Professional Experience

Vivian Allen is the Associate Director of the Center for Effective School Practices, where she provides advanced leadership and engaged oversight to the Center's day-to-day operations striving to achieve optimal operational efficiencies within current university and stakeholder climates such that CESP may excel in meeting its existing award commitments, perform beyond stakeholder expectations, and further grow and develop in meaningful purposeful ways. Vivian closely supervises the CESP team to ensure the integrity of the research and methodological approaches, as well as the completion of related tasks on-time and up to CESP's high-standards. She does so by focusing on the capacity building of individual team members and the organization to support healthy, strategic growth toward realizing the mission and vision of CESP. Vivian actively collaborates with faculty, staff, and external partners to ensure the rigor and relevance of CESP's research portfolio with an eye toward efficient and effective project management in a fiscally sound manner.

Vivian has extensive experience with evaluating programs and using this information in an iterative process of program refinement. Her undergraduate and graduate education focused on mathematics and analytical processing, and she has extended this with a more recent emphasis on research methodologies with social science theoretical underpinnings. Additionally, she has spent over 20 years in financial management and program development within private industry and non-profit organizations and has a deep and sincere appreciation for the importance of relationship-building and authentic collaboration, open and honest communication, and the central role of third-party organizations in an educational research and policy context.

Qualification Highlights

Over 20 years of experience in program management and financial analysis
Successful administration of self-funded multi-million-dollar research center with numerous coinciding large-scale grant awards and contracts
Expert in relational data management systems, app development platforms, and learning management software

Education

B.A. New York University, 1993
Continuing Ed Diploma in Financial Analysis, New York University, 1998

Certificates and Training

Research Administration Training Program – Advanced, Rutgers University, 2020Social/Behavioral/Epidemiologic Research Investigators CITI Certification

Project Experience

Extending the Computer Science Pipeline: Enhancing Rigor and Relevance in Middle School Computer Science United States Department of Education | 2021-2025

Ms. Allen manages the Administrative, Financial and Field Implementation Team. She oversees the day-to-day operations of the project, including all administrative, financial, and logistical items, such as project coordination, budget management and financial monitoring, and required reporting. Additionally, Ms. Allen spearheads the use and maintenance of proprietary data-management software to track all activities, deliverables, and data. Vivian actively serves as the primary point of contact between the project staff and the Rutgers University IRB for all research and compliance matters.

Expanding Access to Computer Science Education: Professional Learning Hubs New Jersey Department of Education | 2021-2022

In the capacity of Managing Evaluator for the Rutgers University Computer Science Education Hub, Vivian Allen, who is the Director of Research and Evaluation at RU-CESP, is responsible for the (a) management and monitoring of the project budget; (b) oversight of all financial and project progress reporting; (c) evaluation of project fidelity, implementation, and milestones, and; (d) coordination and organization of the timely and responsible collection of data for research and evaluation purposes.

The Computer Science Teaching and Learning Collaboratory (CS-TLC): Building Capacity, Rigor, and Equity in Computer Science Education National Science Foundation | 2018-2021

Ms. Allen oversees all project activities and manages all project costs and budgeting considerations. Additionally, she is the prime contact for the participating school districts and serves as the liaison between researchers, educators, and other stakeholders. She developed and utilizes a proprietary data management software to track project deliverables, contacts, and other data for the research project to coordinate timely completion of project tasks with all members of the team. Ms. Allen handles all paperwork and documentation for the IRB and serves as the main contact point for project members, external contractors, the Rutgers Grants department, and the federal funder.

Diverse Teachers for Diverse Schools New Jersey Department of Education | 2019-2020

Ms. Allen served as the data manager in this project, where she worked closely with researchers and other project staff to ensure the timely completion of study protocols, data analysis, and reporting. She also handled all finances for this project through budgeting, cost management, and served as the liaison between the Rutgers University Grants Accounting and the state funding agency. Ms. Allen developed and implemented a data management system for all deliverables, contacts, and project costs for use by the project staff to aid in financial and project reporting.

iStronG (Inclusive, Strong, and Green): A Student-Centered Systems Thinking, Place-Based, and Technology Driven Curriculum National Science Foundation | 2018–2021

As the project manager for the external evaluation of this educational research project, Ms. Allen ensured that all data collection was completed within the guidelines provided by the project's research staff (and developed and conducted participant interviews), analysis was completed in accordance with IRB regulations, and evaluative reporting met all project milestones. Ms. Allen also handled all program management for the evaluation efforts and facilitated the subcontracting agreement between Rutgers and the other participating university.

Leadership and iSTEAM for Females in Elementary School (LiFE): An Integrated Approach to Increase the Number of Women Pursuing Careers in STEM National Science Foundation | 2016-2020

Ms. Allen worked closely with the Center Director to provide project management in support of the external evaluation. Responsibilities included facilitating the subcontract between Rutgers and the participating university, creating and submitting IRB protocol, tracking costs for the project, and working on the required NSF annual evaluation reports.

Products

Blitz, C., Amiel, D., & **Allen, V.** (2021, August). *Combined Capacity: Leveraging the RPP Structure for an Additive Effect on Instructional and Institutional CSE Outcomes*. RPPforCS: The Intersection of RPPs and BPC in CS Education, Virtual Conference.

Blitz, C., Amiel, D., **Allen, V.**, & Incantalupo, M. (2021, June). *Navigating and Selecting Tools for Distance Education*. 2021 Computer Science Teachers Association Annual Conference, Virtual Conference.

Blitz, C., **Allen, V.**, & Amiel, D. (2021). *Recruiting Diverse Learners to High School Computer Science.* Proceedings of the 52nd ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education, Virtual Event, USA. https://doi.org/10.1145/3408877.3439565

Blitz, C.L., **Allen, V.**, Amiel, D. (2020, June). *A Researcher Practitioner Partnership (RPP): The Computer Science Teaching & Learning Collaboratory*. 2020 Pennsylvania Computer Science for All Summit. Harrisburg, PA.

Blitz, C.L., **Allen, V.**, Amiel, D. (2020, June). *Recruiting Diverse Learners to Computer Science.* 2020 Pennsylvania Computer Science for All Summit. Harrisburg, PA.

Blitz, C.L., Trees, F., **Allen, V.**, Amiel, D. (2020, May). *Partnership & Progress: The Computer Science Teaching & Learning Collaboratory.* 2020 STEM for All Video Showcase: Learning from Research and Practice. Online.

Current and Pending Support

The Center for Effective School Practices is an entirely grant-funded center within the Graduate School of Education, receiving no internal Rutgers funding. The Center has secured over $6,000,000 of external funding in the last 5 years. Vivian Allen is currently funded on the below projects:

Title	Source of Support	Amount	Period
Extending the Computer Science Pipeline: Enhancing Rigor and Relevance in Middle School Computer Science	United States Department of Education	$4,000,000	January 2021 – December 2025
Expanding Access to Computer Science Education: Professional Learning Hubs	New Jersey Department of Education	$266,665	April 2021 – August 2022
The Computer Science Teaching and Learning Collaboratory (CS-TLC): Building Capacity, Rigor, and Equity in Computer Science Education	National Science Foundation	$1,000,000	January 2018 – December 2021
iStronG (Inclusive, Strong, and Green): A Student-Centered Systems Thinking, Place-Based, and Technology Driven Curriculum	National Science Foundation (Rutgers Subaward)	$120,000	March 2019 – September 2021