PROFESSIONAL

PORTFOLIO



Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

LEADER | EDUCATOR | AUTHOR | NAVY VETERAN

A Legacy of Leadership. A Commitment to Impact.

PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO

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Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

A Legacy of Leadership. A Commitment to Impact.

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

LEADER I EDUCATOR I AUTHOR I NAVY VETERAN



Dr. Robert L. Kirton is an educational leader, author, certified leadership coach, and U.S. Navy veteran with more than three decades of experience in K-12 and higher education. As CEO of DNA Educational Solutions, he helps educators and organizations turn evidence and shared priorities into practical action to improve achievement, behavior, and school climate.

His career spans the classroom, school and district administration, and university leadership preparation. He has served as a career and technology education teacher, principal, area superintendent, executive director of schools, and professor of educational leadership. That experience informs his approach to developing leaders, strengthening teams, and connecting professional learning to daily practice.

Leadership That Expands Opportunity

Dr. Kirton founded and helped develop Richland One Middle College, a public charter school that achieved a 100% graduation rate among Black male students under his leadership. His work reflects a sustained commitment to creating pathways for students whose potential is too often overlooked.

Resources That Advance the Mission

He has secured and overseen more than $100 million in grants and resources supporting school facilities, professional development, and student programs. He helps school and nonprofit leaders align funding strategies, partnerships, and implementation plans with the needs of the people they serve.

Life's Lessons. A Legacy of Impact.

Dr. Kirton is the author of *The DNA Blueprint for Educational Leaders* and *A Journey from Risk to Resilience: Turning Obstacles into Opportunities*, which shares his personal story. A companion journal invites young men to tell their own stories, reflect on their experiences, and prepare for the journey ahead. His writing connects a lifetime of learning and service with practical tools for leadership, resilience, and purposeful action.

A Life's Work of Service

A recipient of the FBI Director's Award for Community Leadership, Dr. Kirton actively serves on several nonprofit boards, including Boys Without Fathers in Atlanta, Georgia, where he is Co-Founder and Chief Educational Officer. Helping young people recognize their potential, overcome barriers, and build meaningful futures remains at the heart of his life's work.

Programs Designed or Implemented

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

Early College & Career Pathways

Richland One Middle College



An early college public charter school on Midlands Technical College's Beltline Campus. The school connects secondary and postsecondary education through partnerships with colleges, businesses, and community organizations.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As Chief Educational Officer and program designer for South Carolina's first middle college public charter school, I developed pathways that combined career study, virtual learning, and dual enrollment. Students could earn early college credit and gain practical experience through paid internships, workplace mentoring, and service learning. Program records report graduation and placement rates above 90%.

Heyward Career & Technology Center



A career and technical education center serving Richland One high schools. Students explore academic and technical pathways in fields such as business, engineering, industrial technology, health, and human services.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As Executive Director of Schools, I established a Business and Industry Advisory Committee, hired a principal and director, and redesigned the educational program around industry certifications. These changes connected academic preparation with technical skills and gave students clearer pathways to careers and postsecondary education. The center served approximately 1,050 students daily during the period documented.

Programs Designed or Implemented

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

Career & Postsecondary Readiness

Richland One Works

Richland One Works provides a coordinated transition from high school to postsecondary opportunities for students with disabilities. The program links school-based learning with preparation for life after graduation.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As Executive Director of Schools, I designed the Richland One Works program and its facilities to support students with disabilities as they prepared for life after high school. The program coordinated transition activities so students could build practical skills and explore postsecondary opportunities before graduation.

SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA gives career and technical education students opportunities to develop technical, workplace, and leadership skills. It connects classroom learning with the expectations students will encounter in their chosen fields.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As Executive Director of Schools, I introduced SkillsUSA within Richland One's career and technical education programs. It gave students a setting to apply their technical knowledge, practice workplace skills, and take on leadership responsibilities alongside their classroom instruction.

