

## DESE Educator Preparation Reviewers 2025-2026

**Raphael Rogers**  
Clark University



Raphael Rogers has been a Professor of Practice at Clark University since 2012. At Clark, Rogers is affiliated with the Master of Arts in Teaching program, the Adam Institute for Urban Teaching and School Practice, and the Community, Youth, and Education Studies Program. He teaches various courses, including Exploring the Power of Youth Knowledge and Activism, Graphic Novels in the Classroom, Multicultural Children's and Young Adult Literature, Racism and Educational Inequality in the Lives of Youth in Urban Schools, Teaching and Learning, and Ways of Knowing History.

Before joining Clark, Raphael taught history in Newton, Amherst, and Springfield. He is also the author of *Representing Black Girl Magic in Contemporary Picture Books* (2025) and *The Representation of Slavery in Children's Picture Books: Teaching and Learning About Slavery in K-12 Classrooms* (2018). Rogers is a board member of the Massachusetts Association of Colleges for Teacher Education and has served as an Ed Prep Reviewer for nearly a decade.

Raphael earned his Bachelor of Arts in History from Clark University, a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Northeastern University, and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

---

**Allison LeClair**  
Stonehill College



Allison LeClair has vast experience and knowledge working with new and veteran educators across the state and currently serves as the Assistant Director of Accreditation and Assessment for the Division of Graduate and Professional Studies at Stonehill College.

Prior to that, Allison held various roles in PK-12 public education for over 35 years, most recently retiring as a school superintendent for Easthampton Public Schools. During her tenure as superintendent, she served as a member of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Executive Board.

Allison has a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Education and a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction both from the University of Massachusetts Lowell campus, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from American International College in Springfield, MA.

**Rashaun Martin**  
**Boston Public Schools**



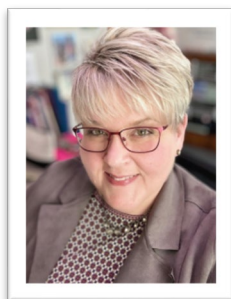
Rashaun J. Martin is the Managing Director of Recruitment, Cultivation and Diversity Programs in the Office of Human Resources for the Boston Public Schools.

For seven years, Rashaun was the District Supervisor of Social Studies and World Languages for the Haverhill Public Schools. In the Spring of 2019, Rashaun returned to the Boston Public Schools to assume a new role as the Educators of Color Cultivation & Retention Specialist. While in this position, he expanded the ALANA Cultivation Program and the Male and Women Educators of Color Executive Coaching Leadership programs, supported provisional and permanent educators of color, instituted a degree completion program for employees with area colleges and universities, and established a mentor program for 2nd and 3rd year educators of color, culminating in a comprehensive portfolio of Retention Programs and Services which also includes a monthly newsletter, support for Affinity Groups, and Exit Interviews.

Rashaun was born in Roxbury and raised in Dorchester, MA. As a graduate of the Boston Latin School, Class of 1997, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in history from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. in 2001. From there, he earned a Master of Arts in Teaching in 2002 and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Education Administration in 2006 from Simmons College in Boston.

---

**Jillian DiBonaventura**  
**Worcester Polytechnic Institute**



Jillian DiBonaventura serves as the Director of Teacher Preparation at the STEM Education Center at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI).

With 26 years of experience as an urban educator, Jillian has taught Middle School Science, K-12 Music, and AVID in the Worcester Public Schools. Trained in Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) through Brown University, Jillian is particularly passionate about integrating mindfulness to address the social-emotional needs of learners, utilizing inquiry-based teaching methodologies, and applying the latest brain research to enhance student learning.

She holds a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a master's degree in Middle School Education from Worcester State University. Jillian is also preparing to further her education as a doctoral candidate in WPI's Learning Sciences program in the coming years.

