



Department of Psychology Colloquium

Behavior Analysis in Urban Communities: Lessons Learned from a Charter School Implementation

Denise E. Ross, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Education
College of Education
DePaul University



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Room 1728, Wood Hall**

Each year, millions of elementary and secondary students in urban communities fail to perform academically on grade level, negatively affecting their post-secondary educational, social and financial outcomes. Garfield Park Preparatory Academy – a charter-contract school founded in Chicago Public Schools in 2009 – was established to improve academic outcomes for elementary students in an impoverished community by replicating the successful Accelerated Independent Learner (AIL) model of schooling developed at Columbia University. However, both school and community factors impacted the development and sustainability of the AIL model, the school, and its supporting systems. In this colloquium, factors that contributed to the school's successes and failures are analyzed in the context of behavior analysis in schools. Recommendations for implementing behavioral models of schooling in urban communities will be discussed.