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Education and Licensure

Harvard Graduate School of Education	Cambridge, MA
ED.D. Counseling and Consulting Psychology, 1993	
ED.M. Counseling and Consulting Psychology, 1987	

Yale University	New Haven, CT
BA, Sociology/Psychology, Cum Laude, 1982	

Pennsylvania Psychology License, 2010
New Jersey License for the Practice of Professional Psychology, 1998
Massachusetts License in Psychology, 1995

Leadership Positions

Director, Office of School and Community Engagement, PennGSE, 2015 - present
Director, Lea School University Partnership, University of Pennsylvania, 2013-2015
Coordinator of Special Education, PennGSE, 2010 - 2013
Special Education Program Director, PennGSE/Teach for America, 2011-2013
Director, Children's Hospital Neighborhood Partnerships, Children's Hospital Boston, 2002-2008
Director of School Partnerships, Judge Baker Children's Center, Boston, MA, 1999-2002
Clinical Director, Devereux-Deerhaven Treatment Center for Girls, Chester, NJ, 1997-1999
Project Director and Principal Investigator, Early Childhood Prevention Project, Judge Baker Children's Center, Boston, MA, 1995-1998

Academic Appointments

Senior Lecturer, Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania, 2008 - present
Assistant Professor of Psychology, Dept. of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, 2007-2009
Clinical Assistant Professor (doctoral student thesis supervisor), Smith College School for Social Work, Northampton, MA, 2004-2006
Lecturer on Education, Risk and Prevention Program, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA, 1999-2006
Instructor, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA, 1997
Instructor in Psychology, Dept. of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, 1995-2006
Research Associate, Group for the Study of Interpersonal Development, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA, 1990-2002

Other Professional Positions

Faculty Director, Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research, University of Pennsylvania, 2020-2026.

Faculty Fellow, Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research, University of Pennsylvania, 2017-2019

Consultant, Family Connections Project, Brazelton Touchpoints Center, Boston MA, 2017

Consultant, Netter Center for Community Partnerships, University of Pennsylvania, 2011-2015

Associate Fellow, Center for Public Health Initiatives, University of Pennsylvania, 2010-present

Consultant, Children's Stability and Well-being Project, PolicyLab, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, 2009-2012

Consultant, Penn Partnership Schools, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, 2008-2013

Associate Scientific Staff, Dept. of Psychiatry, Children's Hospital, Boston, MA, 2002-2008

Staff Psychologist, School Partnerships Program, Judge Baker Children's Center, Boston, MA, 1999-2002

Consulting Research Psychologist, Institute for Clinical Training and Research, Devereux Foundation, Devon/Villanova PA, 1997-2001

Staff Psychologist, Manville School, Judge Baker Children's Center, Boston, MA, 1994-1997

School Counselor and Psychotherapist, W.H. Ohrenberger Elementary School, West Roxbury, MA, 1992-1996

Middle School Teacher, Bryn Mawr School, Baltimore, MD, 1983-1986

Child Welfare Consultant, Department of Children and Youth Services, Hartford, CT, 1982-1983

Institutional Committees and Service

Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Mission (SCOF), Advisory Subcommittee, University of Pennsylvania, 2025 - present

Chair, Professional Faculty Advisory Committee, PennGSE, 2024 - present

Alliance for Community Engagement, University of Pennsylvania, 2017 – present

Jolley Bruce Christman and Steven S. Goldberg Annual Award for Best Dissertation in Urban Education Selection Committee, University of Pennsylvania, 2016 - 2023

CTSA Community Engagement and Research Core Steering Committee, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, 2012 - present

Evaluation Oversight Committee, Netter Center for Community Partnerships, 2012 - 2016

PennGSE/TFA Steering Committee, 2011-2014

Community Health and Violence-Education Committee, Children's Hospital Boston, 2006

Dept. of Psychiatry Strategic Planning Committee, Children's Hospital Boston, 2004-2005

Dept. of Psychiatry Residency Training Committee, Children's Hospital Boston, 2004-2008

Dept. of Psychiatry Senior Management Team, Children's Hospital Boston, 2002-2008

Committee on Schooling, Harvard Graduate School of Education, 2003-2006

Cross-Role Cohort Subcommittee, Harvard Graduate School of Education, 2003-2006

Professional and Community Service

School Board Director, Cheltenham School District, Cheltenham PA, 2025 – present.

