

James Ryan Alverson
Curriculum Vitae

Contact Information

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Education

- 8/09 - 5/14 Ph.D.in Educational Psychology, Department of Educational Studies in Psychology, Research Methodology, and Counseling, The University of Alabama; Tuscaloosa, AL.
Dissertation: A model of hopelessness, belongingness, engagement, and academic achievement.
Advisor: Dr. Cecil Robinson
- 8/03 - 5/06 Master's in Secondary Education, Social Science Concentration, The University of Alabama; Tuscaloosa, AL.
- 8/96 - 8/00 Bachelor's in Business Administration, Management Major, The University of Alabama; Tuscaloosa, AL.

Professional Experience

- 8/21- Present Associate Professor, College of Education, Northern Kentucky University; Highland Heights, KY.
- 8/15 - 8/21 Assistant Professor, College of Education, Northern Kentucky University; Highland Heights, KY.
- 8/14 - 5/15 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Studies in Psychology, Research Methodology and Counseling, College of Education, University of Alabama; Tuscaloosa, AL.
- 8/09 - 5/14 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Educational Studies in Psychology, Research Methodology and Counseling, College of Education, University of Alabama; Tuscaloosa, AL.
- 11/08 - 5/09 Department Head and Secondary Teacher, Social Studies Department, Northridge High School; Tuscaloosa, AL.

8/06 - 5/09 Secondary Teacher, Social Studies Department, Northridge High School;
Tuscaloosa, AL.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Faulkner, S., Cook, C., Alverson, R., DiCicco, M. (Under Review). A Shared Vision? Exploring the Perceptions of Principals and Teachers Regarding the Middle School Concept. Manuscript submitted to *Middle Grades Review*.

Gilbert, J. & Alverson, R. (In Press). Everyone is critical: Early care and education from a holistic or systems perspective. Manuscript submitted to *Dimensions of Early Childhood*.

DiCicco, M. and Alverson, R. (2023) "Academic Challenges in Southeastern Middle Schools: Voices of Teachers and Principals," *Current Issues in Middle Level Education: 27(2)*, 1.

DiCicco, M., & Alverson, R. (2022). Examining teaching and learning environments among Kentucky Schools to Watch and non-Schools to Watch schools using TELL Survey data. *Current Issues in Middle Level Education, 27(1)*, 3.

Alverson, R., DiCicco, M., Faulkner, S. A., & Cook, C. (2021). America's middle schools: Examining context, organizational structures, and instructional practices. *Middle Grades Review, 7(3)*, 1-22.

Alverson, R. (2020). Cultivating classroom community: The evolution of a large education course. *Journal on Excellence in College Teaching, 31(2)*, 185-208.

Alverson, R., Ginn, L. & Gilbert, J. (2019). Sustaining collaborative preschool partnerships and the challenges of educating the whole child. *International Journal of Child Care and Education Policy. 13(9)*. doi:10.1186/s40723-019-0065-6

Alverson, R., DiCicco, M., Faulkner, S., & Cook, C. (2019). The status of middle schools in the Southeastern United States: Perceptions and implementation of the middle school model. *Middle Grades Review, 5(2)*, 1-17.

Alverson, R. & Gilbert, J. (2019). Evaluation research and school districts: Lessons learned. *Critical Issues in Teacher Education, 26*, 15-26.

Alverson, R. (2015). A biofunctional perspective on learning environments. *Frontiers in Psychology, 6*, 1973. <http://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2015.01973>

Book Chapters

Alverson, R. (2019). Belongingness in education: A critical institutional issue examined from a

psychosocial perspective. In William Ross Bryan (Ed.), *Foundations of Engaged Scholarship* (pp.23-40). San Diego: Cognella Academic Publishing.

Manuscripts in Preparation

DiCicco, M., & Alverson, R. (In Preparation). Missing the middle: Middle grades educators' comments about the status of middle grades today. Manuscript to be submitted to *Middle School Journal*.

Alverson, R. & Gilbert, J. (In Preparation). Supporting families of preschoolers in Kentucky: The beliefs of family members regarding preschool partnerships. *Journal to be Determined*.

Technical Reports

Alverson, R., & Gilbert, J. L. (2023). *2022-2023 Kentucky preschool partnership grant evaluation report*. Unpublished Final Evaluation Report.

