

Christy Sampson-Kelly is the Director of Practitioner Support for the Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings. She provides direct coaching to schools in the areas of curriculum, instruction, assessment, student engagement, and transition planning. Christy also helps schools improve how they teach and support students with special needs. As a part of her work, Christy is leading our efforts to develop our *Practitioner Support Series*, a set of training modules built around short video clips that highlight key instructional maneuvers essential to creating high-performing classrooms in alternative settings.

Christy has been working at the Center since January of 2012 and brings more than 10 years of experience working with lower-income, high-risk youth, first as a general and special education teacher and then as a school-wide special education coordinator. Christy earned her undergraduate degree in elementary education from the University of Maryland, her master's degree in mild/moderate disabilities from San Diego State University, and her PhD in special education from the University of Maryland. She's been with the Center

Growing up amidst the Ramapo Mountains, she escapes to higher elevations whenever she can to write and find peace of mind.