

Clianda Arne'e Florence

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Motto: Everyone can be great because everyone can serve. We must listen, learn & lead with love!

Offering over 20 years of Achievement in Developing Productive Student-Focused Environments to Maximize Learning Experiences

I am a leader in education reform where students are challenged to become both critical and analytical thinkers in our schools and communities. Dedicated, resourceful education professional with proven ability to: create and monitor policies and practices that promote a safe learning environment; ensure a school culture that encourages continuous improvements for students and parents while partnering with the community and other stakeholders to ensure success, open communication with colleagues, students, and the community; creating and implementing meaningful professional developments, strong culturally responsive, restorative practice, and emancipatory pedagogy, core skills include:

Student-Centered Instruction/Program Development/ Parental & Community Involvement/ Attendance & Grade Reports/ Curriculum Development & Implementation/ Training & Development/ Team Player & Building/ Classroom Management/ Evidence Based Learning/Create Enthusiasm for learning/Data Driven Instruction

“Clianda is an exceptionally energetic and enthusiastic educator...projects a charisma that captures the imagination of students...demonstrates excellent classroom management skill...”

***Dr. Andrew Ray
Former Administrator***

CERTIFICATION/EDUCATION/CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION

Professional Certifications NY State Elementary Education.
SBL/SDL Certification pending Graduation December
Bachelor of Psychology, Bennett College for Women, Greensboro, NC.
M.S. Elementary Education, Nazareth College, Rochester, NY.
Certificate of Advanced Study of Educational Administration, The College at Brockport,
Rochester NY
Doctoral Candidate of Teaching & Curriculum, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
YWCA 2024 Rochester & Monroe County Equity Through Development

AWARDS

2024 New York State Senate Award from Senator Jeremy A. Cooney
Commendation Award

2024 New York State Senate Proclamation from Senator Samra G. Brouk
Honoring Let's Get L.I.T. For Advancing Literacy and Empowering Communities

2024 New York State Senate Certificate of Recognition from Jeremy A. Cooney
Recognizing Let's Get L.I.T. Upon the Occasion of the Inaugural Annual Fundraiser

2024 Finalists for the Association of Fundraising Professionals Genesee Valley Chapter
Burton S. August, Sr. Award for Community Leadership

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Let's Get L.I.T. , Rochester, New York
Founder/CEO

Let's Get L.I.T. stands for Liberating Individuals Through Literary Texts. My literacy program looks to create home libraries within the homes of families with new books. The program also looks to teach cursive to children and adults, a skill that needs to be placed back into the curriculum. If children can't read or write cursive how will they be able to read historical documents or sign paperwork? Let's Get L.I.T. also offers after school and summer program's where parents and children are equipped with resources and skills to improve literacy skills and ways they can help at home. Within six months I've secured \$104,999 for my literacy initiative. I have done several speaking engagements about the need to Get L.I.T. Literacy is our greatest social Justice Issue of our time. I believe together we can achieve more.

PiRI (Partners in Restorative Initiatives), Rochester, New York
January 2024 - August 2024

Co-Executive Director

Working directly with school and community leaders to develop and oversee the implementation of Restorative Practices programs and services. Providing leadership in program development and evaluation, collaborating with board, staff, and trainer and facilitator team, on proposals for program and organizational initiatives. Oversee the recruitment, training, and supervision of

certified trainers and facilitators to fulfill programmatic needs. Support the development of restorative justice programming, building relationships with courts and criminal justice agencies. Serve as a liaison and advocate for Restorative Practices within the community, representing the organization at community meetings and events, statewide and national conferences, and in work with partner agencies. Oversee the production of materials to publicize the organization's goals, programs, and activities, including email newsletters and social media. Develop and implement a comprehensive fundraising plan including annual giving, grant development, major gifts, and stewardship to meet the goals and operational needs of the organization, guided by the goals of the strategic plan.

