

Gia T. Orr

www.linkedin.com/pub/gia-gardner-orr/19/462/518/

Professional Profile

- **Fifteen year veteran educator** with extensive experience in the following:
 - Creating, designing and implementing infrastructure, process and systems for well-run schools;
 - Cultivating and/or maintaining successful partnerships with internal and external stakeholders;
 - Hiring and Promoting an environment of developing leaders among faculty, staff and students;
 - Success in maintaining and/or improving academic performance;
 - Creating and enhancing a school culture that creates continuous improvements;
 - Implementing high-priority projects on time, and under budget;
 - Leading through clear communication and team building;
 - Creative and agile thinking, adept at change and change management;
- **Experienced Advocate** who has advocated on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC with Illinois ASCD and National ASCD Network to reauthorize ESEA and put education at the forefront of current legislation in the Workforce Education Committee.
- **Public policy advisor, Consultant and Program Director with the State of Illinois.**

Experience

State of Illinois- Guardianship and Advocacy Commission

7/14-present

Director of Community Rights, Relationships and Resources

Equal Employment and Affirmative Action Officer

Chief Results Officer

JCAR Rules Coordinator

- Develops policy and responses to policies that are introduced by other agencies and/or legislators;
- Draft, review and track legislation pertaining to the plight of the citizens of IL with disabilities;
- Developed and currently directs the Community Human Rights Authority (statewide);
- Travels throughout all regions of the state of IL to advocate for GAC policies;
- Implement agency director strategic vision;
- Development and enhancement of special education initiatives, justice, jail and correctional institution initiatives along with community integrated living arrangements;
- Meets with legislative members, the Governors office and federal officials;

The Chicago High School for the Arts

Chicago, IL

Acting Principal

12/14-6/14

Assistant Principal (Operations and Discipline)

8/11-6/14

- Manage all operations and internal processes for the first public high school for visual and performing arts Chicago;

- Revised the disciplinary process, in collaboration with school leadership; revise and update the family and student handbook yearly;
- Aggregate behavior analytics
- Revised operational policies with campus expansion to a shared facility, and became the liaison to the principal and staff of the shared space, as well as the point of contact for all facilities and internal operational staff.
- Served as ChiArts Liaison to: Department of Children and Family Services, Chicago Public Schools, CPS Office of New Schools, CPS Office of Safety and Security, Illinois State Board of Education, Arts Schools Network, Chicago Police Department, and additional agencies to ensure appropriate services were being provided for students and ChiArts High School.

ASCD (formerly Association for Supervision, Curriculum and Development)
Educator Advocate

Alexandria, VA and Illinois
2012-Present

- Empowered educator who stays informed about legislation and policies that affect educator's day to day work.
- Completed advocacy building sessions to help increase influence at local, state and federal levels.
- Shares information in full or abbreviated form on policies, analysis, data and related legislation, briefings and/or findings.
- Advocated ASCD Legislative Agenda on Capitol Hill in Washington DC- most recent included two days of office visits to Illinois Senators Richard Durbin and Mark Kirk, as well as, most of Illinois' Representatives in the House.

Political Institute for Women

Public Policy Advisor, Founder Chicago Chapter Women in Politics Network and Illinois Instructor

May 2012-Present

- Co-chair for the Education Committee for Women in Politics Network
- Completed courses in the following; Lobbying 101 and 102, Advocacy 101 and 200, Campaign Finance, Building Campaign Platforms, Strategic Planning, Public Speaking and Debating and Careers in Politics.
- Interviewed for BlogSpot Radio: [State of Education in America](#) – (click link for content)

Chicago International Charter School- Ralph Ellison Campus
Managed by Civitas Schools

Chicago, IL
2010-2011

Associate Director

- Oversaw the successful implementation of NWEA at the high school level via online proctoring
- Oversaw the implementation and on-going coordination of GAINS Interim Assessments as well as provided PD on data analysis of content areas, core groups and sub-groups.
- Supervised the teacher call-off process and revised the process to include a temp agency for sub needs.
- Oversaw all substitute teachers, security and maintenance personnel
- Conducted teacher evaluations on a three prong rotation basis utilizing Charlotte Danielson framework.

