and practice. Recognizing this growth and commitment to quality, the legislature has increased investment in the project since 2004 to over \$7.1 million per year. UCF’s Center for Community Schools is now recognized as the international hub for community school advancement, and Florida’s model is considered a premier solution for student and family equity and support.

As a highly sought-after leader, facilitator, and coach, Ellis consults with institutions, organizations, groups, and individuals eager to reach their next level of evolution. Considered an expert in the field of community schools, Ellis has presented statewide, nationally and internationally, and she has formed collaborative partnerships with local practitioners and national/international thought leaders focused on advancing the community schools’ field. “We are one” backbones Ellis’s efforts, knowing that as she helps to strengthen and grow others, the greater good must rise.

PUBLICATIONS

- Ellis, A. (2020). Introduction to the Peabody Journal of Education. HPJE *Peabody Journal of Education*: Taylor & Francis Group. ID: 1702417
- Ellis, A. (2019). *The Impact of the Community Partnership Schools™ Model Community School on Graduation and Attendance Rates in One Florida High School*. Dissertation.
- Ellis, A. (2017). *Community Partnership Schools handbook: A manual for development*. Orlando, FL: University of Central Florida.

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

- Ellis, A. & Rodriguez, M. (2018, May). *Partnership is the Cornerstone for Community School Success*. IEL Coalition for Community Schools National Forum. Baltimore, MD.
- Ellis, A. & Sweet, A. (2016, April). *Replicating Community Schools with Fidelity*. IEL Coalition for Community Schools National Forum. Albuquerque, NM.
- Ellis, A., Sears-Tolbert, C., Ellis, N., Hormel, T., & Volcy, K. (2012, May). *Leadership from the Center, Out and Back*. IEL Coalition for Community Schools National Forum Workshop. San Francisco, CA.
- Ellis, A., (2011, February). *Best Practices for Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Youth in School Setting*. The Center for Excellence in School Counseling and Leadership (CESCAL) Annual Conference. San Diego, CA.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Ellis, A., Hormell, T., Hale, D., & Wheeler, J. (2020, October). *Community Partnership Schools and Transformative Change*. Exceleator: A Community In Action National Conference. Alliance for Strong Families and Communities. Virtual Conference platform.
- Ellis, A. (2020, June). Rise Up for Equity National Virtual Summit (Policy by the People). Institute for Educational Leadership. Virtual Conference Platform.
- Ellis, A. (2019, March). *Community Partnership Schools: An Overview*. Manatee County Community Members. Bradenton FL.
- Ellis, A. (2019, February). *Community Partnership Schools: An Overview*. School District of Manatee County and partners. Bradenton, FL.
- Ellis, A. (2019, February). *The Community Partnership Schools™ Model*. Florida Legislature K12 Education Subcommittee. Tallahassee, FL.
- Ellis, A. (2019, February). *Community Partnership Schools' Approaches*. Palm Beach Schools. Palm Beach, FL.
- Ellis, A. (2019, January). *Community Partnership Schools: An Overview*. University of Central Florida Legislative Scholars Program. Orlando, FL.
- Ellis, A. (2018, October). *UCF-Certified Community Partnership Schools in Florida*. Alliance for Strong Families and Communities National Conference, national leaders' conversation. Denver, CO.
- Ellis, A., Naugle, S., & Carswell, K. (2018, December). *Community Schools – An Essential Equity Strategy*. Protect Our Public Schools (POPS) Forum. Sarasota, FL.

- Ellis, A. (2018). *Typology of Community Schools*. Community Partnership Schools Consortium. Orlando, FL.
- Ellis, A., & Wheeler, J. (2018, July). *Community Partnership Schools: An Overview*. North East Florida Educational Consortium. Ponte Vedra Beach, FL.
- Ellis, A., & Wheeler, J. (2018, May). *Community Partnership Schools: An Overview*. Parramore Education and Innovation District (PEID) Initiative. Orlando, FL.
- Ellis, A. (2017, November). *Community Schools in America and Beyond*. International Centre of Excellence for Community Schools Institute. Athens, Greece.
- Ellis, A. (2017, May). *Community Schools in America*. Family and Community Engagement Network. Newport, South Wales.
- Ellis, A. (2017, May). *Community Schools in America*. British Council Global Leaders of Education. Cardiff, Wales.
- Ellis, A., Linkh, J., & Only, T. (2017, February). *Development of Community Partnership Schools in Florida*. Florida Legislature, Higher Education Committee. Tallahassee, FL.
- Quinn., J., Ellis, A., Hill, C., & Jacobson, R. (2016, September). *How to Start a Community School*. National Webinar.
- Ellis., A., & Wheeler, J. (2017, April). *Community Partnership Schools*. UCF Urban Summit. Orlando, FL.
- Ellis, A. (2016). *Community Schools in Florida*. Florida Coordinated School Health Partnership Meeting. Tallahassee, FL.
- Ellis, A., & Sweet, A. (2016, February). *Community Schools*. Indian River School District. Sebastian, FL.
- Ellis, A. (2015, September). *Community Schools in Florida*. Pelican Island Elementary School. Sebastian, FL.
- Bundy, D., Ellis, A., & Anchors, J. (2015, September). *Community Schools in Florida*. Alachua County School Board Meeting. Tallahassee, FL.
- Castor-Dentel, K., Ellis, A., & Sweet, A. (2015, October). *Scaling Community Schools in Florida*. Children's Home Society of Florida Annual Innovations Symposium. Orlando, FL.
- Ellis, A. (2014). *Trauma Informed Care*. Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities (SEDNET). Tampa, FL.
- Ellis, A. (2008). *Drug Use and Adolescence*. Orange County Public Schools Area Superintendents' Meeting. Orange County Public Schools. Orlando, FL.

