The Parenting Project: 
Healthy Children, Families, & Communities

Parent Education In-Service, Biographical Statements
ILR Conference Center, King-Shaw Hall, Room 423
140 Garden Avenue, Ithaca, NY 14853
September 15, 2023

Presenters (in order of appearance):

**Anthony Burrow, PhD**, is the Ferris Family Associate Professor of Life Course Studies in the Department of Psychology, Director of the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research, and the Director of the Program for Research on Youth Development and Engagement, known as PRYDE. He is also the Associate Dean of Outreach and Extension at Cornell Human Ecology and serves as the Provost’s Fellow for Public Engagement. Dr. Burrow directs the Purpose and Identity Processes Laboratory which researches the correlation between a sense of purpose and youth development and resilience, and how racial identification influences one’s lens of viewing and adjusting to life experiences.

![Anthony Burrow](image)

**Kimberly Kopko, Director, The Parenting Project**, received her Ph.D. in Child Development from the Department of Human Development at Cornell University and joined the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research (BCTR) in the College of Human Ecology. Her research and Extension work examines child development and parenting and family processes. Current research and outreach projects include: parenting and child learning, parenting education in School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs), teens being raised by custodial grandparents, and the use of research and evidence-based parent education programs to promote positive parenting behaviors and strengthen families. Ongoing academic and research interests incorporate an international dimension with a focus on comparative parenting and child and family social policies in Scandinavian countries and global early childhood education and care.

![Kimberly Kopko](image)

**Amanda Purington Drake, PhD**, is the Director of the ACT for Youth Center for Community Action within the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research. She is also a research collaborator with the Social Media Lab at Cornell University. Professionally and academically, Amanda is passionate about using research and evaluation to promote the health and well-being of youth.

![Amanda Purington Drake](image)
**Heather Wynkoop Beach, M.Ed,** is the Director of Training and Capacity Building at ACT for Youth, which provides training and organizational support to 67 different community based, youth-serving organizations throughout NYS. Prior to her work at ACT, Heather was the Director of Family Services at the Child Development council in Ithaca, where she supported young families with children.

**Andy Turner** has served as the New York State 4-H Program Leader since 2014 and has 33 years of experience in Extension. He attended Cornell as an undergraduate and graduate student and holds a Doctorate in Education from St. John Fisher College, developing a study that examined disruptive innovation and change leadership in Extension. Andy leads a team of 9 in the BCTR that supports a diverse 4-H program across NY. Andy has provided leadership to change and evolution in 4-H, recently completing five-years of service to the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy 4-H Leadership Committee, serving as Co-Chair of the committee and Co-Chair of the National 4-H Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion design team process.

**Esther Kim** is PRYDE’s program assistant. She received her BA in psychology from Cornell University and is currently studying food systems and health through Cornell’s MPH program. She is interested in creatively addressing the health needs of youth within diverse communities through research and community partnership.

**Marlen Gomez, PhD,** was trained as a clinical psychologist at the University of Virginia and completed her internship at the Medical University of South Carolina in the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center. All the while, she conducted human neuroimaging research on how context shapes the brain. Together with fellow neuroscientists Drs Eve DeRosa and Adam K. Anderson, Marlen created the Community Neuroscience Initiative (CNI). The CNI is a new project from the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research, which aims to democratize neuroscience, facilitate translation through community-based participatory research, and not just destigmatize but embrace neurodiversity. The ultimate goal is to empower community members to make choices to suit their goals.
Mark Murphy, GripTape, Founder and CEO, works with an amazing team to support young people as they become the true drivers of their learning and development and seize opportunities to grow and lead. Mark has spent most of his career developing and supporting school leaders throughout the country. With experience as a classroom teacher and school principal, he has served as executive director of several organizations and served on boards including the Council of Chief State School Officers and Chiefs for Change. Before founding GripTape, Mark was the Secretary of Education in Delaware where, during his tenure, Delaware youth significantly improved their academic achievement, college access and success soared, high school dropout rates reached the lowest point in history, and the high school graduation rate increased to a record level. When he’s not creating new opportunities for young people, you’ll find Mark hiking the Catskills or rescuing the creatures his cat Jerry brings home.

Thea Ranelli, GripTape, Senior Fellow, is the Jr. CEO of GripTape where she is learning how to start, lead, and grow a nonprofit organization. Her role includes everything from directly shadowing the CEO to assuming full responsibility for multiple work streams within the organization. Thea was a GripTape Challenger in 2019 when she explored her interest in stocks and investing. After her Challenge, she went on to serve as a Champion while earning a degree in Computer Science and Environmental Studies. She’s excited to use her fresh perspective to expand GripTape in new and innovative ways! When Thea is outside the office, she spends her free time biking around the city and playing various sports with her friends.