Cynthia Allen  
Director of Education

Cynthia began her journey at Center for Literacy (CFL) as a volunteer tutor. She was always interested in helping people reach their literacy goals.

Cynthia was hired by CFL in October 2007 as an instructor and was an instructor for seven years, beginning as an Adult Basic Education instructor. She also taught in several other programs at CFL including Mayor's Office of Reintegration Services (RISE), Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA), College and Career Advancement Program (CCAP; a program for city employees to build their math and literacy skills so they could retain employment and take the civil service test). Her last teaching experience was teaching young adults at one of the E3 Centers as a literacy specialist.

In October 2013, Cynthia was promoted to assistant director of instructional quality. In 2016, Cynthia was promoted to director of academic success, which later became director of education. She is under the direct supervision of the president and CEO, leading the Program Improvement Team and Professional Development Community, as she builds CFL’s capacity to develop and deliver high quality education programs using all available resources including program data, staff expertise, and adolescent and adult education research, literature and identified best practices.

Cynthia attended the COABE 2014 Conference and presented at the PAACE Conference 2015. She facilitated a Leadership Workshop at the CFL Institute. She has also served on several CFL event committees such as Speak Out and Graduation.

Cynthia is eager to build partnerships with other organizations that have a similar mission and vision to CFL’s. Her goal is for every student to have the best outcome which includes a positive learning experience, earning a high school equivalency credential and transitioning into post-secondary education or a career.

Cynthia earned her Bachelor’s Degree at Millersville University. In 2010, she graduated from Strayer University with a Master’s in Educational Leadership. Her interests outside of work include traveling with her 16-year-old son, and serving as a board member on two non-profit organizations, ACTS Inc. and Project Breakthrough.