

Alexander P. Morris-Wood, Ed.D.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Innovative educational executive and national leader in neuroinclusive education, higher education transition, and enrollment strategy. Head of School and former Vice President with nearly 20 years of progressive leadership experience spanning secondary and postsecondary institutions. Proven record of institutional growth, strategic restructuring, enrollment expansion, and cross-divisional collaboration. Scholar-practitioner holding a Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership & Policy with research focused on family systems and the transition of autistic students to higher education.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), Higher Education Leadership & Policy <i>University of Missouri</i>	July 2025 <i>Columbia, MO</i>
Master of Science (M.S.), Counseling & Human Services <i>Post University</i>	May 2018 <i>Waterbury, CT</i>
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), History & American Studies <i>Connecticut College</i>	May 2008 <i>New London, CT</i>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Franklin Academy <i>Head of School</i>	East Haddam, CT <i>July 2024 - Present</i>
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- Providing strategic leadership for a growing boarding school serving complex learners, overseeing 50+ faculty and staff, and managing a multi-million dollar operating budget.
- Increasing enrollment to record levels while strengthening retention and long-term sustainability.
- Leading comprehensive NEASC accreditation process, including institutional self-study and governance alignment.
- Developed Vision 2030 strategic framework focused on campus expansion and diversified revenue streams.
- Launched the Center for Neurodiversity to provide training, consultation, and institutional partnerships.
- Strengthened residential life model integrating executive functioning and adaptive skill development.
- Serve as primary spokesperson, board liaison, and national thought leader in neuroinclusive education.

Beacon College <i>Associate Vice President of Program Development & Global Partnerships</i> <i>Dean of The Center for College Readiness</i>	Leesburg, FL <i>July 2023 - June 2024</i>
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- Supervised Enrollment Management Department, including admission counselors, transition counselors, summer program faculty and staff, faculty within college readiness programs, and regional recruiters.
 - Oversaw enrollment projections and programming for credit-bearing and non-credit-bearing programs
 - Developed a model for remote and virtual recruitment, launching regional counselors in major metropolitan areas to enhance enrollment and auxiliary programming.
- Conducted departmental professional development, including training on retention management, disability rights, neurodevelopmental conditions, psychoeducational evaluations, and adjustments to post-secondary placements.
 - Provided college-wide professional development to faculty, counselors, learning specialists, and resident life staff.
- Designed, implemented, and managed all transition-to-college programs, including pre-enrollment, summer, and credit-bearing programs. From 2018 to 2024, programs worked with over 1,100 students, generated \$4 million in tuition revenue, and had 91% of incoming freshmen participate in one program.

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

Beacon College

Dean of Admissions, Transition Programs, & Strategic Outreach

Leesburg, FL

July 2022 - June 2023

Dean of Admissions & Student Affairs

July 2021 - June 2022

- Evaluated admission trends across degree-seeking and college readiness programs to determine standards and adjustments to the enrollment process.
 - Increased applications by 17% in 2021-2022 to support the goal of the largest class of the College's history
 - Increased enrollment since 2018 by 30% to meet the student population goal, originally to be met by 2025
- Designed Beacon College's Triadic Developmental Model, a restructuring of all major departments of the College to increase retention, cross-department collaboration, and post-graduate career placement (launching Fall 2022).
 - Supervised and restructured the office of student engagement, including housing, residence life, student leadership, orientation, and student activities.
 - Redesigned policies and procedures for emergency protocols, communication processes, and student support.
 - Redesigned the residence life model to enhance social-emotional curriculum, independent living skills, and executive functioning skills for 400 residential students.
- Provided curriculum review for high schools geared towards students with learning disabilities
 - Created a school evaluation program for two private K-12 schools in the Dallas/Fort Worth region
 - Implemented transition programming at two private K-12 schools in the Dallas/Fort Worth region
- Developed a dual enrollment program for students with learning differences in Lake County, Florida, including a pre-requisite course (Unique Skills in College Readiness) for all qualifying students with an IEP.

Director of Transition Services & Outreach

July 2019 - June 2021

- Implemented training programs at colleges, universities, and high schools on issues related to students with learning differences across various post-secondary environments.
 - Developed and maintained a five-year partnership with a state university to train faculty, advisors, and peer tutors.
- Managed operating budgets for admissions, college readiness programs, housing, student activities, and the transition service department.

Assistant Director of Admissions & Pre-Enrollment Transition Programs

July 2018 - June 2019

- Created, piloted, and fully implemented Navigator PREP – the country's first virtual transition-to-college program for students with learning differences and their families.
 - Implemented Navigator PREP Jr., an eleventh-grade model of the program.
- Partnered with Sharjah Center for Learning Difficulties (United Arab Emirates) to implement Project Discovery.
- Designed and delivered virtual outreach programs to major stakeholders during the pandemic.

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT & ENGAGEMENT

College Autism Network

Advisor | Board Member

Mystic, CT

2024 - Present

Warren Wilson College

Senior Advisor

Asheville, NC

2024 - Present

National Association for College Admissions Counselors (NACAC)

Co-Chair of Disabilities & Neurodiversity SIG

Arlington, VA

2023 - Present

Beacon College

Senior Neurodiversity & Program Development Consultant

Leesburg, FL

2024 - 2026

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FEATURED PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

Keynotes & Pre-Conferences :

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| Randolph College Student Success Summit
<i>Sense Making of a Complex College Student Profile</i> | 2026 |
| American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Annual Conference
<i>Neurodivergence at the Crossroads: A Systems-Oriented Framework for Supporting Emerging Adults in Higher Education</i> | 2026 |
| NACAC Pre-Conference
<i>Neurodiversity and Disability: Transforming College Advising Tools & Strategies for Success</i> | 2025 |
| Colorado Council on College & Career Readiness
<i>Making the Leap: Adjusting to College for LD Students</i> | 2023 |
| National Association for College Admission Counseling | 2018, 2019, 2022 - 2025 |
- *Independent Education Consultants Association (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026)*
 - *Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities (2026)*
 - *Different Choices College Fair (2022)*
 - *Higher Education Consultants Association Annual Conference (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)*
 - *Florida College Access Network (2022)*
 - *United States Autism Association Annual Conference (2022)*
 - *A World of Difference, Beacon College (2021, 2022)*
 - *International Conference on ADHD (2020, 2021)*
 - *National Academic Advising Association (2020, 2021)*
 - *Sharjah Center for Learning Difficulties Parent Workshop, United Arab Emirates (2019, 2021)*
 - *Sharjah Center for Learning Difficulties Annual Conference, United Arab Emirates (2020)*
 - *Florida AHEAD Annual Conference (2020)*
 - *Association on Higher Education and Disability (2019)*
 - *National Conference on Student Transitions (2019)*
 - *Asperger Autism Spectrum Education Network (2018)*

HONORS & AWARDS

- *Top 100 Educational Leaders in America, Global Forum on Education Leadership*
- *Region 4 Best Conference Presentation, National Academic Advising Association*
- *Tau Upsilon Alpha Honors Society*
- *NCAA Academic All-American*