

Administrators

Contributed by Administrator
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Derrick Griffith, Founding Director and Principal

Mr. Griffith is a graduate of Clara Barton High School for Health Professions in Brooklyn, where he earned a Regents Diploma and a certificate in Practical Nursing. While working as a licensed practical nurse, he attended the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where he earned a BA in History. He distinguished himself at UNC Charlotte becoming the first student body President to be re-elected in the 27-year history of the school. In 1994 he received the Max and Dora Cohen Scholarship to attend the Margaret Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development at the University of Rochester. In 1995, he received a M.S. in Counseling and Human Development and was named the Commencement Marshall. Mr. Griffith has been a social studies teacher, curriculum and professional development manager, adjunct instructor, and senior manager at a non-profit settlement house. He is currently on leave from the Urban Education doctoral program at The CUNY Graduate Center.

Jenny Ristenbatt, Assistant Director Student Support Services

Ms. Ristenbatt said she first became an educator because she wanted to share her passion for science. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Forensic Science, before getting a Master's degree in Supervision and Administration. Ms. Ristenbatt says that she is very gratified with the work she does with students. "CUNY Prep is the only school which gives out of school youth an opportunity to bounce back and truly educates them on the importance of a college education," she said. And what lesson does Ms. Ristenbatt want CP students to learn while at the school? "Whatever circumstances brought them to CUNY Prep do not limit their achievements," she said. "The fact that they are able to bounce back makes them an even stronger candidate for success."