

Melissa Connelly

Senior Director of Regional Persistence, OneGoal

As the Senior Director of Regional College Persistence at OneGoal, Melissa Connelly serves as the key strategist for ensuring that OneGoal Fellows from Chicago Public Schools have the beliefs, skills, knowledge, and resources to successfully matriculate through, and graduate from college. Melissa is a first-generation college graduate who, in spite of starting high school in a truancy program, obtained three college degrees with a 4.0 grade-point average. She has spent over a decade in education leveraging her experiences, empathy and drive to make certain her accomplishments are not an anomaly, but the norm, for at-risk youth in Chicago.



Melissa's career includes service as the Managing Director of STEM Teacher Leadership at Teach For America where she was featured in a national management case study for establishing strong team culture and accomplishing ambitious academic outcomes. Melissa was also a founding teacher and school leader at Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School which was awarded Top Ten Most Improved Schools in Illinois. Melissa implemented an innovative Algebra program and earned the Teacher of the Network Award.

Melissa graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts from University of Illinois-Chicago, and received a Masters of Arts in Teaching and a Masters of Arts in Education Administration from Dominican University. Melissa is most proud of her "A-team," comprised of her husband Allen and their two children, Ashland and Addae.