Greece Central School District, Rochester, New York August 2022-June 2023
Certified Elementary Teacher English & Social Studies

6th grade English Language Arts and Social Studies, I'm responsible for creating and implementing weekly Culturally Responsive lesson plans with meaningful rigorous assignments for scholars. Establishing and maintaining relationships with scholars, families, and staff are essential to a strong learning community. Literacy is the gateway aiding scholars on their journey to success. I look to restore the love, joy and wonder back to literacy by creating a L.I.T. Literacy Rich Environment where scholars are encouraged to read what they love and are fascinated by. I created Turning Pages with Ms. Flow Book Club during lunch to introduce books and authors they may or may not be familiar with; while also working on reading, writing and speaking skills. Scholars learn to read and write cursive, have various group and public speaking opportunities.

Buffalo Public School
Buffalo, New York
March 2022-August 2022
Coordinator of Curriculum Infusion & Diversity

Responsible for ensuring curriculum K-12 is infused with cultural relevance and diversity. Ensuring educators are using modern day resources that will impact diversity within classrooms district wide. Create lesson plans and cultural recognition throughout the school year. Reviews and approves books and textbooks used district wide. Develops and administers professional development for educators within the district.

Buffalo Public School
Buffalo, New York
February 2020-March 2022
Certified Elementary Teacher

6th grade educator in an Inclusion Classroom. I am responsible for creating lesson plans and assignments for students. I develop meaningful relationships with students, families, and staff. I believe to change the achievement gap in education we must work to close the attitude gap of how we view students, where they come from, their communities and abilities. I also believe

students are more than a number, data driven instruction is important, but it should not take away from one's ability to be creative and meet students where they are to get them to where we want them to be. Recently I am working with administration to develop meaningful professional development with staff during the pandemic. Currently I teach 5th grade where we departmentalize affording me the opportunity to teach ELA and Social Studies. I was asked to be a part of a pilot for the 1619 project Born on the Water. I conducted several training and professional learning opportunities. I also worked alongside the Cultural Learning & Responsive Initiatives (CLRI) to create curriculum district wide.

Rochester Academy Charter School, Rochester, New York

August 2017-June 2019

Certified Elementary Teacher Social Studies & Black History

For the past two years I have taught 6th grade Social Studies and created a curriculum for the Black History elective that I also teach. I have mentored incoming teachers and aided teachers who struggled with classroom management. While at RACS I created Together Achieving More offering students and parents the opportunity to receive services from local barbers and hair stylists for free and brought in local speakers from the community to enrich the learning experience for students. Though Together Achieving More students and their families were afforded community service opportunities and field trips. Several projects have been funded through Donors Choose, one project entitled The Beauty of Black History allowing students to interact with material from the Dred Scott Supreme Court decision of 1857, first KKK of 1866 to Jim Crow error and picaninny art just to name a few. I have worked on interdisciplinary projects with ELA to strengthen students' written responses and ability to articulate themselves on a critical and analytical level. Students had the opportunity to bring their learning local by visiting the U of R rare books and papers collections to analyze and evaluate papers my grandfather Minister Franklin Florence wrote, and the FIGHT Organization he began in the 60's. I also aided parents on ways to advocate for themselves and their children and made home visits throughout the year.

Excel Education Services Inc, Rochester, New York

August 2012-July 2015

Team Coordinator

I was responsible for leading two schools with teams of 5-8 educators at each location and approximately 100 students. I worked in collaboration with each school's administration team. We worked to increase students' ELA and Math scores. We had to create SMART goals and meet periodically to monitor the progress of the students. There was constant communication with parents, and I developed numerous opportunities for parents to learn how they can help their students at home as we work together to close the achievement gap.