Programs Designed or Implemented

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

School Improvement & Graduation Pathways

High Schools That Work

High Schools That Work is the Southern Regional Education Board's comprehensive school improvement program. It combines college-ready academics, rigorous career pathways, and hands-on workplace learning with opportunities to earn credentials and degrees.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As Executive Director of Schools, I led districtwide implementation of the school improvement framework across middle and high schools. The initiative connected stronger instruction and career preparation with the district's goals for student achievement, graduation, and readiness for life after high school.

Richland One EXCEL Academy

An academy for students who were older than their eighth-grade peers and needed a path back to on-time graduation.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As Executive Director of Schools, I led the design and implementation of EXCEL Academy for students who were older than their eighth-grade peers. The academy gave students a structured opportunity to catch up academically, reconnect with school, and get back on track for graduation.

Programs Designed or Implemented

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

Student Support & Experiential Learning

Olympia Learning Center



Olympia Learning Center provides alternative education and transition support. Its programs help students rebuild engagement with school, strengthen behavior and life skills, and prepare to return to their home schools.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As Executive Director of Schools, I redesigned alternative programs to include character education, leadership development, and essential life skills. I helped staff use positive behavior supports across school, classroom, and individual settings. The revised programs helped students prepare for a successful return to their home schools and continue toward graduation.

Challenger Learning Center



In simulated space missions, students and educators work in teams to solve mathematics, science, and technology problems. The experience gives participants a setting to apply classroom concepts through hands-on problem-solving.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As Executive Director of Schools, I hired a new flight commander and developed partnerships with museums, science centers, schools, and universities across North America. These relationships supported hands-on instruction that connected classroom concepts with practical problems and gave students a setting to work through those problems together.

Programs Designed or Implemented

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

Team Development & Dropout Prevention

Project Adventure

Project Adventure uses experiential learning to help youth and adults build trust, collaborate, and lead. Its programs support schools and organizations through facilitated activities and the design and operation of challenge courses.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As Executive Director of Schools, I designed and built ropes courses and led experiential activities for Richland One students and staff. The activities gave participants opportunities to practice communication, build trust, and work through challenges together. Teams could reflect on what they learned and apply it to their work at school.

National Dropout Prevention Center

The National Dropout Prevention Center helps schools put research-based dropout prevention strategies into practice. Its work supports students in developing the academic, social, career, and life skills they need to graduate and pursue their goals.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As Chief Educational Officer at Richland One Middle College, I collaborated with the National Dropout Prevention Center on provisions for students at risk of leaving school in South Carolina's Education and Economic Development Act. Richland One Middle College offered a practical example of an alternative pathway to graduation.

Programs Designed or Implemented

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

School Climate & Youth Mentoring

The BEAST School Climate System™



A schoolwide study of The Beast and the Least brings students, staff, and families together around one idea: everyone contributes to a positive school climate. The Skills of Success Library builds on that lesson with interactive student activities, professional development, and practical tools for families.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As CEO of DNA Educational Solutions, I helped design and co-author the BEAST Skills of Success library and School Climate System. Together, these resources give educators a framework for developing student skills, supporting staff practice, and creating a learning environment where students feel respected and ready to participate.

The Brotherhood



The Brotherhood Challenge Program helps young men develop character, prepare for success, and serve their communities. Its tools and activities give families, educators, and community leaders ways to support young men as they put those skills into practice.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As CEO of DNA Educational Solutions, I designed and developed a peer mentoring and character development curriculum for young men. I also developed facilitator training to support implementation across elementary, middle, and high school settings. The program focused on leadership skills, attendance, behavior, grades, and progress toward graduation.

Programs Designed or Implemented

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

Workforce Development & Student Intervention

Project Build USA

Project Build USA helps students build stronger communities through hands-on projects. Its curriculum connects technical skills and career preparation with teamwork, service, and responsibility for completing work that benefits others.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As CEO of DNA Educational Solutions, I designed Project Build USA around four cornerstones: Character, Career, Community, and Commitment. The curriculum connects career preparation and technical learning with community projects. Students apply what they learn while practicing teamwork and contributing to a project that serves their community.