Board Member and Mentor, Body Empowerment Project, Philadelphia PA, 2020 – 2025.

Steering Committee Member, Clayton Model Implementation and Evaluation. Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs (WRI) at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey-Camden Board. 2020-present.

Educational Consultant, ADHD Intervention in Primary Care Project, Thomas Power and Jennifer Mautone, Co-Principal Investigators, CHOP. Funded by PCORI (Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute). 2019-present.

Planning Committee, Greater Philadelphia Trauma Training Conference, Philadelphia University, Philadelphia PA, 2016-2023.

Philadelphia Education Research Consortium, Governance Committee, Philadelphia PA, 2015 – 2017.

Philadelphia Alliance, School-based Behavioral Health Committee, Philadelphia PA, 2012-2014

Behavioral Health in Schools Committee, Public Citizens for Children and Youth, Philadelphia PA, 2010-2015

Education Committee of the Board, Public Citizens for Children and Youth, Philadelphia PA , 2009-2015

Citywide Leadership Team for Positive Behavior Support Initiative, Public Citizens for Children and Youth/School District of Philadelphia, 2008-2011

Reviewer, Harvard Mental Health Letter, Boston MA, 2006-2011

Committee Member, Trauma & Learning Policy Initiative, Massachusetts Advocates for Children/Hale & Dorr Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, Boston MA, 2005-2008

Boston Full Service Schools Roundtable, Boston MA, 2004-2008

Attorney General Reilly's Safe Schools Initiative-Mental Health Consultant, Massachusetts State Attorney General's Office, 2004-2007

Department of Mental Health Collaborative for School-Based Services, Boston MA, 1999-2008

Funding Information

P.I., Trustees Council of Penn Women, Teacher Scholarship Fund. June 2025.

P.I., Education Initiatives. The Academy at Penn: A Collaborative College and Career Readiness Initiative. Foundations, Inc, PennGSE, and the School District of Philadelphia. 2024 – 2029.

P.I., William Penn Foundation. Early Literacy Tutoring at Two Elementary Schools. 2024.

Co-P.I., Penn Community Engagement and Research Core (CEAR) and Penn Center for Public Health. The Preparation and Pilot Implementation of HOPE-ish: A Mental Health Awareness Program. 2023.

P.I., Neubauer Family Foundation, Collaborative Research and Leadership Capacity for the Office of School and Community Engagement, 2022-25. Renewed 2025-2028.

P.I., William Penn Foundation Family Recovery Grant. Bridging Gaps and Building Capacity: Student and Educator Supports for School Reopening in Learning Network 2. Two-year renewal grant 2022-2023.

P.I., William Penn Foundation Family Recovery Grant. Bridging Gaps and Building Capacity: Student and Educator Supports for School Reopening in Learning Network 2, 2021.

P.I., Projects for Progress Grant, University of Pennsylvania. Bridging Gaps and Building Capacity: Student and Educator Supports for School Reopening in Learning Network 2, 2021.

P.I., Neubauer Family Foundation, Collaborative Research Capacity for the Office of School and Community Engagement, 2019-22

Co-P.I., NSF DRK-12, Grant #1813048, Building Sustainable Networked Instructional Leadership in Elementary Mathematics through a University Partnership with a Large Urban District, National Science Foundation, 2018-2022

Co-P.I., Penn Futures Award, Preparing Leaders in Child Advocacy and Child Welfare (with Nursing and SP2), 2017

P.I., Private Grant, Teen Dating Violence Collaborative at Strawberry Mansion (with PennSP2 and Women Against Abuse), 2016

Co-P.I., William Penn Foundation, Networked Improvement of Mathematics Teaching and Learning, 2016-18.

