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UVA HR

University Police Department

Employee Spotlight

My name is Kevin Turpin. I'm the Founder and the President of the Life Enrichment Center, which is a non-profit organization based in the Virginia Beach/Norfolk area. And our mission is to make sure that students in Title 1 elementary schools who are reading below their grade level are reading proficiently by the third grade. I'm sure many know that, if they're not reading proficiently by the third grade, they are four times more likely to drop out of school, which can oftentimes lead to problems with law enforcement. So, our goal is to get them early. We started at Greer a couple of years ago and that has been such a phenomenal success. Our partnership here with Dr. Saunders, with his staff, uh and also of course with the UVA police department. They have been faithful to this. They've been effective and the school invited us back after the first year. And I told myself, well how do we expand this to other schools within the county? And that's where we are now. I noticed that um, when was it about two or three months ago, I think there was an article in the paper which indicated that the reading scores in the Commonwealth of Virginia, I think took the largest hit as a result of COVID. So they were the lowest in terms of of, you know, comparing the schools here in the Commonwealth of Virginia with other school throughout the country. We had taken the most significant hit when it came to literacy scores. So, I believe that like no other time perhaps this is a significant time, significant moment where various sectors of the community can partner with each other to make sure that we come alongside these children to help them make up for the deficit that was created by uh COVID uh crisis.

UVA HR

UPD Tutoring Program

For more information, please email police@virginia.edu. Attention Sue Dootson.