Ripple Effects



Ripple Effects provides tools for staff development, student intervention, and assessment. Educators use the system to identify student needs and plan supports that strengthen behavior and school climate.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As CEO of DNA Educational Solutions, I provided professional development and helped districts implement Ripple Effects. My work focused on how educators could use the program's assessment and intervention tools to respond to student needs and support a more positive school climate.

Programs Designed or Implemented

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

Leadership Development & Educational Technology

Leadership Freedom

Leadership Freedom develops leaders and teams through insights into human behavior. Its Leading with Honor approach emphasizes character, courage, and commitment while helping leaders build accountability and resilience in the next generation.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As CEO of DNA Educational Solutions, I supported Leadership Freedom's work in leadership and team development through behavior assessments, coaching, and training. My contribution helped leaders use insights about human behavior to reflect on their own practices and better understand how they work with their teams.

ViziTech USA

ViziTech USA develops digital education and training programs that use interactive 3D technology, augmented reality, and virtual reality. Its tools let learners practice skills and explore scenarios that can be difficult to recreate in a classroom or workplace.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As CEO of DNA Educational Solutions, I advised ViziTech USA on curriculum development, community partnerships, and the educational use of immersive learning technologies. I helped connect technology options to instructional needs and identify ways to use immersive practice in education and training.

Programs Designed or Implemented

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

Youth Leadership & Veteran Support

Boys Without Fathers / Men of Influence

Boys Without Fathers and its Men of Influence initiative offer guidance and mentorship to boys and young men who lack a consistent male presence in their lives. The program helps them build confidence and leadership skills they can use in their families, schools, and communities.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As Co-Founder and Chief Educational Officer of Boys Without Fathers, I designed curriculum and helped develop resources and partnerships for the Men of Influence initiative. My work supports a structured leadership and mentoring experience that helps boys and young men build character, set goals, and prepare for their next steps.

The Veterans Connection

The Veterans Connection helps former service members find mental health, PTSD, and suicide prevention resources. It also supports veterans as they navigate the transition to civilian life.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As CEO of DNA Educational Solutions, I collaborated with The Veterans Connection on the Vets Build USA curriculum. My contribution focused on creating a structured learning experience that connects veterans' existing skills and experience with career preparation and opportunities to contribute to their communities.

Programs Designed or Implemented

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

Advisory & Foundation Leadership

SCDJJ College & Career Advisory Council

An advisory council supporting career and technical education for students served by the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As a member of the College & Career Advisory Council, I advise on curriculum development, partnerships, and educational technology. I bring experience in career and technical education to discussions about how students can explore career options, develop practical skills, and prepare for their next educational or employment opportunity.

Richland One Education Foundation

The foundation supports Richland One students and schools by bringing community resources to educational priorities. Its work creates opportunities for businesses and community organizations to invest in the district's students and staff.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As a former Richland One district leader supporting the Education Foundation, I bring experience securing resources and building community partnerships. I support fundraising and help connect community resources with priorities that expand opportunities for Richland One students and staff.

Certification of Experience

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

I. District Leadership & Administration

My professional experience spans classroom teaching, school and district administration, higher education, and educational consulting. I have served as Chief Educational Officer, Area Superintendent, Executive Director of Schools, Principal, and Administrator, with more than 20 years of leadership experience in these roles.

Across these settings, I have used research, qualitative case studies, field studies, program evaluations, and state and federal performance indicators to guide decisions and assess progress in attendance, attitude, achievement, and student success.

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP & SUPERVISION

At the district level, I supervised principals, curriculum coordinators, directors, and program leaders. I provided leadership in instructional strategies and assessment, curriculum development, professional learning, program evaluation, staff supervision, educational technology, and grant development. My responsibilities included ensuring that educational and instructional programs met local, state, and federal requirements.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

I worked with administrators to evaluate textbooks, digital resources, library and media acquisitions, and other instructional materials. I led planning for instructional research, pilot studies, technology implementation, and new courses of study. I assessed program results, identified areas for improvement, pursued competitive grants, and contributed to the planning and implementation of federally funded initiatives.

DISTRICT GOVERNANCE & COORDINATION

As a member of the Superintendent’s Cabinet, I collaborated with district administrators on school operations and instructional priorities. I led professional meetings, maintained administrative procedures that supported teaching and learning, and carried out responsibilities assigned by the Superintendent and Board of Education.

