

MELANIE ALI, PhD

202.320.1162 • Melanie55@cox.net • [Linked In](#) • Burke, VA

SUMMARY

Senior research leader with 20+ years of experience in education research and evaluation. Skilled in developing and managing mixed-methods research agendas that inform program and strategy improvement for supporting educators and students. Recognized for translating complex findings into actionable insights that support evidence-based decision-making. Experienced collaborator and mentor with a strong track record of managing cross-functional teams to build evidence to advance equity and improve outcomes.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences

Supervisory Education Research Analyst | December 2023 – August 2025

- Directed a portfolio of large-scale evaluations in K-12, postsecondary and adult education, including studies of programs and strategies designed to advance career and technical education, transition students with disabilities to college and career, and support students in postsecondary access
- Led a team of 7 staff overseeing mixed-methods studies to assess program implementation and impact, ensuring methodological rigor and actionable insights
- Briefed senior leadership on study plans and findings to support agency decision-making

Education Research Analyst | May 2006 – December 2023

- Designed and managed national evaluations focused on underserved communities and equity in opportunity, including studies of adult education, English language acquisition, educator effectiveness, and postsecondary education access strategies and programs
- Conducted implementation research to understand how federal policies and education strategies function in diverse contexts
- Oversaw multi-million-dollar research contracts, including vendor selection, project management and deliverable review
- Facilitated stakeholder convenings to identify program challenges and evidence needs
- Coordinated with cross-functional teams to align research plans with program and policy needs

- Translated complex analyses into accessible briefings and presentations for senior leadership, policymakers, and practitioners
- Mentored junior staff and served as internal reviewer for research projects and deliverables

Research Scientist | November 2002 – May 2006

- Designed national impact studies of strategies to attract and retain quality educators and to improve adult literacy
- Advised K–12 and postsecondary grant programs on performance measurement, data use, and accountability

SELECT RESEARCH & EVALUATION PROJECTS

[*Teacher Preparation Experiences and Early Teaching Effectiveness \(NCEE 2019-4007\)*](#)

[*The Impact of Providing Performance Feedback to Teachers and Principals \(NCEE 2018-4001\)*](#)

[*Early Implementation Findings from a Study of Teacher and Principal Performance Measurement and Feedback \(NCEE 2017-4004\)*](#)

[*Impacts of Comprehensive Teacher Induction: Final Results from a Randomized Controlled Study \(NCEE 2010-4027\)*](#)

[*Possible Ways of Increasing College Access Among Adults from Underserved Backgrounds: A Study of College Transition Text-Based Messaging \(NCEE 2023-003\)*](#)

[*Linking Adult Education to Workforce Development in 2018-2019: Early Implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act at the Local Level \(NCEE 2023-001\)*](#)

[*Adult Education Strategies: Identifying and Building Evidence of Effectiveness \(NCEE 2021-007\)*](#)

EDUCATION

PhD, Experimental Psychology — City University of New York

MA, Experimental Psychology — Radford University

BA, Psychology — Stonehill College