**De'Shawn Washington**  
**Lexington Public Schools**



De'Shawn Washington is the 2024 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year and the 2025 Massachusetts Teaching Excellence Award Winner from the National Education Association. He is a fourth-grade inclusion teacher at the Maria Hastings Elementary School in Lexington, MA. As a teacher, De'Shawn is passionate about building strong, respectful classroom communities, collaborating with colleagues on developing equitable lessons, and using data to drive instructional practice. In addition, De'Shawn is the Founder and President of Cultivating Changemakers, LLC, where he models a four-step process to foster a community of changemakers through Seed Planting, Watering, Pruning, and Harvesting. He provides consulting services for schools and districts on restorative justice, open circle concepts, and student engagement while delivering training on building classroom communities that drive academic growth. With over seven years of experience in education, he has a proven track record of promoting academic achievement, equity, and inclusion. Recognized for his expertise in culturally responsive teaching and leadership, De'Shawn has published articles and delivered presentations, such as *Cultivating Changemakers: Igniting the Joy in Learning* and *The Inclusion of Race: A Holistic Examination*. He is passionate about advancing equity in education and developing changemakers among educators and students alike. De'Shawn believes all students have the capability to become Changemakers who are civic-minded and culturally responsive within and beyond their community space.

De'Shawn holds a Master of Education in Special Education and Elementary Education from UMass Boston, and he is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy at Vanderbilt University, with an anticipated completion in May 2025.

**Mary Beth Cashman**  
**College of the Holy Cross**



Mary Beth Cashman has served as the Director of the Teacher Education Program at the College of the Holy Cross for the past nine years. Her role at Holy Cross is a perfect blend of teaching, advising, and recruiting the next generation of teachers.

Prior to this role, Mary Beth spent three years teaching at the Nativity Preparatory School in New Bedford, Massachusetts - a tuition-free middle school for low-income boys – and Hudson High School.

Mary Beth is a 2005 graduate of Holy Cross and received her M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Boston College in 2009. When she's not working, she can be found running the streets of Shrewsbury or coaching her daughters Felicity (7) and Pippa (5) on the softball or field hockey fields!

**Stephanie Logan**  
Springfield College

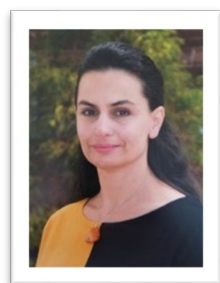


Dr. Stephanie R. Logan was promoted to Professor of Elementary and Multicultural Education at Springfield College in spring 2024, where she also serves as the chair of the Department of Education. Dr. Logan co-chairs the Race and Ethnicity Working Group at Springfield College and represents the department's interest in the Western Massachusetts Diverse Teacher Workforce Coalition. Dr. Logan is also a charter school board trustee for Baystate Academy Charter School.

Dr. Logan is a former elementary school teacher in Newport News, VA, and a former elementary and middle school counselor in Columbus, OH, and Baltimore, MD. Dr. Logan has also served as an assistant and associate professor of elementary and multicultural education and briefly served as the elementary division program coordinator at the University of Northern Iowa. While serving at the University of Northern Iowa, Dr. Logan was responsible for initiating professional development and faculty support for multicultural education and advising the Multicultural Teaching Alliance.

Dr. Logan holds an Ed.D. in Urban Educational Leadership from Morgan State University, an M.A. in Counselor Education from the Ohio State University, and a B.S. in Elementary Education from Morgan State University. Her research interests include action research in teacher education classrooms, teaching social studies in elementary classrooms, multicultural education, and documenting the professional experiences of Black women teachers and teacher educators. Dr. Logan co-edited *Black Women Navigating Historically White Higher Education Institutions and the Journey Toward Liberation* and *Integrating Social Justice Education in Teacher Preparation Programs*. In 2020, Dr. Logan completed her 200-hour yoga teacher training with Get Loved Up and integrates it in her work with teachers.

**Emirjona Haxhimihali**  
Lexington Public Schools

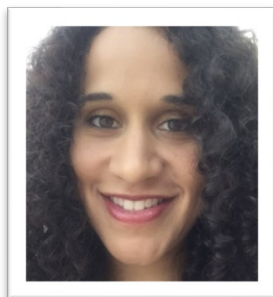


Emirjona Haxhimihali is an English as a Second Language teacher at Lexington High School.

She has a long experience in the academic setting, teaching ESL, Methodology of Research in Education, Literature, Translation, Reading, Writing, TOEFL, etc. She has previously taught at Newton and Natick Public Schools, UMass Boston, Middlesex Community College, Framingham State University, and the University of Tirana, Albania at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Emirjona holds a bachelor's degree in English, a bachelor's degree in Law, a master's degree in Linguistics/Translation, and a PhD in Linguistics/Legal Language from the University of Tirana, Albania.