Certification of Experience

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

II. School Leadership & Operations

A SAFE, ORDERLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

At the school level, I established and managed procedures aligned with the district's philosophy, mission, values, and goals. My responsibilities included instructional programs, extracurricular activities, discipline systems, building maintenance, program evaluation, personnel management, office operations, and emergency procedures.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

I supervised and evaluated teachers, counselors, media specialists, and other school personnel. I promoted clear expectations for attendance, attitude, and achievement; supported teachers in disciplinary decisions; and worked to maintain fair, consistent systems for student behavior and attendance.

INSTRUCTIONAL QUALITY & STUDENT PROGRESS

I developed annual master schedules that supported sequential learning experiences and school instructional goals. Through lesson-plan reviews, classroom observations, and staff feedback, I monitored instructional quality and encouraged strategies and materials grounded in research on learning, student growth, and development.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

I worked with students, families, teachers, and community leaders to monitor progress, understand student behavior, and strengthen community support. These relationships helped connect school priorities with the needs and experiences of the students and families we served.

COMPLIANCE & ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

I ensured that school operations complied with applicable laws, board policies, and civil regulations. My approach combined clear procedures, consistent supervision, and high expectations with a commitment to a safe and supportive school climate.

Certification of Experience

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

III. School Improvement & Consulting

As a school improvement specialist and educational consultant, I have helped schools and organizations examine barriers, develop staff capacity, and connect improvement strategies to daily practice. My work has included whole-school reform, leadership development, school climate, youth development, and educational technology.

HIGH SCHOOLS THAT WORK

I led implementation of the High Schools That Work network reform in Richland School District for more than a decade. This work used the framework's goals and key practices to support stronger instruction, student achievement, graduation, and preparation for future opportunities. Related school improvement work included attention to transitions from the middle grades into high school.

RIPPLE EFFECTS

I served as lead School Climate and Youth Development Consultant and as a member of the Scientific Advisory Council. I delivered live professional development and ongoing technical assistance to school districts. I also developed requests for proposals addressing professional learning, school climate, and schoolwide implementation, including Tier 2 skill instruction and Tier 3 interventions intended to reduce initial and repeat discipline referrals.

LEADERSHIP FREEDOM

As a consultant and advisor, I worked with principal owner Colonel Lee Ellis, USAF (Ret.), on human behavior assessments and educational leadership. This work supported leadership and team development through consulting, coaching, training, and leadership resources.

VIZITECH USA

I consulted with ViziTech USA President Brigadier General Stewart Rodeheaver, U.S. Army (Ret.), on educational issues, curriculum development, and community partnerships. The company's education and training work included 3D technology, augmented reality, and virtual reality learning programs.

Certification of Experience

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

IV. Higher Education & Professional Impact

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP & DOCTORAL STUDIES

I served for more than 14 years as an adjunct professor in South Carolina State University's Educational Leadership Department. My responsibilities included service on dissertation committees, field mentor evaluations, and grant-writing teams.

As a faculty member in the Ed.D. program in Educational Leadership, I helped prepare leaders for public and private schools, research and evaluation institutions, and educational advocacy organizations. I worked with a diverse faculty and student body representing K-12 schools, government, and higher education. Former students have gone on to serve as superintendents, principals, and district administrators.

EXPERIENCE ACROSS EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

My background includes more than three decades of educational, community, and military experience. I have served as Chief Educational Officer, Area Superintendent, Director of Career and Technology Education, Principal, Coach, and Teacher. My professional work also encompasses writing, educational consulting, speaking, and leadership and team-building facilitation.

SELECTED CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

My documented career results include cumulative graduation and placement rates above 90% and the award and implementation of more than $100 million in grants and resources. In 2012, the district and technical-college-sponsored public charter school I established graduated 100% of its Black male students. I also received the FBI Director's Award for Community Leadership, along with other local, state, and national recognition for educational contributions.