Alverson, R., & Gilbert, J. L. (2020). *2018-2020 Kentucky preschool partnership grant evaluation report*. Unpublished Final Evaluation Report.

Alverson, R. & Gilbert, J. (2019). *2018-2020 Kentucky preschool partnership grant evaluation report*. Unpublished Evaluation Report.

Alverson, R. & Gilbert, J. (2017). *Spring 2017 public-private preschool partnership grant evaluation*. Unpublished Evaluation Report.

Conference Presentations

National Level

Alverson, R. & Gilbert, J. (2022, October). Supporting families of preschoolers in Kentucky: The beliefs of family members regarding preschool partnerships. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Educational Research Association, Cincinnati, OH.

DiCicco, M., & Alverson, R. (2022, October). Missing the middle: Middle grades educators' comments about the status of middle grades today. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Educational Research Association, Cincinnati, OH.

DiCicco, M. & Alverson, R. (2021, November). Comparing teaching and learning environments among Kentucky Schools to Watch and non-Schools to Watch using TELL survey data. Presented at the Association for Middle Level Education Annual Meeting (Virtual).

Alverson, R., Cook, C., DiCicco, M. & Faulkner, S. A. (2021, November). A national study exploring the beliefs of principals and teachers regarding the middle school concept. Presented at the Association for Middle Level Education Annual Meeting (Virtual).

- Cook, C., Alverson, R., DiCicco, M. & Faulkner, S. A. (2021, November). Middle grades instruction: perceptions of importance and reported use of instructional strategies. Presented at the Association for Middle Level Education Annual Meeting (Virtual).
- Alverson, R., Cook, C., DiCicco, M. & Faulkner, S. A. (2021, October). A national study exploring the beliefs of principals and teachers regarding the middle school concept. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Educational Research Association, Cincinnati, OH.
- Alverson, R., Cook, C., DiCicco, M. & Faulkner, S. A. (2020, October). A national overview of Middle Grades Educational Practices: Educator Insights. Presented at the MLR SIG roundtable session at AMLE (Online).
- Gilbert, J. L., & Alverson, R. (2020, June) – would have been selected for the cancelled Summer Institute). *Building collaboration between public schools and private entities: Assessing statewide preschool partnership grant*. Paper would have been presented at the 2020 NAEYC Professional Learning Institute, New Orleans, LA.
- Alverson, R., Cook, C., DiCicco, M. & Faulkner, S. A. (2020, Apr 17-21) Teacher and principal perceptions of southeastern middle school practices [Roundtable Session]. AERA Annual Meeting San Francisco, CA <http://tinyurl.com/wh3pe2p> (Conference Canceled)
- Gilbert, J. & Alverson, R. (2020, February) *Preschool partnerships: A holistic approach to early childhood education*. Workshop presented at the Southern Early Childhood Association Annual Meeting, Tulsa, OK.
- Alverson, R. (2019, November) *Fostering hopeful thinking through goal planning in the classroom*. Session presented at the Association for Middle Level Education Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN.
- Alverson, R., Cook, C., DiCicco, M., & Faulkner, S. (2019, November) *The national landscape of middle grades education: Teacher and administrator perceptions on middle grades practices*. Paper presented at the Association for Middle Level Education Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN.
- Alverson, R., Cook, C., DiCicco, M., & Faulkner, S. (2019, April) *Perceptions and implementation of the middle school model: lessons learned*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON.
- Alverson, R., & DiCicco, M. (2017, November). *Making sense of belonging in the classroom: Why it matters and how to apply it*. Paper presented at the Association for Middle-Level Education (AMLE) Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