Rochester City School District, Rochester, New York
September 2004-June 2015; 2019
Certified Elementary Teacher

I have eleven years teaching experience grades K-12 at various schools in the RCSD. I have helped reform classroom management, created community partnerships with the Faith Community Alliance, and area businesses. I worked with grass-root parent organizations such as CAFEE (Community Advocates for Educational Excellence). Improved student achievement by combining my creativity with innovative pedagogical practices where students can see themselves in the curriculum while being challenged to think both critically and analytically. I built meaningful relationships with parents where they were empowered to be advocates for their children and became more involved. Developed creative and rigorous student discipline systems that creates positive vigor in each student where enthusiasm is produced, and students are motivated to be the very best they can be. I was able to show the greatest growth on AIMS Web among the 6th grade and in the entire school at Nathaniel Rochester. Students were able to jump two grade levels in ELA. I developed Read with Me; learning opportunity for my lows within my class to shine when the entire class adopted a Kindergarten and 2nd grade class twice a week throughout the year.

F.I.G.H.T Village
Summer Enrichment Program
Rochester, New York
June 2006 – Aug 2006
Assistant Director

While holding this position I was responsible for creating all activities for the students that attended the Summer Enrichment Program. I also created professional development programs for the summer youth counselors that worked with me and kept track of their time. I had the responsibility to ensure the day ran well with no problems and aided in problem solving among the students and the staff.

PROGRAMS CREATED & IMPLEMENTED

Let's Get L.I.T. Podcast

In March of 2023, I partnered with WDKX, a local radio station to launch a podcast educating the community around our greatest social Justice issue Literacy. The podcast has had many guests to aid in Getting L.I.T. The reach does not just touch Rochester and Monroe County, but Globally.

Recognition Blvd.

At "Recognition Blvd. "students, parents and community members will be recognized for outstanding work they have done either in or out of the classroom.

G. I. F. T. E.D. Hands

Grandparents Inspire Future Talent Every Day a community partnership with senior citizens who would like to adopt a classroom.



Becoming D.O.V.E

Girls group that addresses issues that young ladies face and focuses on reading, writing, public speaking and learning from older women and men that can help guide them.

TEAM Possible

Students have an opportunity to showcase what they learned in their core courses while working in a group. On their trifold they showcase what they have learned. They also create portions in cursive; create a takeaway for people that view their trifold, showcase their public speaking skills and their creativity by creating standalone that also exemplify what they learned.

Come Read with Me

This program is designed to strengthen student's ability to read and their confidence. Each year an older grade will spend a portion of their ELA time reading to younger grade level.

A Page with Coffee

This program gave parents and guardians an opportunity to read a book together or gain information on ways to better advocate for their children. Through this program parents are encouraged to take part in the school community and learn along with their children.

The Writings on the Wall

Common Core has given us a wonderful opportunity to infuse text to world connections while improving student's ability to improve their writing skills. This opportunity has given students the opportunity to showcase their writing in creative ways: Poetry Slams, Spoken Word, Story Telling, Writing their own books.

DATA & ME

Using the information collected in ELA and Math to inform instruction by arranging groups within the class setting, creating displays where the students are able to see where they are and creating goals around where they want to be. Teachers meeting and sharing ideas they had that created a stronger classroom community and infusing stakeholders, parents and guardians to help achieve their goals.

Together Achieving More

Affording students and parents the opportunity to receive free haircuts and hairstyles, community service projects, guest speakers and field trip opportunities and a richer experience when learning.

CONFERENCES PRESENTED

2022 7th Urban Forum Buffalo NY - The 1619 Project Born on the Water

2022 5th Annual Reentry & Community Development Benefit Dinner - Educating Black Boys

2022 Teaching Black History Conference at University of Buffalo- Let's Get L.I.T.(Liberating Individuals Through Literary Texts)