PROGRAMS, STANDARDS & ADVISORY SERVICE

My experience includes more than two decades of work with High Schools That Work, Carl Perkins standards, and graduation and placement outcomes. Additional professional engagement includes the National Dropout Prevention Center, the Leadership Freedom Advisory Team, and Ripple Effects' Scientific Advisory Council.

Certification of Experience

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

V. Consulting Experience & References

The following organizations and contacts reflect consulting work described in my professional record. Contact details are retained from the source document and should be confirmed before outreach.

RIPPLE EFFECTS

Reference: Alice Ray, CEO; Lew Brentano, Vice President
1601 Harbor Bay Parkway, Suite 105, Alameda, CA 94502

Services provided: Lead School Climate and Youth Development Consultant; live professional development and ongoing technical assistance for large school districts; service on the Scientific Advisory Board.

FULTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

6201 Powers Ferry Road NW, Atlanta, GA 30339

Services provided: Development of a request for proposals addressing professional learning, school climate, and schoolwide use of Ripple Effects. The scope included Tier 3 interventions and Tier 2 skill instruction to reduce initial and repeat discipline referrals.

CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1058 5th Avenue, Jonesboro, GA 30236

Services provided: Professional development supporting one-on-one counseling and alternatives to suspension across all 28 secondary schools in the district, with live implementation training and ongoing technical assistance.

BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

789 Burke Veterans Parkway, Waynesboro, GA 30830

Services provided: Live professional development for implementation of student training software in all secondary schools, including use in one-on-one counseling and alternatives to suspension, with ongoing technical assistance.

Certification of Experience

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

V. Consulting References, Continued

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Reference: Dr. Chris Harris, Superintendent
1253 Atlanta Highway, Warrenton, GA 30828
Phone: (706) 465-3742

Services provided: DNA needs assessment; professional development; school climate and culture assessment; and development of the Parents as Partners module.

ROSENWALD HIGH SCHOOL | BAY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

Reference: Chandra Tyson, Principal
924 Bay Avenue, Panama City, FL 32401
Phone: (850) 767-4580

Services provided: DNA needs assessment, professional development, school climate support, and parent workshop presentations.

PERFORMANCE LEARNING CENTER

Reference: Harrison Conyers, Principal
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
2300 W. Sugar Creek Road, Charlotte, NC 28262
Phone: (980) 343-1118

Services provided: Professional development; school climate and culture support; administration of the DNA Leadership Behavior Instrument; Response to Intervention support across Tiers 1-3 in an alternative school setting; and service as graduation speaker.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Additional information is available in my Statement of Qualifications, professional biography, and curriculum vitae. Supporting materials referenced in the original document are identified as Appendix A.

Curriculum Vitae

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

Professional Profile & Education

701 Gervais Street, Suite 177, Columbia, SC 29201
(855) 518-1777 | Kirton@DNAsupport.us

Educational leader, author, consultant, and U.S. Navy veteran with more than three decades of experience in public education, higher education, and community development. Helped establish Richland One Middle College and led work that secured and implemented more than $100 million in grants and resources across schools and communities.

ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS

Dec 1999 — **Doctor of Education in Educational Administration**
South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC

Dec 1998 — **Educational Specialist in Educational Administration**
South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC
Cognate in Special Education Administration. GPA 3.5.

May 1996 — **Master of Education in Educational Administration**
University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
GPA 3.5.

Dec 1993 — **Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies**
University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
GPA 3.3.

Nov 1984 — **Associate of Business in Business Management and Marketing**
Midlands Technical College, Columbia, SC
GPA 3.5.

TECHNICAL TRAINING & LICENSURE

Jun 1979 — **Maintenance Certificate**
U.S. Navy “A” School, Memphis, TN
Graduated in the top 10% of the class.

Jan 2000–Present — **Licensed Residential Builder**
South Carolina Residential Builders Commission
License number available on request.

Curriculum Vitae

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

Executive, Consulting & District Leadership

2012–Present

Chief Educational Officer
DNA Educational Solutions | Greensboro, GA
Advises educational leaders on leadership and team development, curriculum design, facilities and technology planning, and resource development.