Chicago International Charter School- Longwood Campus
Managed by EdisonLearning

Chicago, IL
2009-2010

Director of Assessment and Extended Learning Opportunities
Site Manager for Community Schools Initiative and Panther Service Program

- Collected, retrieved, and analyzed student achievement and behavioral data for the purposes of identification for curricular interventions and/or enrichment.
- Collaborated with classroom teachers to identify students for placement in after-school program(s) or other interventions.
- Assisted with collection and reporting of data and other relevant evaluation information for extended learning programs and/or to meet specific grant requirements.
- At the direction of the Executive Director, managed budgets, proposals, grant writing, fundraising, and resource development to support supplementary learning activities.
- Managed Community Schools Initiative through Chicago International and Chicago Public Schools. Oversee payroll, attendance, program vision and artifacts for stakeholder reporting.

Academy Principal

Collegiate Academy (9-12th grades)

2008-2009

Junior High and High School (6-12th grades)

2007-2008

Junior High (6-8th grades)

2006-2007

- Accomplished meets/exceeds (averages Reading 75%+, Math 90%+ and Science 78%+) for all middle school grade levels on ISAT and NWEA by way of thorough instructional leadership, visionary tutoring programs and extensive support of teacher leader's ideas for student growth.
- Supported teachers to make sound data driven decisions to increase reading, math and science scores at all grade levels.
- Accomplished junior level ACT/PSAE scores meeting the African American average for the first time (17.0) with a score of 17.9 year one and 17.7 year two.
- Supervised teachers, coordinators, interventionists and deans of students in satisfying the mission and vision of Chicago International Charter School and EdisonLearning.
- Motivated and supported the academic, social and moral growth of students.
- Communicated effectively with parents, guardians, community leaders, vendors, education administrators, board members, and national coordinators.
- Managed the hiring of highly qualified teachers, substitutes and teacher aides to fully support the academic model set forth by CICS and Edison Learning.
- Managed Academy Community Schools Initiatives to report to site manager.

Open Court Reading Coordinator

Chicago, IL

2005-2007

- Coordinated the transition and implementation of a new literacy program for kindergarten through fifth grade classes.
- Supervised the implementation of assessments and teaching skills to ensure reading fluency and high comprehension skills.
- Consistently pushed for gifted and talented readers to advance to Junior Great Books versus reliance on differentiated instruction at higher levels in Open Court.
- Conducted data driven analysis, independently and collaboratively, to assess reading levels and recommend either intervention or challenge strategies for students.
- Provided concise, yet in-depth information regarding student performance and best practices in literacy instruction to various stakeholders.

Athletic Director (Middle and High School) and Coach

Chicago, IL

2004-2006

- Singularly revamped the athletic program to come off of probation and loss of recognition of all teams in a six month span.

- Devised and oversaw an athletic tutorial program that led to all eligibility forms for team members filed on time to CPS and IHSA.
- Attained and retained ASEP certification with CPS, IHSA and national high school sports leagues.
- Supervised the operations of teams and organizations during sports-specific seasons.
- Communicated the expectations for academic and athletic achievement for each student-athlete particularly related to city and state eligibility and school requirements.
- Developed and implemented academic intervention as needed and work closely with Chicago Public Schools Sports Administration team to ensure the overall success of the sports program.

Teacher/Lead Teacher

2000-2005

- Planned and implemented creative and thought provoking curriculum and instruction for 4th and 5th grade classes.
- Assisted with training, supervising, and evaluating a group of nine teachers alongside the Director of Schools and two Academy Directors.
- Selected as a grant team member to support technology and literacy initiatives.

Illinois Department of Corrections and Department of Children and Family Services

1999-2001

Program Case Manager and Parole Officer positions held – further information available upon request

Education

National Louis University- Chicago, IL

2007

Master of Education: Educational Administration
Principal Certification

National Louis University- Chicago, IL

2001

Master of Arts: Human Services Administration

Tennessee State University- Nashville, TN

1999

Bachelor of Science: Political Science
Minor Criminal Justice

Memberships

ASCD Legislative Committee (3 year appointment)	2013-present
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated	1997-Present
National Association of Professional Women	2012-Present
Illinois Principal Association	2007-2012
Arts School Network	2011-2014
Political Institute for Women (Executive Board)	2012-2014
Illinois ASCD Curriculum Director Cohort	2013