Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Education in Educational Practice

Carey Cunningham

B.S. Elementary Education, Harris Stowe State College, 1994
M.Ed. Educational Leadership, University of Missouri, 2003
Ed.S. Educational Leadership, University of Missouri, 2019


Date: November 18, 2022
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Place: Remote

Abstract
This autoethnography study focuses on how I advocated for Black males in education as they faced life challenges of being educated in an urban school environment where they were performing low academically, had low graduation rates, and had high dropout rates. In my particular study, I have increased my own, and hopefully others’ understanding, of the importance of supporting all students, mainly Black males, by using stories that I gained over twenty-five years as the research instrument. Exploring how advocacy from me impacted the education of Black males from an autoethnography lens provides insight and reflections regarding males of color. This qualitative research positions me to immerse myself in the study and show how the support and being an advocate for children improved the teaching and learning process of students (primarily Black boys) that I encountered during my 25-year journey as a teacher and administrator.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
Thomasina Hassler, Ph.D.
Chairperson

Robert Good, Ph.D.
Committee Member

Shenita Mayes, Ph.D.
Committee Member