**Melisa Grandison**  
Teach Western Mass

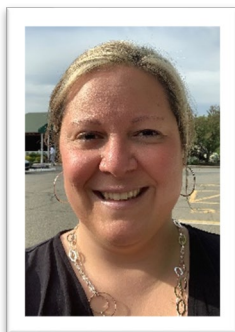


Melisa Grandison leads the Teach Western Mass Residency program of study. Melisa has a decade of experience in education which includes curriculum development, K-12 teaching, instructional and leadership coaching, administration and advocacy and has done the majority of this work here in Western Massachusetts. Melisa is passionate about anti-racism and justice work and has spent 10 years on the board of directors for a national nonprofit doing this transformative work. She believes in the power of education as one of the most useful tools of change and is excited to help equip early career educators with the necessary skills to provide area students with the education they deserve.

Melisa earned her B.A in K-12 Education and Applied Communication from McPherson College and later earned her M.A. in Spanish Literature from Wichita State University. She currently resides in Western, MA where in her free time, she enjoys reading, organizing, and frequenting community spaces and events with her family.

---

**Audra Marini**  
Worcester Public Schools

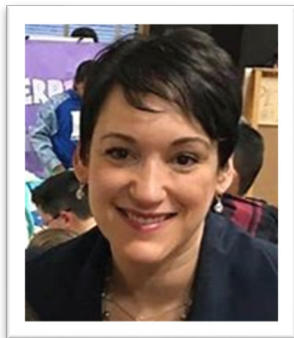


Audra Marini is a dedicated high school mathematics teacher at Worcester Technical High School with over 18 years of experience in education.

Throughout her career, Audra has taught in both comprehensive and vocational schools, bringing a wealth of knowledge and adaptability to her teaching practices. She is passionate about engaging students in their learning, fostering curiosity, and helping them achieve their full potential. As a Google Certified Trainer, Audra integrates technology into her teaching to enhance student understanding and create interactive learning experiences. She is actively involved in her school community, serving as an advisor to the National Honor Society and several other school clubs. Through these roles, she mentors students in leadership, service, and academic excellence. Audra also contributes to state-level education initiatives as a member of the Grade 10 Math MCAS Assessment Development Committee.

Audra holds a bachelor' in Mathematics from Franklin Pierce University and a master's in special education from the University of New England. Outside of school, she extends her commitment to making a difference by participating in community service initiatives. Her dedication to education and her community reflects her belief in the importance of empowering others and creating opportunities for growth and success.

**Valerie J.C. Annear**  
Springfield College



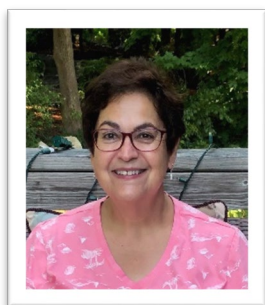
Valerie J.C. Annear serves as the Director of Educator Preparation & Licensure at Springfield College, a role she has held since July 2022.

She brings over 25 years of experience in PK-12 public education in Western Massachusetts, where she led initiatives in educator induction, coaching models, evaluation systems, curriculum implementation, and professional development. Her leadership roles included Chief Instructional Officer for Holyoke Public Schools, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment in East Longmeadow, and several district leadership roles in Springfield Public Schools including Director of Project LEAD, a district-based licensure program, the Director of Cohesive Leadership Grant Partnership, a Wallace Foundation-sponsored partnership supporting urban school leadership. Valerie has presented nationally on leadership development and literacy improvement and statewide on MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) development and implementation, advocating for best practices in educator preparation, licensure, and induction.

Valerie holds a B.S. in Education and an M.Ed. in Special Education from American International College, a C.A.G.S. in Educational Leadership from UMASS-Amherst, and is currently pursuing her PhD in Educational Leadership.

---

**Cynthia Grammer**  
Berklee College of Music



Cynthia Grammer is a dedicated educational leader with over three decades of experience in K-12 education and music.

After retiring as a Music Teacher, Assistant Principal, and Fine Arts Director, she has spent the past nine years at Berklee College of Music, focusing on the Educator Preparation Program to promote equitable opportunities for all learners.

Cynthia has served in various leadership roles in the Massachusetts Music Educators Association, including president, and advocates for quality urban music education. She is also committed to supporting young women and non-binary musicians through her work with JazzHers, empowering them in the jazz community.