- Alverson, R. (2017, November). *Examining gender and the function of school support and hope in achievement of African American adolescents*. Paper presented at the Annual Conference for Middle Grades Education (AMLE), Philadelphia, PA.
- Alverson, R. (2017, August). *Gender differences and perceived hope in the achievement of African American adolescents*. Poster presented at the American Psychological Association (APA) Annual Meeting, Washington D.C.
- Alverson, R. (2017, April). *The role of gender, school support, and absenteeism in achievement of African American middle school students*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.
- Alverson, R. (2016, August). *Being hopeful and "fitting in": What it means for transitioning and stable students*. Poster presented at the American Psychological Association (APA) National Convention, Denver, CO.
- Sheffield, A., Carter, C., Brown, B., Alverson, R., Robinson, C. (2013, October). *Navigating the "space between."* A poster presented at the Engagement Scholarship Consortium, Lubbock, TX.
- Alverson, R., & Robinson, C. (2013, April). *The effects of neighborhood hope, belongingness, and academic engagement on achievement*. A poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Seattle, WA.
- Sheffield, A., Carter, C., & Alverson, R. (2012, October). *Goal-setting and steps toward success at Oakdale Elementary*. A paper presented at the National Outreach Scholarship Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL.
- Alverson, R., Davis, L., & Robinson, C. (2011, May). Learning personal selling through cognitive apprenticeship: Creating more authentic instruction through the UA Sales Lab. A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Academy of Marketing Sciences Conference, Coral Gables, FL.
- Alverson, R., Davis, L., & Robinson, C. (2011, March). Learning personal selling through cognitive apprenticeship: Creating more authentic instruction through the UA Sales Lab. A paper presented at the annual Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Commons Conference, Statesboro, GA.
- Alverson, R., Davis, L., & Robinson, C. (2011, February). Learning through cognitive apprenticeship. A paper presented at the annual Lilly Conference for College and University Teaching, Greensboro, NC.

University Level

Alverson, R. (November, 2019). *Examining hopeful thinking, belongingness, and academic success*. Presented at SGA's Victor Talks Education Night, Northern Kentucky University.

Alverson, R. (2014, April). *A model of hopelessness, belongingness, engagement, and academic achievement*. A paper to be presented at the Educational Studies in Psychology, Research Methodology and Counseling Graduate Symposium, University of Alabama.

Alverson, R., & Robinson, C. (2013, April). *The effects of neighborhood hope, belongingness, and academic engagement on achievement*. A poster presented at the Educational Studies in Psychology, Research Methodology and Counseling Graduate Symposium, University of Alabama.

Alverson, R. (2012, April). Creating more authentic instruction through cognitive apprenticeship in the UA Sales Lab. A poster presented at the Educational Studies in Psychology, Research Methodology and Counseling Graduate Symposium, University of Alabama.

Sheffield, A., Carter, C., & Alverson, R. (2012, April). *Promoting well-being at Oakdale Elementary*. A poster presented at the Educational Studies in Psychology, Research Methodology and Counseling Graduate Symposium, University of Alabama.

Public Policy and Legislative Testimony

Alverson, R., & Gilbert, J., Mathieu, B., Davies, K., & Middleton, K. (2019, December). Quality childcare and public preschool partnerships: Supporting working parents, Testified at the Interim Joint Committee on Health, Welfare, and Family Services, Frankfort, KY.

Alverson, R. & Gilbert, J. (2019, October). Kentucky preschool partnership grant evaluation report, Presented to the Kentucky Education Commissioner at the Kentucky Department of Education, Frankfort, KY.

Grants

Funded

Preschool Partnership Grant Evaluation, (Division of Child Care, Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Kentucky, 2022-2024) Role: Co-PI with Dr. Jaesook Gilbert (\$307,500).

Preschool Partnership Grant Evaluation, (Kentucky Department of Education, 2018-2020) Role: Co-PI with Dr. Jaesook Gilbert (\$150,000).

Graduate School Travel Grant, University of Alabama, Spring 2013, (\$300).

Department of Educational Studies in Psychology, Research Methodology and Counseling, Department of Education travel grant, University of Alabama, Spring 2013 (\$100).

Academy of Marketing Science Conference Grant, Coral Gables, Fl., Spring 2011, (\$500).

Department of Educational Studies in Psychology, Research Methodology and Counseling,
Department of Education travel grant, University of Alabama, Spring 2011 (\$200).

Graduate School Travel Grant, University of Alabama, Spring 2011, (\$200).

Advanced Placement Classroom Materials, Northridge High School, Tuscaloosa, AL.,
Advanced Placement Initiative, 2007-2008 (\$1200).

Advanced Placement Classroom Materials, Northridge High School, Tuscaloosa, AL.,
Alabama Advanced Placement Initiative, 2006-2007 (\$1200).

