

Dr. Eric Kirkman



Dr. Kirkman's educational experience spans over 21 years, serving as a choral and band director at the elementary, secondary and college levels. Prior to retiring from band directing and moving into an administrative role, Dr. Kirkman was named the 2012 State of Alabama Secondary "Teacher of the Year" for District 7. He was also named the University of North Alabama Alumni Educator of the Year for 2012. Dr. Kirkman has served as a career tech coordinator, a vice-principal and a principal while in Sheffield City Schools. Dr. Kirkman is currently an assistant professor and the Director of The Kilby Laboratory School located at the University of North Alabama. Since being at Kilby, Dr. Kirkman has led his school to be recognized as an Alabama Bicentennial School of Excellence and a National Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School of Excellence. He is a Certified Instructional Leader through CLAS, and a graduate of the NAESP Pre-K – 3 Leadership Academy. He is currently enrolled in the University of Alabama Superintendent's Academy. In addition, he serves on the Board of Directors for Safe Place, The Shoals Symphony Orchestra, and the International Association of Laboratory Schools. Dr. Kirkman is also the Worship Leader at Highland Baptist Church, Broadway Campus of Florence, Alabama.

Dr. Kirkman's most recent research pursuits involve exploring intra-professional collaborations as various agencies work together to engage the social-emotional trauma among the families of school-aged students in the age of a pandemic. Another ongoing project involves exploring S.T.E.A.M. education as it pertains to the preparation of pre-service teachers for S.T.E.A.M. classrooms in the real-world workplace.

Originally from Panama City, Florida, Dr. Kirkman is a graduate of Rutherford High School. He made his way to the state of Alabama on a full music Scholarship from the University of North Alabama in 1992. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education in the fall of 1997, and a Master's Degree in Music Education from UNA in the summer of 2000. He received his Doctorate Degree in Education Leadership from Nova Southeastern University in the summer of 2009.

While at UNA, Eric was the lead trumpeter and featured soloist in the marching, jazz and concert bands. He was also the director of the Ascending Voices Gospel Choir for three years. Eric is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and an honorary member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. One of his most cherished memories of UNA involved his selection as "University Man of the Year" in 1997.

Lastly, Dr. Kirkman is the husband of Dr. Tera Kirkman, who is the Associate Dean of Nursing at the University of North Alabama. They have two sons, Jalen and Justin.