

**Robert H. Kelly, Ph.D.**

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Jacksonville, FL 32207

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**EDUCATION****Doctor of Philosophy**

College of Education: Teaching & Learning  
*Reading and Literacy in Early and Middle Childhood*

The Ohio State University  
Columbus, Ohio

**Master of Science**

School Psychology

Nova Southeastern University  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

**Bachelor of Arts**

Communications

University of North Florida  
Jacksonville, FL

**PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS**

Florida Department of Education – Professional Teacher Certification (#996158)

*Prekindergarten/ Primary Education, age 3 – grade 3*

*Elementary Education, grades K – 6*

*Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum, grades 5 – 9*

*Reading, grades K – 12*

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE****President and Chief Executive Officer**

May 2022 – Present

READ USA, Inc.  
Jacksonville, FL

**Adjunct Faculty**

August 2024 - Present

Department of Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum  
*College of Education and Human Services*  
University of North Florida

**Lecturer**

August 2023 - Present

Department of Educational Studies  
*Qualitative Research, Evaluation, and Measurement*  
The Ohio State University

**Chief Academic Officer**

January 2022 – May 2022

READ USA, Inc.  
Jacksonville, FL

**Chief Operating Officer**

June 2021 – December 2021

READ USA, Inc.  
Jacksonville, FL

**Reading Center Director**

April 2020 – June 2021

School of Education  
*Founders Building*  
Jacksonville University  
Jacksonville, FL

**Assistant Professor**

August 2019 – June 2021

School of Education  
*Literacy Education*  
Jacksonville University  
Jacksonville, FL

**Assistant Professor**

August 2018 – June 2019

Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education  
*Literacy Education*  
Queens College, City University of New York  
New York City, NY

**Senior Lecturer**

May 2017 – August 2018

Department of Educational Studies  
*Qualitative Research, Evaluation, and Measurement*  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, OH

**Graduate Research Associate**

Autumn 2015 – Spring 2017

*Improving Literacy Outcomes for Children with Disabilities:  
Helping Early Readers Obtain Excellence in Special Education (HEROES)*  
Investing in Innovation (i3) Development Grant, USDOE  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, OH

**Instructor**

Spring 2015

EDUTL 7428 – *Trends and Issues in Teaching Reading*  
Department of Teaching and Learning  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, OH

**Graduate Research Associate**

Autumn 2013 – Summer 2015

*Reading Recovery: Scaling Up What Works*  
Investing in Innovation (i3) Scale-up Grant, USDOE  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, OH

**Classroom Teacher, Literacy Coach**

August 2006 – June 2013

Teacher: 1<sup>st</sup> grade Bayview Elementary, 4<sup>th</sup> grade John Love Elementary  
School Literacy Coach: Bayview Elementary  
District Literacy Specialist: Academic Services  
Duval County Public Schools  
Jacksonville, FL

**PUBLICATIONS****Peer-Reviewed**

- D'Agostino, J. V., **Kelly, R. H.**, & Rodgers, E. (2019). Self-corrections and the reading progress of struggling beginning readers. *Reading Psychology, 40*, 525-550. doi: 10.1080/02702711.2019.1629518
- Rodgers, E., D'Agostino, J. V., **Kelly, R. H.**, & Mikita, C. (2018). Oral reading accuracy: Findings and implications from recent research. *The Reading Teacher, 72*, 149-157. doi: 10.1002/trtr.1686
- D'Agostino, J. V., Lose, M., & **Kelly, R. H.** (2017). Examining the sustained effects of Reading Recovery. *Journal of Education for Students Placed At Risk (JESPAR), 22*(2), 116-127. doi: 10.1080/10824669.2017.1286591\*\*
- Rodgers, E., D'Agostino, J. V., Harmey, S. J., **Kelly, R. H.**, & Brownfield, K. (2016). Examining the nature of scaffolding in an early literacy intervention. *Reading Research Quarterly, 51*, 345-360. doi: 10.1002/rrq.142

**Book Chapter**

- D'Agostino, J. V., Lose, M., & **Kelly, R. H.** (2018). Examining the sustained effects of Reading Recovery. In J. V. D'Agostino (Ed.) *Advances in research on Reading Recovery*, New York: Routledge. \*\*(same study)