2012–2016

Youth Development & School Climate Consultant
Ripple Effects Whole Spectrum Intervention System | San Francisco, CA
Provides consulting and implementation support in youth development and school climate. Certified national trainer and Scientific Advisory Council member.

2014–2024

Certified Leadership Behavior Consultant
Leadership Behavior DNA™ | Atlanta, GA
Provides executive coaching, team development, and training in the use of leadership behavior assessments.

2009–2012

Executive Director of Schools / Area Superintendent
Richland County School District One | Columbia, SC
Supervised principals, directors, and coordinators. Led secondary education programs, curriculum development, and budget planning. Worked with district leaders, board members, industry partners, and the public.

2004–2012

Chief Educational Officer / Executive Director
Richland One Middle College and Richland One Middle College Foundation | Columbia, SC
Supervised school administrators and support staff, managed budgets and grants, and worked with students, families, boards, college and district administrators, and business and community partners.

2000–2009

Director of Career and Technology Education
Richland County School District One | Columbia, SC
Directed district career and technical education programs, supervised consultants and staff, supported curriculum development, and managed program budgets and partnerships.

Curriculum Vitae

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

Academic, School & Technical Experience

1999–2016
Contributing Adjunct Professor, Educational Leadership
South Carolina State University | Orangeburg, SC
Served as professor of record, doctoral committee member, and field mentor. Designed and taught graduate courses and helped develop and implement grants.

1997–2000
Principal
Heyward Career and Technology Center, Richland One | Columbia, SC
Led daily operations, supervised faculty and staff, managed the budget, provided professional development, and coordinated occupational programs with the district.

1995–1997
Assistant Principal
Eau Claire High School, Richland One | Columbia, SC
Oversaw vocational education, Tech Prep, student activities, discipline, safety, and public relations. Supported staff supervision, curriculum, and instruction.

1992–1995
STEPS Coordinator, Job Coach & Teacher
Olympia School, Richland One | Columbia, SC
Established Student Training Employment Programs, coordinated vocational staff, and taught employment skills to students from ten districts. Published the curriculum manual, developed grants, and led workshops.

1990–1992
Master Class I Instructor / Teacher
Lower Richland High School, Richland One | Columbia, SC
Taught industrial technology, building construction, and cabinetmaking. Expanded and improved prevocational programs.

1988–1991
Trades Craftsman
South Carolina Educational Television | Columbia, SC
Performed skilled building construction and maintenance in electrical systems, HVAC, plumbing, and carpentry.

1982–1991
Construction Superintendent / Foreman
Midlands Human Resources | Columbia, SC
Supervised crews restoring and remodeling housing for people with low incomes and older adults.

1978–1981
Aviation Maintenance Mechanic
United States Navy
Performed aviation and aircraft structural maintenance.

Curriculum Vitae

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

Graduate Teaching & Educational Initiatives

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY COURSES

EAM 731	School Community Relations
EAM 736	Personnel Administration
EAM 737	School Building Planning
EAM 738	Schools and the Law
EAM 799	Planning and Managing Educational Technologies
EAM 821	Educational Leadership
EAM 834	Policy Formulation and Analysis in Educational Administration
EAM 843	Law and Educational Policy
EAM 849	Analysis of Planning Models in Education

SELECTED PROGRAMS DESIGNED, IMPLEMENTED, OR SUPPORTED

Richland One Middle College Early college charter high school developed with Midlands Technical College and community and business partners.

Heyward Career and Technology Center Career programs linking technical instruction with industry needs and postsecondary pathways.

Challenger Learning Center Simulated space missions that engage students in applied mathematics, science, and technology.

Mobile Electronics Program Best Buy and Heyward partnership integrating electronics and automotive technology instruction.

Motorsports Certificate Program of study developed with the North Carolina Motorsports Association.

School improvement frameworks High Schools That Work, Making Middle Grades Work, and Technology Centers That Work.

Richland One Works School-based enterprise and transition support for students with disabilities.

Career academies Engineering at Columbia High with Project Lead The Way, Finance at Columbia and Dreher, and Information Technology planning at Columbia High.