P.I., Curaterra Foundation, A Multicultural Parent Engagement Initiative for Lea School, 2013

Co-PI, Center for Public Health Initiatives, University of Pennsylvania: Socialized Recess in West Philadelphia Public Schools, 2010-11

P.I., Aetna Foundation, CHNP Program Evaluation, 2006-08

P.I., DHHS, Grant # 90YD0190/01, Family Connections Implementation, US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Head Start Bureau, 2005-08

P.I., DHHS, Grant # 90YD0171/01, Family Connections Planning Grant, US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Head Start Bureau, 2004-05

Co-Recipient, Harvard University, Faculty Research and Innovation Fund, 1999

P.I., Private Grant, The Effects of Pair Therapy Upon Social Competence and Clinical Disorders in Severely Disturbed Adolescent Females, 1999

P.I., D.O.E., # R25S50099, Early Childhood Prevention Project, US Department of Education Secretary's Fund for the Improvement of Education, Elementary School Counseling Partnerships, 1995-98

Awards and Honors

Heroes In The Fight - Treatment Team, National Alliance on Mental Illness of Massachusetts, 2006

Champions in Health Care Award - Community Outreach, Boston Business Journal, 2005.

Publications

Garcia, A.R., **Watts, C.L.**, Carlough, S.L., Christian, C.W., Finck, K.R., Jaffee, S.R., Greeson, J.K.P., & Connolly, C. (May 2022). A template for implementing interprofessional education in child advocacy. *Journal of Social Work Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10437797.2022.2062505>

Christian, C.W., Finck, K.R., Connolly, C., Jaffee, S.R., Greeson, J.K.P., Garcia, A.R., Carlough, S.L. & **Watts, C.L.** (2020). Tear Down Those Walls: The Future of Graduate Education in Child and Family Advocacy. *Int. Journal on Child Malt.* **3**, 307–315 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42448-020-00057-3>

Zorc CS, O'Reilly AL, Matone M, Long J, **Watts CL** and Rubin D. The relationship of placement experience to school absenteeism and changing schools in young, school-aged children in foster care. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 05/2013; 35(5):826-833.

Noonan KG, Matone M, Zlotnik S, Hernandez-Mekonnen R, **Watts CL**, Rubin DM, Mollen C. Cross-system barriers to educational success for children in foster care: The front line perspective. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 34, 2, February 2012, Pages 403-408.

Beardslee, WR; Ayoub, CC; Avery, MW; **Watts, CL**; and O'Carroll, KL. Family Connections: An Approach for Strengthening Early Care Systems in Facing Depression and Adversity. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, October 2010.

Beardslee, WR; Avery, MW; Ayoub, CC; **Watts, CL**; and Lester, P. Building Resilience: The Power to Cope with Adversity. *Zero to Three: Practical Tips*, September 2010.

Feigenberg, LF; **Watts, CL** and Buckner, JC. The School Mental Health Capacity Instrument: Development of an Assessment and Consultation Tool. *Journal of School Mental Health*, June 2010.