**Curriculum**

- Kelly, R. H.** (2014). Unit 4: Communities and Animals [Digital Curriculum]. In Hampton, S. H., Fowler, D. J., Peterson, A., O'Boyce, A., Semaya, B., & King, S. (Eds.) *Pearson System of Courses, English Language Arts, Grade 3*. Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.
- Kelly, R. H.** (2014). Unit 5: Community – Finding My Voice [Digital Curriculum]. In Hampton, S. H., Fowler, D. J., Peterson, A., O'Boyce, A., Semaya, B., & King, S. (Eds.) *Pearson System of Courses, English Language Arts, Grade 3*. Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.

**Dissertation**

- Kelly, R. H.** (2017). *Investigating the role of accuracy and self-correction in the progress of struggling first-grade readers participating in a literacy intervention*. (Electronic Dissertation). Retrieved from <https://etd.ohiolink.edu/>

**PRESENTATIONS****Peer-Reviewed**

- D'Agostino, J. V., Rodgers, E., & **Kelly, R. H.** (2024, April). *Examining the Effectiveness of a Peer Tutoring Approach: Teen Tutors for Reading*. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- D'Agostino, J. V., Rodgers, E., & **Kelly, R. H.** (2023, December). *The Effectiveness of READ USA Peer Tutoring*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Literacy Research Association, Atlanta, GA.

- Kelly, R. H.** (2019, November). *Thinking big: Bringing big books back to shared reading*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Florida Literacy Association, Orlando, FL.
- Kelly, R. H., D'Agostino, J. V., & Rodgers, E.** (2018, July). *The effect of self-correction on beginning reading progress*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Brighton, England.
- Harmey, S., & **Kelly, R. H.** (2018, July). *Thinking big: Incorporating big books in shared reading*. Paper presented at the 54<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the United Kingdom Literacy Association, Cardiff, U.K.
- Rodgers, E., D'Agostino, J. V., **Kelly, R. H.** (2018, April). *What is the impact of oral reading accuracy on the reading progress of struggling first grade students?* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Education Research Association, New York City, NY.
- Kelly, R. H.** (2017, December). *Examining the optimal range of oral reading accuracy for first graders experiencing reading difficulties*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Literacy Research Association, Tampa, FL.
- Rodgers, E., D'Agostino, J. V., **Kelly, R. H.,** McBane, L., & Berenbon, R. (2017, December). *Developing an evidenced-based literacy instructional format for young students with IEPs*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Literacy Research Association, Tampa, FL.
- Kelly, R. H.,** Rodgers, E., & D'Agostino, J. V. (2017, April). *Effect of oral reading accuracy on reading progress of first graders in a literacy intervention*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Education Research Association, San Antonio, TX.
- D'Agostino, J. V., **Kelly, R. H.,** & Lose, M. (2017, April). *What is the sustained effect of Reading Recovery?* Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Education Research Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Rodgers, E., D'Agostino, J. V., Konstantopoulos, S., & **Kelly, R. H.,** (2017, April). *Development of a literacy instructional model for students in special education: Year one results*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Education Research Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Rodgers, E., **Kelly, R. H.,** & D'Agostino, J. V. (2016, December). *Testing a method of analyzing the difficulty of beginning books*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Literacy Research Association, Nashville, TN.
- Kelly, R. H.,** D'Agostino, J. V., & Rodgers, E. (2016, July). *Testing a method of measuring the difficulty of beginning texts: A follow-up study*. Poster accepted to present at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Porto, Portugal. (did not attend)
- D'Agostino, J. V., Rodgers, E., & **Kelly, R. H.** (2016, April). *Testing a method of analyzing the difficulty of beginning books*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Education Research Association, D.C.
- Kelly, R. H.,** & Wilkinson, I. A. G. (2015, December). *Re-examining the case for instructional reading level and the criteria for matching texts to readers: A critical review*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Literacy Research Association, Carlsbad, CA.
- Rodgers, E. M., D'Agostino, J. V., & **Kelly, R. H.** (2015, December). *Investigating the impact of text difficulty on beginning reading*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Literacy Research Association, Carlsbad, CA.
- Kelly, R. H.,** D'Agostino, J. V., & Rodgers, E. (2015, July). *Testing a method of analyzing the difficulty of beginning texts*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Big Island, HI.
- Rodgers, E., D'Agostino, J. V., Brownfield, K. S., Harmey, S. J., & **Kelly, R. H.** (2015, July). *Exploring the nature of effective scaffolding*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Big Island, HI.
- Rodgers, E., D'Agostino, J. V., **Kelly, R. H.,** Brownfield, K., & Harmey, S. (2015, April). *Investigating the impact of text difficulty on children's reading progress*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Education Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Rodgers, E., D'Agostino, J. V., Harmey, S. J., Brownfield, K. S., & **Kelly, R. H.** (2015, April). *Investigating the reliability and validity of text leveling*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Education Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Rodgers, E., D'Agostino, J. V., Harmey, S. J., Brownfield, K. S., & **Kelly, R. H.** (2014, December). *Exploring the nature of effective scaffolding*. In E. Rodgers (Chair), *Investigating the construct of scaffolding*. Symposium conducted at the meeting of the Literacy Research Association, Marco Island, FL.
- Rodgers, E., D'Agostino, J. V., Harmey, S. J., & **Kelly, R. H.** (2014, December). *Adjusting help in response to student actions*. In E. Rodgers (Chair), *Investigating the construct of scaffolding*. Symposium conducted at the meeting