Curriculum Vitae

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

Grants, Research & Publications

SELECTED GRANTS AND FUNDING INITIATIVES

2012	School Improvement Grant and Early Connections Grant
2011	Early Connections, South Carolina School Improvement, and Project Lift grants
2010	South Carolina School Improvement Grant, Supplemental Educational Services Provider, and Education and Economic Development Act Grant
2009	21st Century After School, City of Columbia Empowerment Zone, and Fast Track grants
2008	City of Columbia Empowerment Zone Grant
2007	South Carolina Charter School Dissemination and South Carolina Youth Work Association grants
2005	Partners in Education Grant
2004	National Tech Prep Demonstration Grant
2003	South Carolina Charter School Grant
2000	Student Training Employment Programs (STEPS) Grant

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS, CURRICULA & RESEARCH

2026	The DNA Blueprint for Educational Leaders
2015	BEAST Leadership Corporate Professional Development Module
2014	The Beast and the Least
2013	Project Build USA Character and Community Service Curriculum
2012	The Brotherhood Mentor and Character Challenge Curriculum
1999	African American Male Achievement
1997	A Study of Conflict Resolution in High Schools
1996	The Impact of Tech Prep
1995	A Study of School-to-Work Transition Services
1993	A Study of Technology Integration in the Classroom

Curriculum Vitae

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

Conferences, Honors & Professional Service

SELECTED WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

2026	Southern Regional Council on Educational Administration, Huntsville, AL. "From Mission to Measurable Impact: The DNA Blueprint for Leading Innovation and Change."
2026	TAEA keynote. "A Journey from Risk to Resilience."
2016	National Title One Conference, Houston. National Youth Alternative Conference. National Alternative Education Association.
2015	AGC Educators Conference, Augusta, GA. High Schools That Work National Conference.
2012	Southeast Black Male Summit.
2010–2011	Richland One Close the Achievement Gap Conference. South Charter School Presentation (2011). Project Adventure Executive Workshop, Benedict College Mentoring and Service Learning Conference, and South Carolina Association of Black Educators (2010).
2007–2009	High Schools That Work, 21st Century State Conference, S.C. AME, Southern Growth Policy Board, National Tech Prep Network, and South Carolina school administrator, educator, and school board conferences.
2004–1997	The Citadel, "Contextual Learning" (2004). National Tech Prep Network, "Innovative Tech Prep Strategies for the New Millennium" (1999). South Carolina State University Annual Special Education Workshop (1997).

SELECTED HONORS

2011–12	FBI Director's Community Leadership recognition, national and South Carolina
2010	Richland One Community Coalition Award
2007	Southern Growth Policies Innovator Award
2004	South Carolina Occupational Information System Career Development Award
1993–94	South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children Vocational Educator of the Year

CREDENTIALS & CAPABILITIES

Grade A endorsements in high school principal and supervisor, vocational director, prevocational education, building construction, and cabinetmaking. Certified Ripple Effects trainer and leadership behavior consultant. Project Adventure ropes course certification and High Schools That Work team leadership.

Curriculum Vitae

Robert L. Kirton, Ed.D.

Professional Affiliations & Advisory Service

ADVISORY, COMMUNITY & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2016	Ripple Effects Scientific Advisory Council
2014	Midlands Business and Educational Alliance Committee
2009	100 Black Men of Greater Columbia
2007	Education and Economic Development Act Committee
2002	Black Achievers Determined to Be Different
2000	Midlands Educational Business Alliance Governing Board
1999	Contributor, South Carolina 2020 Vision for Career and Technology Education
1997	South Carolina Vocational Directors Association
1996	South Carolina Alliance of Black School Educators
1996	South Carolina Association of School Administrators
1995	Council for Exceptional Children
1994–1998	South Carolina Youth Workers Association. Vice President (1996), President (1998).
1993–1995	Richland One Special Needs Advisory Committee
1996	Richland One Community Coalition
2023–Present	South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice College & Career Advisory Council

ADDITIONAL AREAS OF PRACTICE

Grant development, educational technology and multimedia, public speaking, communication, conflict resolution, and team development.

References and supporting documentation are available on request.