

ABDUL-HAI THOMAS

Jacksonville, FL

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EDUCATION

Vanderbilt Peabody College: 2019 – 2022 – *Ed.D. in Leadership and Learning in Organizations*

Columbia University: 2014 – *Master of Arts, Educational Leadership*

Ohio State University: 2008 – *Bachelor of Arts, English / Minor, Political Science*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

JACKSONVILLE'S CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS (CCR) | JACKSONVILLE, FL | 2021 – PRESENT

Child and Youth Ombudsperson: 2021 - Present

- Convene and engage community stakeholders (i.e., Youth Council and Leadership Consortium) to support Jacksonville's System of Care Initiative.
- Conduct trainings and workshops that introduce community stakeholders to Restorative Justice, Community-based Participatory Research, Youth Participatory Action Research, Preventing Long Term Anger and Aggression in Youth, and UNICEF's Rights of the Child.
- Ensure that community stakeholders function as co-equals to envision and build Jacksonville's System of Care through shared learning, shared experience, and shared understanding.
- Provide system design support in the planning and implementation of programs.
- Facilitate strategic planning for systems change via youth engagement and participation at the local and state level.
- Work collaboratively with various agencies, organizations, government entities to integrate networks, infrastructure, and space.

DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | JACKSONVILLE, FL | 2009 - 2017; 2019 – 2021

English 9-12 Teacher/Professional Development Lead: 2009 - 2014; 2019 – 2021

- Align standards-based curriculum, blended learning/asynchronous material, and assessment to develop proficiency, mastery, and conceptual understanding of standards, skills, and content.
- Facilitate classroom discussions that integrate academic language to analyze texts, synthesize perspectives, and critically examine dominant discourses.
- Design problem/project-based learning to develop proficiency and mastery in disciplined inquiry, academic research, and analytical writing.
- Facilitate and design restorative justice practices to develop and apply conflict resolution and de-escalations skills.

Dean, Westview K-8: 2015 – 2017

- Integrated academic and non-academic programs to reduce behavioral referral rate by 96% over two years – overcoming long-standing issues and effectively/efficiently navigating a complex learning environment.
- Mediated and resolved individual and communal conflicts using trauma-based informed methods and restorative justice practices.
- Performed evaluation of instructional design and assessment and classroom management practices – developing and facilitating professional development for teachers to consistently improve student outcomes.

Director, Hoops and Homework: 2015 – 2017

- Founded and directed after-school mentoring and tutoring program for young Black American men.
- Led and collaborated with a team of 3 to achieve 100% growth in Lexile scores (average student growth 103 points) and 66% growth in Math scale scores – outperforming targeted goals.
- Designed and evaluated a program model for youth engagement and accountability in which student-athletes had minimal disciplinary issues.
- Raised \$2K for program costs and equipment through community partnerships and fundraising – collaborating with stakeholders and organizations to maximize vision and mission.

Assistant Principal: 2014 – 2015

- Led a program for 10th-grade young men which reduced discipline referrals by nearly 70% and a 66% reduction in tardiness and unexcused absences.
- Ensured consistent, accurate, rigorous, and quality feedback/evaluation of teacher planning/preparation, classroom environment, instruction/assessment, and professional responsibilities/learning goals.
- Led, directed, and managed operations, facilities, and resources to ensure structural organization and communication.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA | JACKSONVILLE, FL | 2018 – PRESENT

Adjunct Professor: Department of Education

- Establish epistemic communities that use theory, language, tools, and reflection to develop conceptual understanding of instructional design and assessment.
- Examine current social studies curricula to redesign social studies instruction and assessment using the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies.
- Design problem/project-based learning to develop proficiency and mastery in disciplined inquiry, academic research, and analytical writing.

BEACHES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY | ATLANTIC BEACH, FL | 2017 – 2019

Education Manager

- Led a team in designing, implementing, and evaluating programming for over 170 students (grades 6-12) and families.
- Built and maintained productive, professional relationships with public schools, local universities, non-profit organizations, and other entities to develop teacher/tutor training programs.
- Created intervention programs that developed academic and non-academic competencies vital to post-secondary enrollment, persistence, and completion.
- Managed budget and resource allocation for youth programming and community events, including developing, implementing, and monitoring the annual operating line-item budget for programming as well as wrote award-winning grants and managed private donations.
- Planned short, mid, and long-term goals to achieve tangible and scaled results.
- Used improvement science and design thinking to examine and understand ambiguous and complex problems – developing innovate programming while preserving organizational integrity.

Additional Experience: Rifleman/Squad Leader/Scout Swimmer, United States Marine Corps: 2000 – 2004

ADDITIONAL CREDENTIALS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ESOL Endorsement

ORGANIZATIONS

- Board Member, Jacksonville’s Center for Children’s Rights (2019 – 2021)
- Board Member, Youth Empowerment Summit (2017 – Present)
- Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association (2017 – Present)
- Ahmadiyya Youth Muslim Association Office Holder (2015 – Present)
- Our Kids Our Future Committee Member, Humanity First USA (2014 – Present)
- Leadership Team, Ahmadiyya Basketball Camp (2014 – Present)
- Director of Content, Humanity First Guatemala (2014 – 2015)
- Internship Coach, Columbia University, Teachers College (2014 – 2015)
- Content Community Leader, Teach for America (2011 – 2012)

AWARDS

- 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year, Grand Park Alternative Education Center