of the Literacy Research Association, Marco Island, FL.

**Kelly, R. H.** (2014, February). *Technology in the literacy classroom: A purposeful approach to digital literacy*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Reading Recovery Conference of North America, Columbus, OH.

#### **Invited Speaker**

**Kelly, R. H.** (2025, January). *The fluent reader's playbook: Teaching for phrased and fluent reading*. Presented at the annual conference of the Florida Literacy Association, Orlando, FL.

**Kelly, R. H.** (2018, January). *It's a big deal: Using big books to promote early literacy*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Duval County Reading Council Drive-In Conference, Jacksonville, FL.

**Kelly, R. H.** (2017, January). *Reading accuracy: The overlooked "pillar" of reading*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Duval County Reading Council Drive-In Conference, Jacksonville, FL.

**Kelly, R. H.** (2016, February). *Technology in the literacy classroom: A purposeful approach to digital literacy*. Presented at the quarterly meeting of the Duval County Reading Council, Jacksonville, FL.

#### **CONTRACTS and GRANTS**

##### **READ USA, Inc.**

##### **Awarded:**

DCPS Literacy Tutoring Program Contract 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade, *READ USA, Inc.*, Aug-Dec 2025 - \$509,514.85

DCPS Book Fair Contract all elementary schools, Apr-May 2025 - \$300,000.00

Mandelblatt Foundation, *READ USA, Inc.*, December 2024 – \$100,000.00

DCPS Literacy Tutoring Program Contract 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade, Aug-Dec 2024 - \$599,710.75

CareerSource of Northeast Florida, *READ USA, Inc.*, 2024, \$163,000.00

AmeriCorps Competitive Funding Grant, *READ USA, Inc.*, Aug 2024 – July 2025 - \$437,794.00

DCPS Book Fair Contract all elementary schools, Apr-May 2024 - \$299,625.79

DCPS Literacy Tutoring Program Contract 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade, *READ USA, Inc.*, Jan-May 2024 - \$748,078.43

Mandelblatt Foundation, *READ USA, Inc.*, November 2023 – \$100,000.00

Florida Blue Foundation, *READ USA, Inc.*, November 2023 – \$250,000.00

Kid's Hope Alliance Grant, *READ USA, Inc.*, August 2023 – September 2027 - \$4,480,000.00

AmeriCorps Competitive Funding Grant, *READ USA, Inc.*, Aug 2023 – July 2024 - \$437,794.00

AmeriCorps VISTA Grant, *READ USA, Inc.*, August 2023 – July 2026, 6 full-time VISTA members + \$30,000.00

