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Flannery's primary areas of research are in youth violence prevention, the link between violence and mental health, and community-based program evaluation. He received his PhD in Clinical Psychology from The Ohio State University. His previous appointments were as Assistant Professor of Family Studies at the University of Arizona, Associate Professor of Child Psychiatry at CWRU, and Professor of Criminal Justice Studies and Public Health at Kent State University. He was named a University Distinguished Scholar at Kent State in 2006 and appointed in 2008 by the Secretary of Education to the U.S. Department of Education's Safe and Drug Free Schools Community Advisory Committee. Dr. Flannery has generated as Principal or Co-principal investigator over 30 million dollars in externally funded research. He has served as advisor to various local and national organizations including the Institute of Medicine, the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Crime Prevention Council and the National Resource Center for Safe Schools.