

# CURRICULUM VITAE

Kandace K. DaCosta, Ed.D.

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## CERTIFICATIONS

**Level II Certificate - Education Specialist/Secondary School Counseling - 2012**

## EDUCATION

**EdD in Educational Leadership - 2017**

Immaculata University

Immaculata, PA

Dissertation title: "Perceptions of the Leadership Capacity of School Counselors Related to School Climate Measures"

Committee: Dr. Carol Anne Couchara, Dr. Jennifer Miller, Dr. Michelle Guers, Dr. Joseph Corabi (Chair)

**MA in Education - 2007**

Certification in Secondary School Counseling

Millersville University

Millersville, PA

**BA in Psychology -2003**

Eastern University

Saint Davids, PA

Thesis: "The Prevalence of Eating Disorders Among Female Athletes"

Thesis advisor: Dr. Terrance Weathersby

## TEACHING & ADVISING

**Messiah College - 2018- present**

COUN583 Practicum (Fall, 2018)

COUN585 Internship (Spring, 2019, Fall & Spring, 2020)

**Dissertation Committee Member 2017- present**

**Immaculata University**

Dissertation title: "Mitigation of Adverse Childhood Experiences within a School System"-  
Michael Eddy (2021)

Dissertation title: "Perceptions of Effect on Student Career Readiness Throughout a School  
Partnership Program"- Christine Skonieczny (2021)

Dissertation title: "Perceptions of Elementary Teachers on Feedback in the Supervision Process"-  
Kyle McGinley Jones (2020)

Dissertation title: "Teachers' Perceptions of the Impact of Collaboration on the Effectiveness of  
Co-teaching" - Angela Hughes (2019)

Dissertation title: "Teachers' Perceptions of the Effect of Teacher Observation on Improving  
Teacher Performance" - Jonathan Graf (2018)

Dissertation title: "Assessing and Expanding Orthographic Knowledge: Perceptions and Practices  
of Secondary Teachers" - Maryanne Andricola Fiadino (2018)

## **Professional Counseling Experience**

### **Hempfield High School August, 2008-Present**

Co-wrote and developed mental health curriculum that addressed depression awareness and suicide prevention, which was sponsored by the Aavidum and meets the standards by Pennsylvania Department of Education to complete the requirements of Act 71 for school districts (2012- present). <http://aavidum.com/cms/index.php/aavidum-mental-health-curriculum/>  
<http://aavidum.com/cms/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Aavidum-Curriculum-Instructions.pdf>

Developed and implemented a freshman transition program to lower dropout and retention rates, disciplinary measures and promote student success and community. The program includes career development, Positive Behavior Supports and Interventions (PBIS), school climate measures, transition activities, and student leadership (2012-present).

<https://www.hempfieldsd.org/Page/523>

Developed and implemented a School Climate Committee composed of student leaders. The purpose of this group is to utilize student leaders from various school clubs to give a voice to the student body and create various initiatives aimed at improving school climate and fostering a sense of belonging and community (2010- 2018).

Chapter 339 committee member that wrote Hempfield School District's comprehensive guidance plan. The plan outlines the infrastructure of the district, articulate the vision and mission of the counseling department , outlines counselors' duties and responsibilities, identifies program goals, curriculum, resources, and strategies. (2015-2016) <https://tinyurl.com/y7r9adtk>

Career development: part of the original "Graduation Project" committee in 2009 to develop curriculum, activities, and career exploration opportunities for high school students. PDE's new mandate in 2017 required schools to collect artifacts addressing specific career strands and standards. Data was collected in a crosswalk to determine what standards were being covered and assess gaps. Curriculum and programming was adjusted and/or created to address the data-driven needs of the district (2009- present).

Developed curriculum for 9th grade Family Consumer Science and 11th grade Personal Financial Literacy as a joint venture with a team comprised of department supervisors and selected school counselors. The developed lessons are co-taught by school counselors and classroom teachers to promote interdisciplinary relationships, curricular crossovers, and direct service to students (2010-present).

Initiated collaboration between school counseling and gifted services to promote interdisciplinary programming for students. Co-created a "Perfectionist Group" for gifted students. Created a needs assessment and developed monthly dialogue groups for students based on various topics they selected. Advocated for professional development that was relevant for both school counseling and gifted services, which resulted in an in-service offering of various college admissions personnel presenting information and meaningful dialogue (2014-present).

### **Eastern York Middle School - January - August, 2008**

Implemented a new Student Information System

Assisted in the development of an anti-bullying program and facilitated a relational aggression group for girls.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**“Safe and Healthy Students: Raising Mental Health Awareness And Preventing Suicide.”** Pennsylvania Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (PSAHPERD) Convention Presentation:4-hour workshop with co-presenter Linda Miller. Seven Springs, PA, 2016.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Messiah College (2018-present). Faculty supervisor for students in practicum and internship experiences. Provided relevant information and ethical scenarios from the school counseling field that was deeply rooted in both theory and practice.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Member of Psi Chi, International Honors Society of Psychology

## MEMBERSHIPS

Lancaster Chamber of Commerce  
Workforce Development Board  
Lancaster County School Counselors Association  
Pennsylvania School Counselors Association  
American School Counselors Association