TD Bank Workforce Development Grant, *READ USA, Inc.*, 2023, \$5,000.00

Accelerate Innovation Grant, *READ USA, Inc.*, 2023, \$150,000.00

CareerSource of Northeast Florida, *READ USA, Inc.*, 2023, \$324,000.00

DCPS Literacy Tutoring Program Contract 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, *READ USA, Inc.*, June-July 2023 - \$397,000.00

DCPS Book Fair Contract all elementary schools, Apr-May 2023 - \$242,840.00

Kid's Hope Alliance Grant, *READ USA, Inc.*, November 2022 - April 2023 - \$509,414.40

DCPS Literacy Tutoring Program Contract 4<sup>th</sup> grade, *READ USA, Inc.*, November 2022 – April 2023 - \$1,328,843.39

United Way of NE Florida Economic Mobility Grant, *READ USA, Inc.*, 2022-2024, \$500,000.00

TD Bank Workforce Development Grant, *READ USA, Inc.*, 2022, \$5,000.00

Kid's Hope Alliance Summer Reading Tutoring grant, *READ USA, Inc.*, June 2022 - \$60,000

DCPS Literacy Tutoring Program Contract 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, *READ USA, Inc.*, June – December 2022 - \$2,278,572.78

DCPS Book Fair Contract all elementary schools, Apr-May 2022 - \$357,658.00

DCPS Literacy Tutoring Program Contract 4<sup>th</sup> grade, *READ USA, Inc.*, January – May 2022 - \$2,051,280.00

##### **Jacksonville University**

Kid's Hope Alliance Summer Reading Tutoring grant, *READ USA, Inc.*, June 2021 - \$60,000

Kid's Hope Alliance Multicultural Literacy Project grant, *READ USA, Inc.*, June 2020 - \$60,000

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS and AWARDS**

##### **The Ohio State University**

The University School Endowment Fund Research Award, *The Ohio State University*, June 2016 - \$3,000

#### **UNIVERSITY TEACHING**

##### **Jacksonville University**

EDU 101, *Reading Strategies for College Students*, undergraduate

EDU 231, *Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners*, undergraduate

ELE 303, *Technology for Elementary Teachers*, undergraduate  
 ELE 311, *Foundations of Reading Instruction*, undergraduate (service learning)  
 ELE 313, *Applied Research Based Instructional Practices*, undergraduate (service learning)  
 ELE 413, *Foundations of Reading Assessment*, undergraduate (service learning)  
 ELE 417, *Foundations and Applications of Differentiated Instruction*, undergraduate (service learning)  
 EDU 423, *Clinical Applications and Demonstrations of Reading*, undergraduate  
 ELE 501, *Demonstration of Reading Accomplishment*, graduate  
 READ 575, *Research-Based Reading Instruction Using Narrative Texts*, graduate  
 READ 560, *Foundations of Reading: Oral Language, Phonological Awareness, and Phonics*, graduate

### **Queens College, CUNY**

EECE 310w, *Child Development (writing intensive)*, undergraduate  
 EECE 340, *The Early Development of Language & Literacy*, undergraduate  
 EECE 731, *Teaching Beginning Reading and Writing*, graduate  
 EECE 707, *Classroom Based Assessment & Research in Elementary*, graduate  
 EECE 804, *Assessment and Instruction II*, graduate  
 EECE 805, *Literacy Practicum*, graduate

### **The Ohio State University**

EDUTL 5468, *Reading Foundations*, undergraduate  
 EDUTL 5470, *Assessing and Instructing Struggling Readers*, undergraduate/graduate  
 EDUTL 5471, *Clinical Practice in Treating Reading Disabilities*, graduate  
 EDUTL 7428, *Trends and Issues in Reading in the Elementary Classroom*, graduate  
 ESQREM 3005, *Student Centered Classroom Assessment*, undergraduate  
 ESQREM 6625, *Introduction to Educational Research*, graduate  
 ESQREM 6641, *Introduction to Educational Statistics*, graduate

### **University of North Florida**

LAE 3210, *Foundations of Literacy*, undergraduate  
 RED 5846, *Practicum in Reading: Demonstration of Reading Competencies*, graduate