- Ayoub, C., Beardslee, W., Watson Avery, M. & **Watts, CL**. Preventive intervention for parental depression: Making family connections. *Head Start Bulletin*, Issue 80, 2009. Head Start Bureau, Administration of Children, Youth and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Beardslee, W., Avery, M., Ayoub, C., & **Watts, CL**. Family Connections: Helping Early Head Start/Head Start Staff and Parents Make Sense of Mental Health Challenges. *Journal of Zero to Three*, 29:6, 34-43, 2009.
- Nikitopoulos, CE, Waters, JS, Collins, E and **Watts CL**. Understanding Violence: A School Initiative for Violence Prevention. *Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Community*, 37:275–288, 2009.
- Botta A, Reilly NL, **Watts CL**. Assessing class safety to determine curriculum level. In: DeMaso DR, Gold J, editors. *An adolescent mental health and wellness curriculum: a starter kit for schools*. Boston, MA: Children's Hospital and McLean Hospital. 2005.
- Reilly NR, Botta A, **Watts CL**. Depression in adolescents. In: DeMaso DR, Gold J, editors. *An adolescent mental health and wellness curriculum: a starter kit for schools*. Boston, MA: Children's Hospital and McLean Hospital. 2005.
- Watts CL**. Using the adolescent mental health and wellness curriculum in your school. In: DeMaso DR, Gold J, editors. *An adolescent mental health and wellness curriculum: a starter kit for schools*. Boston, MA: Children's Hospital Boston and McLean Hospital. 2005.
- Watts, CL** and Buckner, JC. Children's Hospital Neighborhood Partnerships: A Model for Service Delivery and Systems Change through School-Community-University Collaboration. *The Community Psychologist*. 2007;40(3):26-29.
- Watson Avery M, Ayoub CC, **Watts CL**, Beardslee WR. *The Family Connections Project: A manual for fostering resilience, increasing positive interactions and recognizing parental depression in Head Start*. 2005.
- Gerber EB, **Watts CL**. Evaluating mental health prevention programs in schools. In: DeMaso DR, Gold J, editors. *An adolescent mental health and wellness curriculum: a starter kit for schools*. Boston, MA: Children's Hospital and McLean Hospital. 2005.
- Nakkula MJ, **Watts CL**. The particulars of pairs supervision. In: Selman RL, Watts CL, Schultz LH, editors. *Fostering friendship: pair therapy for treatment and prevention*. Hawthorne, NY: Aldine deGruyter;1997.
- Selman RL, **Watts CL**, Schultz LH. *Fostering Friendship: Pair Therapy for Treatment and Prevention*. Hawthorne (NY): Aldine DeGruyter;1997.
- Watts CL**. The growth of intimacy between two preadolescent girls. In: Selman RL, Watts CL, Schultz LH, editors. *Fostering friendship: pair therapy for treatment and prevention*. Hawthorne, NY: Aldine deGruyter;1997.
- Watts CL**, Nakkula MJ, Barr DJ. Person-in-pairs, pairs-in-program: pairs in different institutional contexts. In: Selman RL, Watts CL, Schultz LH, editors. *Fostering friendship: pair therapy for treatment and prevention*. Hawthorne, NY: Aldine deGruyter;1997.
- Selman RL, Schultz LH, Nakkula M, Barr D, **Watts CL**, Richmond J. Friendship and fighting: a developmental approach to the study of risk and the prevention of violence. *Development and Psychopathology*. 1992; 4:529-58.
- Watts CL**, Murphy J, Nikitopoulos C. ECP: enhancing psychosocial and academic development in elementary schools. 1998. ERIC Microfiche #CG028452.
- Watts CL** and Murphy JA. The Early Childhood Prevention Project Manual. 1998.
- Family Connections Materials: A Comprehensive Approach in Dealing with Parental Depression and Related Adversities. Available online at <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/ecdh/Mental%20Health/Resources%20and%20Support%20for>

[%20Families/Parent%20Support%20and%20Resources/FamilyConnection.htm](#)

Courses Taught

University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education:

- Group and Individual Wellness (MidCareer Program)
- Internship in Professional Counseling
- Internship in School and Mental Health Counseling
- Advanced Professional Development in School Counseling
- Teaching Diverse Learners (UTAP)
- School-Community Mental Health Partnerships: Theory and Practice
- Annual sessions in Professional Counseling and Chief Learning Officer programs

Harvard University Graduate School of Education:

- Developmental Challenges in Early Education
- Research Experience in Risk and Prevention
- Practicum in Risk and Prevention
- Pair Therapy for Prevention and Intervention

Selected Presentations

Multiple presentations on partnerships in community engaged scholarship, Penn Medicine/Community Driven Research Day/Penn Injury Science Center. 2025.

“Managing Anxiety in Classrooms and Schools.” Presentation to the Chester County Intermediate Unit for the Consortium for Mental Health and Optimal Development, January 2024.