AFFILIATIONS, BOARD AND COMMITTEE SERVICE

- Dissertation Committee Member. Carla Morris. *Increasing Strategies and Programs for the Retention of Graduation of Black Undergraduate Students at the University of Central Florida*. National Louis University. For fulfillment of the requirements for Doctor of Education. (2020-present)
- Dissertation Committee Member. Brandon Lowe. *The Lasting Impact of the Community Partnership School on Student Self-Efficacy and Civic Engagement*. University of Central Florida. University of Central Florida. For Fulfillment of Doctor of Education. (2019-present)
- Member. National Coalition for Community School's Community School Leadership Network (2019-20)
- Founding Member and Partner. National Accreditation for the Advancement of Community Schools (NAACS) (2018-present)
- Member, Selection Committee (Director, Institute of Government) 2018-2019
- Board Member. International Center of Excellence in Community Schools (2019-present)
- VP of Education, Board Member. Authentic Culture & Engagement Solutions (2018-present)
- Chair. Evans High School, A Community Partnership School, Cabinet (2017-2019)

Chair. Evans High School, A Community Partnership School, Executive Team (2017-2019)
Chair. Community Partnership Schools Advisory Committee (2015-present)
Member. National Community Schools Capacity Building Network (2018-present)
Member. National University Assisted Community Schools Network (2018-present)
Lead/Facilitator. Florida Network of Community Schools (2016–present)
Member. Florida Coordinated School Health Partnership (2016-present)
Member. Community Partnership Schools Consortium (2017-present)
Member. Orange County Public Schools School Health and Wellness Advisory Council (2015-2019)
Lead/Facilitator, member. Community Partnership Schools Directors’ Learning Exchange (2017-present)
Lead/Facilitator, member. Community Partnership Schools University Partner Network (2016-present)
Lead/Facilitator, member. Community Partnership Schools Healthcare Partner Network (2016-present)
Lead/Facilitator, member. Community Partnership Schools School District Partner Network (2016-present)
Member and Assistant. Personal Power and Prosperity (2007-present)
Founder. SCP & Associates (2006-present)
Co-Founder and Board Member. Be Real (2006-2008)

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS AWARDED

Florida Department of Education. \$6,749,736 base + \$1,306,511 revert grant for Community Partnership Schools and Center for Community Schools (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020). Role: Primary Investigator.
Jefferson County School Board. \$60,000 grant awarded for Louisville, Kentucky community school consulting services (May 2020 – December 2020). Role: Primary Investigator.
Florida Department of Education. \$7,435,571 grant for Community Partnership Schools and Center for Community Schools (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020). Role: Primary Investigator.
Manatee Elementary School, Manatee District School Board. \$31,250 to provide technical assistance to develop Community Partnership School (April 15, 2019–June 30, 2020). Role: Primary Investigator.
Gove Elementary School, Palm Beach Lakes High School, West Riviera Elementary School. \$75,000 to provide technical assistance to develop community school (February 1, 2019–June 30, 2019). Role: Primary Investigator.
Florida Department of Education. \$1,400,000 grant for Community Partnership Schools (July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019). Role: Primary Investigator.
Florida Department of Education. \$1,000,000 grant for Community Partnership Schools (July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018). Role: Primary Investigator.
Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation. \$100,000 grant to implement STEAM programming into the Parramore community (July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018). Role: Primary Investigator.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Scholar Leader Award Nominee, UCF’s College of Community Innovation and Education (2019)
Years of Service Recognition, Evans High School (2015)
Leadership Recognition for Successful Launch of Evans Community School. Children’s Home Society of Florida (2012)

Outstanding Program Support Person of the Year, Speak Out Hotline (2006-2007)

Teacher of the Year Nominee, Orange County Public Schools (1998-1999)

CREATIVE WORKS

Ellis, A. (2016). One Force. [MP3 file]. Orlando, FL.

