

Alfred W. Tatum, Ph.D.



- Assistant Professor, Literacy Education, Department of Literacy Education, Northern Illinois University
- Product(s): Muhammad Ali: Go The Distance!
- Specialization: Boys' Literacy Books

Alfred W. Tatum is an assistant professor in the Department of Literacy Education at Northern Illinois University. Before joining NIU's faculty, he served as a reading clinic director, senior program associate for the North Central Regional Education Lab, and assistant professor of curriculum and instruction at the University of Maryland. He began his career as an eighth-grade teacher, later becoming a reading specialist.

Currently, he serves on the National Advisory Reading Committee of the National Assessment of Educational Progress. He provides professional development support to schools across the nation interested in addressing the literacy needs of students characterized as vulnerable, particularly African-American adolescent males. He has also published in nine journals including *Reading Research Quarterly*, *The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, *Educational Leadership*, the *Journal of College Reading and Learning*, and *Principal Leadership*. Dr. Tatum is active in several professional international and national literacy organizations.

Dr. Tatum conducts qualitative research, particularly case study research. His research interests are the literacy development of African-American adolescent males and teacher professional development in urban middle and high schools. Dr. Tatum earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois–Chicago.