Submitted

National Science Foundation Grant, Developing Resilient Learners (Submitted, May 2018).
Role: Faculty Associate - Data/Methodology Consultant.

Preschool Partnership Evaluation Grant, Partnership with Area Schools (Submitted July 2017).
Role: Co-PI/Data Consultant.

Institute of Education Sciences, Small Business Innovations Research Grant, Partnership with
TutorGen (Submitted January 2017). Role: Tutor resource developer with specific focus
on area assessments for PRAXIS II.

Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), *Inclusive Excellence 2017 Pre-Proposal*. (Submitted
December 2015). \$1,000,000; Role: Program Evaluator

National Science Foundation (NSF), Advancement of Informal STEM Learning (AISL).
Rebooting STEM Education: New Tools for Improved Educational Development.
(Submitted November 2015). \$300,000; Role: Program Consultant

Research

2021-2023

- National Middle School Survey - manuscript preparation and submission
- Preschool Partnership Grant Evaluation (planning and beginning 2022-2024 evaluation)

2020-2021

- Begin planning for new round of Preschool Partnership Grant Evaluation – district application phase
 - Complete manuscripts from previous grant evaluation period.
- National Middle School Survey - manuscript preparation/conference planning phase.
- Finish MYS manuscript.

2019

- Preschool Partnership Grant – Two-year evaluation study for the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) – report and manuscript preparation phase.
- National Middle School Survey - manuscript preparation/conference planning phase.
- Continuing work on MYS data to finish up manuscripts in preparation and present at national conferences.

2018

- Preschool Partnership Grant – Two-year evaluation study planned for the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE).
 - Manuscript published, based on data collection from fall semester 2017. Summer/Fall 2018 data collection and analysis planned
- Middle-grades survey for national middle school sample – survey development – data collection planned for pilot study in spring/summer 2018.
 - AERA proposal submitted in July 2018.
 - National survey administration planned for fall/spring 2018-19.
- Continuing work on MYS data to finish up manuscripts in preparation and present at national conferences.
- Examining psychosocial variables from national data sets (Institute of Education Sciences; National Longitudinal Surveys) and their relation to achievement data.

2017

- Preschool Partnership Grant – data collection and interviews in fall semester 2017. Report to follow data collection and interviews.
- Middle-level research in Kentucky schools - planning stage
- Continuing work on MYS data to finish up manuscripts in preparation and present at national conferences
- Examined research with visiting Brazilian Scholars
- Examining psychosocial variables from national data sets (Institute of Education Sciences; National Longitudinal Surveys) and their relation to achievement data.

2016

- Middle-level research in local Ohio and Kentucky schools - planning stage
- Continuing work on MYS data to finish up manuscripts in preparation.
- Examining psychosocial variables from national data sets (Institute of Education Sciences; National Longitudinal Surveys) and their relation to achievement data.

2015

- Contributed to the submission of Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Inclusive Excellence Grant pre-proposal as program evaluator.
- Contributed to submission of Advancement of Informal STEM Learning (AISL), National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant as program consultant.

2012-2015

- Examined Mobile Youth Survey (MYS) variables and measures.
- Using Lisrel SEM software to run confirmatory factor analysis and create full structural models.

2011- 2013

- Examined the implementation of a hope and well-being curriculum in a local after-school program.
- Administered hope and well-being scales to students and completed observations of the school environment.

Fall 2011

- Data Entry position with 2005 Mobile Youth Survey (MYS) supplements.
- Studied variables to use in future data analysis projects.

Fall 2010

- Program evaluation of the Marketing Department Sales Lab through data collection and analysis.
- Methods included observations, focus group interviews and instructor debriefings.