“University-Assisted Initiatives in Education.” Presentation to the University Council, University of Pennsylvania, March 2023.

“Building Mental Health Capacity in Schools.” Workshop presentation for the Consortium for Mental Health and Optimal Development, Bucks County PA, November 2019.

“Promoting Cross Disciplinary Professional Education & Dismantling Challenges to Interdisciplinary Practice on Behalf of Children and Families.” Panel Presentation. One Child Many Hands Conference, Field Center/Penn Law School, University of Pennsylvania, June 2019.

“Building Connected Cultures in Fragmented Times: The Role of Relational Trust in Learning Communities.” Center for School Study Councils, May 2019, Camden NJ and Norristown PA.

“Civic Engagement Through School-Community-University Partnership: Aligning Goals, Negotiating Obstacles.” Symposium, 44th Annual Association for Moral Education Conference, Barcelona, Spain, November 2018.

“Teach Us All.” Invited Discussant, Student Affairs Leadership Team (SALT) Annual Conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, May 2018.

“Universities in Cities: Responsibilities, Opportunities, and Challenges.” Panel Presentation, New College House, Annual Global Citizenship Forum, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, March 2018.

“Issues of Special Education and Complex Trauma in Youth Legal Representation.” Panel Presentation, Legal Rights of Children Committee of the Bar Association of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, May 2017.

"Building Capacity in Schools to Promote Individual and Institutional Wellbeing." Invited talk, Behavioral Health Solutions Research Symposium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, April 2017.

"Applying Reflective Practices in Clinical Supervision to Promote Evidence Based Psychotherapy." American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Toronto, Ontario, August 2015.

"Access, Capacity and Quality: Building Individual and Institutional Collaborations to Promote Children's Mental Health." Presentation to Shanghai Normal University Counseling Center, Shanghai, China, July 2012.

National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA, April 2012.

- "Teacher-Student Relationships and Discipline within a SW-PBS Framework." Poster Presentation. Rosen, P. and Watts, C.L.
- "Understanding the Health Assets and Health Needs of Public School Teachers." Symposium. Rosen, P; Bevans, K.; Watts, C; and Forrest, C.

PCCY Forum on School-based Mental Health Services in Philadelphia, October 2011, Moderator.

"The Impact of Caregiver Depression on Young Children." Symposium. Pennsylvania Infant Mental Health Conference, Harrisburg PA, October 2011.

"Building positive school climate in low-performing urban elementary schools." Symposium presentation. Society for Research on Adolescence National Convention, Philadelphia, PA, March 2010.

"Mental health services in schools: Being prepared before and after an event." American Academy of Pediatrics Annual Convention, Boston, MA, October 2008.

"Making Family Connections: A Systems-based Preventative Intervention for Parental Depression and Adversity", Birth to Three Institute, 2007.

"Behavior and Performance: Bullies, Targets and Bystanders", Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents and Massachusetts Association of School Committees, 2006.

"CHNP: A Model for Community-School-University Partnerships", Center for School Mental Health Analysis and Action, Intensive Pre-conference Training Workshop, 2006.

"Moving Toward a System of Comprehensive Early Identification", Schott Foundation for Public Education and United Way of Massachusetts Bay, Panel Presentation, 2006.

"Promoting Positive Behavioral, Emotional and Social Skills for Children with Disabilities in Schools", Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education Workshop, 2006.

"The Development of Social Competence in Severely Disturbed Adolescent Females in Residential Treatment", Society for Research on Adolescence, 9th Biennial Meeting, New Orleans, LA, 2002.

"Pair Therapy: I. Relationship Development for Traumatized Children and Adolescents. II. A Model for Professional Development", Interassociation Child Care Conference, King of Prussia, PA. Seminar. 1998.

"Pair Therapy: Relationship Development for Traumatized Adolescents", Eighth Annual Virginia Beach Conference, Commonwealth Institute of Child and Family Studies, VA. Seminar. 1998.