Dr. Danyelle Wright

Education Executive · School Systems Leader · Researcher

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Education leader with 15 years in Wisconsin public schools, from the special education classroom to building principal and district central office, plus a national consulting practice she founded. PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from UW–Madison, with research on why large-scale professional learning stalls before it changes practice. Builds the systems that carry strategy into daily instruction, measures whether it reaches the students at the margins, and now brings AI into how future principals are trained. Named one of Wisconsin's 52 Most Influential Black Leaders by Madison365 (2022).

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Multi-site and network strategy · Implementation and change management · Program evaluation and qualitative research · AI in teaching and leadership · Professional learning design · Special education and compliance (IEP, LEA) · Equity strategy and monitoring · Budget and operations · Talent recruitment and retention · Board and stakeholder communication

SELECTED IMPACT

- Led schools of up to 300 students and 45 staff with full ownership of a $500,000 building budget, master schedule and safety systems.
- On a team of six in the 24-district Dane County Equity Consortium, led design of a mentorship program pairing veteran educators with first-year teachers of color.
- Founded CARE in 2020, an equity consultancy delivering strategic planning, data analysis and monitoring tools to K-12 systems, law enforcement agencies and companies.
- Studied a year-long, districtwide training for about 420 educators; findings define five implementation moves for system leaders.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Principal Preparation Cohort — 2026 – Present

University of Wisconsin–Madison, Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis · Madison, WI

- Teaches research- and evidence-based leadership methods to aspiring administrators, with AI integrated into the curriculum for teacher evaluation and training.

Program Support Teacher, Intensive Supportive Teams — 2025 – Present

Madison Metropolitan School District, Central Office · Madison, WI

- Coaches cross-categorical special education teams districtwide; leads IEP and LEA meetings and ensures special education compliance across inclusive settings.
- Designs individualized behavioral, curricular and instructional interventions with families, administrators and community agencies.
- Mentors emerging special education teachers through student data analysis and ongoing professional development.

Interim Building Principal — 2024 – 2025

Randall and Southside Elementary, Madison Metropolitan School District · Madison, WI

- Led a staff of 40 and building-wide professional development for teachers and paraprofessionals.
- Built systems for behavior, restorative practices, Zones of Regulation and instructional walkthroughs; redesigned safety protocols.
- Ran weekly student data teams on achievement gaps between students of color and their white peers.

Building Principal — 2020 – 2024

Cottage Grove School, Monona Grove School District · Cottage Grove, WI

- Led a school of 300 students and 45 staff; owned strategic forecasting and spend management for a $500,000 budget.

- Built master schedules, class rosters and building procedures; implemented culture and climate surveys for students and staff.
- Developed systems to hire and retain diverse staff and created evaluation tools for non-certified staff.
- Represented the district in the 24-district Dane County Equity Consortium on equity and HR retention.

Assistant Principal 2018 – 2020

Akira Toki Middle School, Madison Metropolitan School District · Madison, WI

- Co-led a building of 69 staff and its professional development; created racial affinity groups for staff of color and restorative practice groups for students; led weekly data teams on disproportionate achievement.

Dean of Students 2017 – 2018

Sun Prairie High School, Sun Prairie Area School District · Sun Prairie, WI

- Redesigned the behavior management system, submitting discipline policy revisions to senior leadership and the superintendent quarterly.
- Conducted qualitative student focus groups on race, equity and achievement and presented findings to the district and school board.

FOUNDER AND NATIONAL CONSULTING

Founder and CEO, Collective Agency Regarding Equity (CARE) 2020 – Present

- Provides strategic planning for K-12 systems, law enforcement agencies and corporations using CARE's equity monitoring tools.
- Conducts data analysis and goal setting for Wisconsin local education agencies; coaches districts nationwide, on site and virtually.

Presenter and Educational Coach, Center for Civil Rights in Education 2022 – Present

First Educational Resource

- Presents institutes, workshops and keynotes nationwide; delivers customized training, leadership development and project management to K-12 districts.

Founder, Studio on Wheels (in development) 2026

- Designing a nonprofit mobile art studio for Wisconsin neighborhoods without arts programming, with a $248,850 year-one plan to serve 500+ participants through 200+ free, neurodivergent-affirming classes.

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor, Edgewood College, special education licensure program 2017 – 2018

Special Education Teacher Advisor, Exploration Academy, Verona Area School District 2014 – 2017

Special Education Teacher, East High School, Madison Metropolitan School District 2013 – 2014

EDUCATION

PhD, Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis (race and equity), University of Wisconsin–Madison 2022

MA, Cross-Categorical Special Education, Edgewood College 2014

BA, Physical Education, Rockford University 2010

RESEARCH, RECOGNITION AND SPEAKING

- Wright, D. (2022). *The pursuit towards anti-racist professional development for a Wisconsin school district* [Doctoral dissertation, UW–Madison]. Article at drdanyelle.com/research.
- Wisconsin's 52 Most Influential Black Leaders, Madison365 (2022).
- Keynote, 4th Annual Educators for Equity Conference, "Reclaiming Joy and Community in Education." Panelist, Wisconsin Leadership Summit, "The Exhausted Educator."
- Featured speaker and writer, *Blaxhaustion*, Theresa M. Robinson (2020). Published essay on racism in the Midwest (2016). Co-researcher with Dr. Tom Holub on special education transition to college (2012).

BOARD AND CIVIC SERVICE

United Way of Dane County, Equity and Education Committees · Village of Cottage Grove, Ad Hoc DEI Board (2020 – 2022) · Jack and Jill of America, South Central Wisconsin, Chapter Treasurer (2020 – 2023)