Ellis, A. (2013). Om Mani Padme Hum. [MP3 file]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2009). God's Grace. In *Sing! Prayer & Praise Songbook*. UCC Worldwide.

Ellis, A. (2008). Dance With Me. On *TWO* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2008). There Is Only Love. On *TWO* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2008). Flyin'. On *TWO* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2008). Here I Am. On *TWO* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2008). He Is Born. On *TWO* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. & Possell, L. (2008). Children of God. On *TWO* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2008). Breath of God. On *TWO* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2008). Guiding Light. On *TWO* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2008). New Meaning. On *TWO* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2008). Sacred Love. [MP3]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2006). We Are One. On *ONE: Songs of Amy Ellis* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2006). God's Grace. On *ONE: Songs of Amy Ellis* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2006). Show Me How To Love. On *ONE: Songs of Amy Ellis* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2006). Our Hope Unites. On *ONE: Songs of Amy Ellis* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2006). Coming Home. On *ONE: Songs of Amy Ellis* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2006). My Faith. On *ONE: Songs of Amy Ellis* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2006). Celebrate! On *ONE: Songs of Amy Ellis* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2006). Through God's Eyes. On *ONE: Songs of Amy Ellis* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2006). You Are Always Here. On *ONE: Songs of Amy Ellis* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A., & Possell, L. (2006). What Is Life? On *ONE: Songs of Amy Ellis* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2006). The Lord's Prayer, *arrangement*. On *ONE: Songs of Amy Ellis* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2006). *ONE: Songs of Amy Ellis Songbook: Piano Vocal Guitar*. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2006). Last Four. On *Clearing the Channel* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2006). Your Loss is Our Gain. On *Clearing the Channel* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2006). By My Side. On *Clearing the Channel* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2006). Come With Me. On *Clearing the Channel* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2006). Calling. On *Clearing the Channel* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2006). Alexis Danielle. On *Clearing the Channel* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

Ellis, A. (2006). McKenna's Lullaby. On *Clearing the Channel* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.

- Ellis, A. (2006). Our Hope Unites. On *Clearing the Channel* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.
- Ellis, A. (2006). Breath. On *Clearing the Channel* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.
- Ellis, A. (2006). What is Life? On *Clearing the Channel* [CD]. Orlando, FL: Spirit Calling Productions.
- Ellis, A. (1994). 800 Literacy Music Score. *800 Literacy Radio* [Commercial]. Tampa, FL.
- Ellis, A. (1994). West Palm Auto Mall Theme. West Palm Auto Mall [Commercial]. Daytona, FL.
- Ellis, A. (1993). Ghost of Drury Lane Music Score. On *Ghost of Drury Lane* [Film]. London, England. Florida State University School of Motion Picture, Television and Recording Arts.
- Ellis, A. (1993). Sound Editor. *Hidden Fears* [Motion Picture]. Orlando, FL.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

College of Community Innovation and Education, Orlando, FL

Director, Center for Community Schools

9/22/2017-present

- Lead Center's work in state, national, and international efforts for community school development and advancement.
- Provide leadership for Center vision, mission, values, and focus areas of community school technical assistance, university assistance, assessment and evaluation, and training and development.
- Partner and consult with International Centre of Excellence for Community Schools and other international partners as first International University Hub for Community Schools.
- Lead development of and quality improvement standard models for community schools statewide, including UCF-certification standards and processes.
- Continue improvement measures for model fidelity of Community Partnership School community schools, providing training and development to the field.
- Manage multimillion-dollar statewide Community Partnership Schools and Center for Community Schools budget.
- Develop and lead multi-pronged business model for work from the Center for Community Schools.
- Partner with other lead national and international agencies to explore and implement best practices aimed to increase equity and improve educational outcomes through community school development and advancement practices.

Assistant Director, Center for Community Schools

4/3/2015-9/21/2017

- Provided leadership and technical assistance to emerging community school initiatives across Florida.
- Developed, implemented, and led state-wide networks for Community Partnership Schools' ongoing development and support.
- Developed start-up structure, processes, resources, and state-wide support system for emerging sites.
- Designed and led Center for Community Schools website and communication efforts.
- Developed resources for state-wide Community Partnership School development including presentations, professional development, certification, and evaluation.
- Developed and implemented Community Partnership Schools™ standards and processes for accreditation of UCF-Certified Community Partnership Schools ensuring fidelity of model replication.
- Developed transparent and fair grant processes for Community Partnership Schools planning and implantation grants.
- Assisted Community Partnership School advocacy and sustainability efforts.

ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Maynard Evans High School, Orlando FL

Sr. Administrator, Evans Community School (ECS)

3/14/2011-3/20/2015

Leadership and Management:

- Provided collaborative leadership with partners to develop and implement comprehensive community school framework for first Community Partnership Schools™ model community school in Florida. Model subsequently replicated statewide.
- Co-managed ECS operations team; supervised 25-30 EHS teachers and community school staff; developed, nurtured and managed partner relationships within ECS framework; served as school liaison for SAC, PTSA and other partner organizations including Elevate Orlando and City Year.
- Implemented and assured aligned-to-goal functioning of all ECS programs and services (health, mental health, extended day, parent involvement, specialty services and special projects) and compliance within ECS/EHS policies and procedures and developed framework.
- Collected, analyzed, and tracked student discipline, attendance, and academic progress data, and aligned all ECS programs and efforts to ensure student performance improvement.
- Trained EHS faculty and staff in areas of ECS services and crisis intervention.

Significant Improvements:

- Led school-wide administrative efforts contributing to the turning of a 6-year 'D' or 'F' grade Evans High School into an all-time-high 'C' grade for 2010-2011, 'B' grade for 2011-2012, and 'B' grade for 2012-2013.
- Administrator over CTE efforts where Industry Certification improved from 186 in 2011 to 525 in 2012.
- Led tutoring and intervention efforts contributing to improvements in proficiency for "Lowest 25% in Reading" from 35% in 2009-2010 to 73% in 2012-2013.
- Led school-wide Multi-Tiered Student Support (MTSS), SAC, PTSA, and Evans Intervention Team efforts improving academic, attendance, student social-emotional and medical needs.

Intervention Specialist (Y.E.S. Grant) and Community School Coordinator 8/2/2010-3/13/2011

- Prepared and transitioned existing structures, programs and services into viable community school framework.
- Coached, mentored, and coordinated tutors and student support services for 41 targeted at-risk Haitian youth and juvenile offenders. Results within one semester: 16% attained a two-grade increase in reading, 86% improved in reading or math proficiency, and 100% achieved non-recidivism.
- Provided advocacy services, individual conferencing, tutoring, and support for academic achievement.
- Participated in cooperative effort with school leadership to plan, implement, and evaluate programs of improvement.
- Connected parents to student learning and progress through home visits, community contact, and phone contact.
- Provided teacher and staff opportunities for connection and training to improve relational capacity.
- Maintained communication with related Department of Juvenile Justice and law enforcement contacts.

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTER, Orlando, FL

District Student Assistance and Family Empowerment (SAFE) Coordinator 8/4/2003-7/30/2010

- Led district-wide prevention and intervention programs in the areas of violence and alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD); analyzed data and aligned program needs based on school/learning area.
- Trained district teachers, administrators, and staff in child-abuse reporting procedures, suicide prevention, cutting/self-injury, grief and loss, support groups, Baker Act policies and procedures, ethics, LGBT awareness and legal issues, bullying prevention, cooperative discipline, gangs, drug trends, class meetings, and peer mediation.

- Designed and implemented SAFE Ambassador Program, a district-wide student anti-violence initiative.
- Led local collaborative efforts and served as national consultant after developing *Best Practices for Educators working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Youth*. Invited to present work at National CESCAL Conference in 2011.

LAKEVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL, Winter Garden, FL

West Area SAFE Prevention Specialist

8/7/2000–8/1/2003

- Served as chairperson of “Building Our Assets Together,” the West Orange 40 Developmental Asset Initiative. Led stakeholder focus groups and community asset-based collaborative.
- Modeled, coached and consulted with teachers and parents to effectively facilitate class and parent meetings.
- Trained educators, parents, community members: *Ruby Payne – A Framework for Understanding Poverty, Peer Mediation 10 components of Peace by Piece, Positive Discipline, Anger Management, Communication, Quality/Family Circles/Class Meetings, Brain-Based Learning, Conflict Management, Developmental Assets.*
- Served as School Advisory and Parent Teacher Student Association member.
- Served as school climate specialist and parent involvement coordinator.
- Developed “*Play Shops*” for West Area Middle School teachers aimed to build staff relational capacity.
- Facilitated psycho-educational groups: Anger Management, Children of Substance Abusers (COSA), other.

English Department Chair/Language Arts Teacher (grade 8)

8/2/1999-8/4/2000

- Taught language arts to grade 8 students.
- Provided leadership to English department in choosing and developing curriculum, and implementing programs for improvement.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION – Orange Group Treatment Center, Adolescent Therapeutic Center, Orlando, FL

Lead English and General/Digital Music Teacher

3/7/1994–7/30/1999

- Taught music and English to students in grades 6-12.
- Used electronic music as alternative method of teaching literacy and English to at-risk youth.
- Provided leadership to alternative education teachers in English, program development, and TABE testing.