Professional Organizations

2021-Present

Mid-Western Educational Research Association (MWERA)

2016-Present

Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE)

2015-2020

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

SIG Memberships

- Adolescent Development
- Middle-Level Education Research

Division Memberships

- Division K (Teaching and Teacher Education)

2015-2017

American Psychological Association (APA)

Division Memberships

- Division 15 (Educational Psychology)

Service

Service to the University

Member, Faculty Awards Committee, Spring 2023

Member, Faculty Senate Budget Committee, Fall 2018-Spring 2020; Fall 2021-Present

Member, College Representative for Faculty Senate, Fall 2018-Spring 2020; Fall 2021-Present

Mentor, International Friendship Family Program Student, Elizabeth Osifalugo, 2016-2017

Service to the College

Member, Lesson Observation Evaluation Form Committee, Fall 2022-Present

Co-facilitator, CAEP Standard Three Committee, Fall 2022-Present

Member, Quality Assurance Committee, Fall 2017-Present

Co-facilitator, Alumni and Partner Celebration Implementation Team, Fall 2021-Spring 2022

Co-facilitator, Strategic Recruitment and Marketing Planning Team, Fall 2020-Spring 2021

Member, Disposition Evaluation Form Committee, Fall 2021

Member, Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure (RPT) Committee, Fall 2021

Member, Awards and Scholarships Committee, Spring 2021

Member, Budget Implementation Planning Committee, 2019-2020

Member, Awards and Scholarships Committee, 2015-2019

Discussant, Teacher Diversity Matters Symposium, September 2017

Member, COEHS Advisor Candidate Search Committee, Fall 2017

Member, Think Tank Planning Committee, Spring 2017

Member, CAEP Standard Five Committee, 2015-2018

Service to the Department

Facilitator, Admissions Program Team, Fall 2017-Present

Member, Peer Review Committee for Dr. Mike DiCicco, Spring 2022

Member, Director of Experiential Education and Clinical Placements Search Committee, 2021

Member, Peer Review Committee for Dr. Kimberly Yates, Spring 2019

Member, Middle Grades Search Committee, 2015-2016

Member, Peer Review Committee for Dr. David Childs, Fall 2015

Member, Admissions Program Team, Fall 2015-Spring 2017

Judge, EDG 692 Action Research Presentations, July 2016

Service to the Community

Mentor, Kenton County Schools FEA, Dual-Credit Partnership, Spring 2018

Member, Partnership with Brazilian Scholars and Local Area Schools, Spring 2017

*Presenter, Kenton County Public Library “Hungry Minds” presentation on positive psychology,
July 2016*

Presenter, Kenton County Schools Future Educators Academy NKU visit, November 2015

Mentor, Kenton County Schools FEA Research Projects, November 2015

Judge, Kenton County Schools FEA Research Projects, May 2016

Service to the Profession

Reviewer, Current Issues in Middle Level Education

Reviewer, Middle Grades Review

Reviewer, Journal of Educational Psychology

Reviewer, Frontiers in Psychology

Professional Development

*Attendee and Presenter, Mid-Western Educational Research Association Annual Conference,
Cincinnati, OH, October 2022.*

*Attendee and Presenter, Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) Annual Conference,
Virtual, November 2021.*

EDU 303 – Admission Field Experience IECE
EDU 307 – Admission Field Experience Elementary
EDU 309 – Admission Field Experience Middle Grades
EDU 311 – Admission Field Experience Secondary
EDU 594 – Positive Psychology in the Classroom
EDG 620 – Learning and Motivation
EDG 624 – Pupil Assessment and Evaluation
EDG 691 – Applied Action Research
EDG 702 – Research Based Teaching

The University of Alabama

Spring 2015	BER 345 - Educational Statistics BEP 505 - Motivation and Self-Regulation BEP 305 - Introduction to Educational Psychology
Fall 2014	BER 345 - Educational Statistics BEP 500 - Advanced Educational Psychology BEP 565 - Personality and Social Development
Fall 2013 – Spring 2014	BEP 305 – Introduction to Educational Psychology
Fall 2012 – Spring 2013	BEP 305 – Introduction to Educational Psychology BER 450 – Assessment of Classroom Learning (lab instructor)
Summer 2012	BEP 305 – Introduction to Educational Psychology
Spring 2012	BEP 305 – Introduction to Educational Psychology
Fall 2011 – Spring 2012	BER 450 – Assessment of Classroom Learning (lab instructor)
Fall 2010 – Spring 2011	BER 450 – Assessment of Classroom Learning (lab instructor)
Fall 2009 – Spring 2010	BEP 110 - Introduction to Learning Strategies and Study Skills

Northridge High School, Tuscaloosa City Schools

Advanced Placement Psychology
Advanced Placement Government and Economics
Psychology
United States History to 1877
World History