EDUCATION

Yale University

New Haven, CT

The Broad Fellowship at Yale School of Management (2022-23)

Washington University in St. Louis (2019) Executive Certificate in Non-Profit Leadership St. Louis, MO

University of Illinois-Chicago (Spring 2010-April 2016) Doctor of Urban Educational Leadership (Ed.D.) GPA: 3.7 Chicago, IL

St. Louis, MO

University of Missouri-Saint Louis (Fall 2007- May 2009)

Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Educational Administration GPA: 3.78

University of Illinois-Springfield (Fall 2006-Spring 2007) 12.0 graduate credit hours in Political Studies GPA: 4.0

Springfield, IL

Butler University (Aug 2002-May 2006)

Indianapolis, IN

B.A. Psychology; Awards/ Honors: Student-body President; Introduced Presidents William J. Clinton and George H.W. Bush; Homecoming King; Top 10 Student; Butler University Scholar; Heritage Award; Morton Finney Scholar; George M. Pullman Scholar

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

April 2020-Present

Indianapolis Public Schools Chief Academic Officer Indianapolis, IN

(District Demographics: 31,000 students 40% Black, 32% Latinx, 22% White, 65% Low income, 18% SPED)

- As the Chief Academic Officer, I set the strategic vision and direction for the instructional framework,
- pedagogical approach, and district policy for all academic programs that reach the 31,000 students

 I serve on the Superintendent's cabinet and am the leader and spokesperson for our academic program.
- Implemented a strategic academic vision grounded in high quality instruction, professional development, and assessment. This strategy led to the following results:
 - o IPS ranked #1 in 3-year growth in ELA, Math, and Both on ILEARN.
 - o IPS ranked #2 in Math 1 year growth on ILEARN and #3 in ELA 1 year growth on ILEARN.
- I worked with my team to implement a new equitable grading policy that led to a 56.4 percent decrease in the districtivide failure rate. (7.9% failure rate Fall 2022)
- Improved Freshmen on track rate by 12% and increased graduation rates by 6% (74% to 80%) from cohort 2020 to cohort 2022.
- Implemented structures that led to a 18 percent increase in student attendance, (91% Attendance rate Fall 2022)
- Led a district reorganization process to enable equitable access to advanced mathematics, music, enrichment programs, and high-quality programs. This initiative was approved by our board with a 7-0
- I supervise the following departments/ functions: Teaching and Learning; Unified Student Supports (and Special Education); Assessment and Research; Academic Strategy and Performance; Enrichment Programs (and ESL); Athletics and Post-Secondary Readiness.
- Led a textbook adoption process that led to implementing high quality texts in every school for ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

2017-2020

Executive Director, Teach For America-St. Louis St. Louis, MO

(Impact a network of 600 TFA teachers/alumni, work with 12 districts/CMOs, work reaches 20,000 students)

- Students in TFA classrooms are growing 42% more than non TFA novice teachers.
- Led a strategy that grew the number of TFA school and systems leaders to over 90. Including 4 new schools led by TFA alum and 2 new TFA school board members.
- Led a turnaround effort that brought in 30 new partners. Grew the number of TFA teachers from 50 to 70.
 Improved fundraising efforts by \$350,000, and expanded partnerships in the city and state. Manage a \$3 million budget.
- Improved staff culture on the Great Places to Work survey from 44% to 91%. Led a team of 13, a
 network of 600 TFA teachers and alumni, and a regional advisory board to impact educational excellence
 in St. Louis.

2016-2017

White House Fellow, US Department of Education Washington, D.C.

The President's Commission on White House Fellowships is a 1 year program and one of America's most prestigious programs for leadership and public service. As a fellow, I was a full-time Federal government advisor to senior White House cabinet Secretaries under the Obama and Trump administrations. I led work on the following projects: Promise Zones, My Brother's Keeper, Native Youth Community Grant, ESSA policy.

2014-2016

Cleveland Metropolitan School District Cleveland, OH Academic Superintendent/Network Lead- Investment Phase II Network

(Network Demographics: ~5,000 students 92% Black, 6% White, 98% Low income, 23% SPED)

- Supervised and supported 14 principals and turnaround schools.
- Improved all schools' Reading and Math scores by up to 15% by implementing data-driven instructional
 protocols. Supported system-level instructional work that led to achievement growth in all four NAEP
 assessment testing categories.
- Improved network attendance by 5% and reduced chronic absenteeism by 10% using the Attendance Works strategy. Increased parent engagement 21% and decreased suspensions 50%.
- Created a leadership development program for men of color to recruit, develop and retain educators in our district

2011-2014

Chicago Public Schools- High School Principal Chicago, IL (Manley High School Demographics: 99.6% Black, .4% Latino, 98% Low income, 32% SPED)

- After being on probation for 18 years and a performance level 3 school, I implemented instructional systems that improved the school's performance to a level 2 Good Standing within 2 years.
- Raised student literacy mastery by 45% and increased ACT Scores by 25% implementing a school wide common core curriculum. Increased the on-track rate by 43% and student attendance by 16%, Our school led the district for the highest on-track and attendance growth during the 2012-13 school year. Improved school culture by decreasing drop-out rate by 12% and suspensions by 65%.

2010-2011

Chicago Public Schools- Resident Principal Chicago, IL (Team Englewood High School Demographics: 99.5% Black, 97.8% Low income, 14.3% SPED)

 Developed and facilitated teacher teams through student work and unit protocols, modeling lessons, and teacher created interim assessments. College readiness skills improved by 15%. Raised student attendance from 84% to 89% and raised student on-track rates to 85% by leading a culture team and implementing school wide progress monitoring systems.

2009-2010

Chicago Public Schools- Science Dept. Chair Chicago, IL (Fenger High School Demographics: 99.4% Black, 94.5% Low income, 18.9% SPED)

68% of students in the Science Department mastered prioritized College Readiness Science Skills. Chemistry and Physics instructor: improved science skills by 35%. Led and supported a team of 14 teachers. Started a speech, debate, and drama team. Led 7 students to a final round and the team competed in the IHSA Regional Finals and the Tournament of Champions.

2007-2009

Teach for America, Science Teacher, St. Louis Public St. Louis, MO

(Yeatman-Liddell School Demographics: 100% Black, 86.8% Low income, 10% SPED)

 Advised 4 award winning district Science fair projects. Improved 8th grade Missouri State Science Standards mastery to 75%. Improved 9th grade scores from the 30th to 70th percentile on benchmark exams. Saint Louis Public Schools Outstanding Teacher of the Year for the Community Education Department.

2006-2007

Illinois State Senate, Appropriations Bill Analyst Springfield, IL

Analyzed Senate Appropriations Bills and the Governor's Appropriation recommendations to state
agencies. Prepared bill analyses of 9 state agencies for caucus members.

Awards, Honors, and Affiliations

- White House Fellows Alumni Foundation and Association Board Member 2022-2026
- Broad Fellow at Yale School of Management (2022-2023)
- Awarded the Butler University Hilton Ultimus Brown Alumni Achievement Award 2021
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fratemity, Inc. (member since 2003)
- Leadership St. Louis (2018-2019)
- IUPUI University Library Board (2020- present)
- · Aspen Advisory Council on the role of the Principal (2020- present)
- Wallace Foundation on Principal Supervision (2014-2016)
- Teach for America- School Systems Leaders Fellow 2014-2015
- Leadership for Educational Equity Public Leader Fellow 2013-14
- Chicago Tap Theatre Board Member 2012-2014
- Illinois High School Association (Speech and Drama Adjudicator)
- Eastern Star Church Men's Ministry