## **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

### **Professional Organizations**

President, *Duval Literacy Association*, July 2025 – Present  
 President, *Florida Literacy Association*, July 2025 – Present  
 Vice President, *Florida Literacy Association*, July 2024 – June 2024  
 Publications Co-Chair, *Florida Literacy Association*, July 2024 – present  
 Literacy Chair, *Florida Literacy Association*, July 2022 – present  
 Immediate Past President, *Duval Literacy Association*, July 2023 – June 2024  
 President, *Duval Literacy Association*, July 2022 – June 2023  
 President-Elect, *Duval Literacy Association*, July 2021 – June 2022  
 Children's Book Award Co-Chair, *Florida Literacy Association*, July 2019 – June 2022  
 Vice-President, *Duval Literacy Association*, July 2020 – June 2021  
 Membership Director, *Duval Literacy Association*, July 2011 – June 2013; July 2019 – June 2020  
 Board Member, *Florida Literacy Association*, 2011-2013, 2019 – present  
 Board Member, *Duval Literacy Association*, 2009-2013, 2019 – present  
 Reviewer, *American Education Research Association Annual Conference*, 2017 – 2022  
 Session Chair, *American Education Research Association*, 2018  
 Session Chair, *Literacy Research Association*, 2016, 2017  
 Reviewer, *Literacy Research Association Annual Conference*, 2014 – 2017  
 Discussant, *Literacy Research Association*, 2016  
 Symposium Chair, *Literacy Research Conference*, 2014  
 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) reviewer, *Florida Department of Education*, 2009-2011

### **Scholarship**

Reviewer, *Cutting Edge*, 2020-2021

Reviewer, *Global Education Review*, 2019 (Themed Issue)  
 Reviewer, *Reading and Writing*, 2018 – 2019  
 Reviewer, *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 2018  
 Reviewer, *Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk (JESPAR)*, 2018  
 Reviewer, *English Teaching: Practice and Critique*, 2018  
 Reviewer, *Reading Psychology*, 2017 – 2018  
 Reviewer, *International Journal of Educational Research*, 2017

#### **SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY/ DEPARTMENT**

Faculty Advisor, *National Society for Leadership and Success: JU Chapter*, 2020-2021  
 Student Success Committee, *Jacksonville University*, 2019  
 Reading Center Director, *Jacksonville University*, 2020  
 Literacy Practicum Coordinator, *CUNY Queens College*, 2018 – 2019  
 Second-year Transformational Experience Program (STEP) Mentor, *The Ohio State University*, 2017 – 2018  
 Denman Undergraduate Research Forum Judge, *The Ohio State University*, 2014, 2017  
 Spring Expo Research Forum Judge, *The Ohio State University*, 2016  
 EHE Undergraduate Scholarship Reviewer, *The Ohio State University*, 2014 – 2015  
 Faculty Search Committee, *The Ohio State University*, Department of Teaching & Learning, 2015

#### **SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY**

Member – Dean’s Advisory Council, UNF Silverfield College of Education and Human Services, 2024 – present  
 Committee Member, BILT ECE and KSA Group, *Florida State College of Jacksonville*, 2024 – present  
 Co-Chair, Education Committee, *Jacksonville Transformation Coalition*, 2024  
 Committee Member, *READ JAX Steering Committee*, 2024 – present  
 Chair, *READ JAX Systems Building Committee*, 2024 – present  
 Lead Partner, *Mayor Deegan’s River City Readers*, 2023 – present  
 Committee Member, *JPEF 1000 by 2025 Initiative Steering Committee*, 2022 – 2024  
 Committee Member, *Grade Level Reading Campaign Jacksonville*, 2021 – present  
 Reading Center Director, *Jacksonville University*, 2020 – 2021  
 K-5 Tutor – P.S. 201Q, *Queens, NY*, 2019

#### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Education Research Association  
 American Psychological Association  
 Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development  
 Duval Literacy Association  
 Florida Literacy Association  
 International Literacy Association  
 Florida Chamber  
 Meninak Club of Jacksonville  
 National Council of Teachers of English  
 Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida  
 Phi Delta Kappa International  
 Society for the Scientific Study of Reading  
 The Reading Professor