2022 Buffalo Mayor's Women's Month Program Presenter

2023 University of Rochester DSPSA Conference- Let's Get L.I.T.: Unpacking the Liberating Qualities within Literacy



- 2023 Literacy Council Conference- Let's Get L.I.T.: A Rebirth of How Literacy is Seen
- 2023 6th Annual UB Teaching Black History Conference Sounds of Blackness: Hip Hop Turns 50- Let's Get L.I.T: Learning the Emancipatory Context & Contributions of Hip Hop with Literacy
- 2023 Antiracist Education Conference- Let's Get L.I.T.: L.I.T. Literacy Through the Eyez of Minister Franklin Florence
- 2023 Oswego College Literacy Conference- Let's Get L.I.T. : Developing Self-Awareness Through Emancipatory Literacy
- 2023 6th Annual Reentry & Community Development Benefit Dinner - Literacy in the Technology Age
- 2023 Black Woman's Authors & Poets: Let's Get L.I.T. : The Power of Words
- 2023 7th Annual Black Authors Expo Keynote Speaker
- 2023 Rochester Literacy Council Fall Kickoff Keynote Speaker : The Power of L.I.T. Literacy
- 2023 NYSRA Conference, Better Together: Paths Forward in Literacy, Learning, and Hope : Let's Get L.I.T. : How podcasts aid in Addressing The Greatest Social Justice Issue
- 2024 Women's Empowerment Weekend: I AM SHE

Grants Awarded

Securing \$104,999 in less than six months

- 2023 Grantee of New Initiative of Senator Jeremy Cooney's Supporting Children's Literacy Initiative
- 2023 Bureau of Health Equity & Community Engagement Grant
- 2023 Literacy Initiative Fully Vetted & Support by County Executive Adam Bello & Mayor Malik Evens
- 2024 Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation Arts and Culture Initiative administered by Rochester Area Community Foundation

Philanthropic Time & Resources

2023

Partnership with Dr.Paul Miller to secure literacy resources and materials together sent to Liberia Africa

Let's Get L.I.T Podcast on WDKX

[The Get L.I.T Podcast \(Liberating Individuals Through Literary Texts\) EP. 9 – 103.9 WDKX](#)

[The Get L.I.T Podcast \(Liberating Individuals Through Literary Texts\) EP.8 – 103.9 WDKX](#)

[Let's Get L.I.T. \(Liberating Individuals Through Liberating Texts\) Podcast – 103.9 WDKX](#)

Television Appearances

2024 Good Day Rochester

https://foxrochester.com/news/good-day-rochester/clianda-florence-talks-summer-family-literary-program?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR3-KgQRtksCygInd0oSvwB4oHbehqJAGg86d7j7Za285ZSymV49KyM3sfE_aem_rTEEnXblUe4PBZXU8q_fmFA

2024 WROC 8 News

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/local-news/lets-get-lit-concludes-its-second-year-in-rochester/>

2024 Spectrum

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/news/2024/12/14/changing-the-story-of-literacy-in-rochester/>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREATED

Five Types of Teachers

What happens to a dream deferred?

What are we creating?

Teaching to the Minds of Boys

What teachers need to know but are afraid to ask about African American Students

The Empty Desk

The Things We Carry

Student Leaders: Building Common Unity

Understanding My Bias & World Views Within A Restorative Culture

What I See! What they See!

The Beauty in Me

Knowing & Understanding your Role!

The Road of Becoming and Learning to Be

Understanding the Restorative Way of Life

Re-Engaging the Disengaged

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Stamped from the Beginning

Understanding Gangs

Team Building

Understanding Student Voice

Understanding & Implementing Culturally Responsive Pedagogy

Bloom's Taxonomy

The Effective Leader

Power, Perception & Prejudice2

Microsoft Teams & Schoology

Teach like a Pirate

Student Centered Learning

Classroom Management

STEM

Think before You Act

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Feminists Choosing Life of New York Executive Board- Currently
Reentry & Community Development Center, Inc. Executive Board- Currently
Executive Board of Rochester Area Literacy Council(RALC)- Currently
RAMPI Anti-Poverty Initiative- 1year
RCSD Parent & Community Board- 1 year
Mentor to Children who parents are incarcerated-2 years
Mentor Woman who are incarcerated-2 years
Buffalo Public School CLRI Department Curriculum Writing- 2 years
Creating Anti-Racist Curriculum with Rochester Science Museum- 3 years
Take It Down/ Faith Community Alliance – 5 years
CAFEE (Community Advocates for Educational Excellence)-8 years
Central Church of Christ Teacher – 10 years