

OCTOBER 2020

4TH-DIMENSION LEADERS

The Monthly Newsletter from 4DL

EQUITY PRACTITIONER PROGRAM RECRUITMENT!

10 slots remain for the 3rd EPP cohort that starts January 23rd 2021!

EPP GUIDING BELIEFS:

- 1) Structural barriers are created at seats of power and lie at the root of systemic inequity in schools.
- 2) There is inertia in the dangerous social and psychological constructs that govern our daily lives; equity is achieved when we challenge institutions responsible for creating the constructs.
- 3) America's founding story is unique; as such our systemic inequities CAN NOT be simplistically compared to the systemic inequities of other nations.
- 4) Schools must be redesigned to intentionally and equitably educate ALL kids.

To learn more about the 6-month program that seeks to equip educators at every level of organization with the knowledge, skills, abilities, and resources to successfully lead equity efforts at the school and community levels, please visit

<https://4thdimensionleaders.org/programs>

MEET LEAD FOR DELAWARE'S NEW ADJUNCT FACULTY!

Dr. LaRetha Odumosu

Dr. LaRetha C.P. Odumosu, known to many of her students and colleagues as Dr. O, started her educational career as an Upward Bound tutor and then instructor while attending Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ as an undergraduate English literature major. Since then, Dr. O has received her MA in English Literature from Pennsylvania State University and her PhD in Urban Education from Temple University. Dr. O has taught a variety of grades throughout her career serving as a middle school English teacher, a high school English teacher, a college freshman instructor and a graduate school professor. Over the past ten years, Dr. O has served as a school leader in secondary schools. Starting her leadership career as an Assistant Principal of Instruction over grades 7-12 with Mastery Charter Schools and then as a middle school principal, Dr. O now serves as an Executive Director at the Charter School of New Castle in New Castle, Delaware. Dr. O is a believer in the importance of collaboration and making your voice heard. Most recently, she was appointed by the Secretary of Education and the Governor's Office to the Health and Wellness Working Group for school reopening in the state of Delaware.



Rachel Valentin

Rachel Valentin is currently the Principal and Instructional Leader of Charter School of New Castle Elementary Campus serving grades K - 4 (425+) students. Rachel has been instrumental in leading collective change and transforming the culture of the Charter School of New Castle during a difficult leadership transition in 2014-15. During her tenure, the school experienced a major turn-around that resulted in improved student and parent experience, consistent routines & systems; positive staff culture and academic programming.

Rachel re-located to Delaware to participate with the Delaware Leadership Project a Principal Fellowship developed by Innovative Schools. Rachel has served as an adjunct professor with Relay Graduate School of Education Delaware and now with 4th-Dimension Leaders. Prior to relocating, Rachel was a Teacher with Uncommon Schools in Brooklyn, NY. She has also served as Math Curriculum Planner and Instructional Coach. Rachel has earned a M.Ed. in Education from Hunter College in New York. In addition, Rachel has earned an M.A. in Political Science with a central focus on Urban Affairs/Policy and; Public Administration) Brooklyn College in Brooklyn, NY. Rachel has also earned a B.A. in History with a minor in Writing from Spelman College in Atlanta, GA.



LEAD FOR DELAWARE'S LEARNING TALK FEATURING LAWANDA HILL



LFD Learning Talk: LaWanda Hill

This month, Lead For Delaware's LiTs engaged in a Learning Talk (previously known as Learning Walk) with LaWanda Hill. As LiTs dove deeply into content this month around leading in a crisis, LaWanda shared her experiences and lessons learned from her leadership during the merger of two elementary schools. LaWanda began her trajectory in education as a classroom teacher in 1999 and she transitioned into school leadership in 2004. She was one of nine in the first cohort of New Leaders Resident Principals in legacy Memphis City Schools. During her 10-year tenure as principal she spearheaded the school merger of Caldwell and Guthrie Elementary schools in North Memphis. Under her leadership the merged entity, Caldwell-Guthrie Elementary, achieved a 2013 State of TN Reward School status and the 2014 Education Consumers Foundation Value-Add Award.

LaWanda joined the staff of New Leaders in 2014 as the Director of the Aspiring Principals Program supporting and training 4 cohorts of aspiring principals in Memphis, TN. Seventy-five percent of the Resident Principals went on to accept school leadership positions. LaWanda is a firm believer of unlimited possibilities for ALL children given the proper resources, environment, and individuals to support them. We were happy to have her join our LiTs and engage in conversations that closely related to their content this month.

LEAD FOR DELAWARE RECRUITMENT!

Do you know someone who is ready to expand their reach beyond the classroom?

Do you know someone who is ready to deepen their impact?

Do you know someone who should be in position to advance equity through transformative leadership?

We are here to get aspiring principals to and through the training and certification necessary for school transformation. We know that communities are impacted for generations by the schools that serve them. At Lead For Delaware, we believe that equity-focused leaders transform schools and the communities in which they sit. As such, we are recruiting for our 6th cohort of aspiring leaders. A two-year, equity-rooted and soft skills-based leadership development and certification program, Lead For Delaware provides a multi-faceted learning experience that exposes leaders to themselves and the broader practices of high-performing leadership, specifically for challenging schools. If you are or know someone who is ready to take their mission and passion to the next level, please pass this along!

Learn more @ <https://4thdimensionleaders.org/programs>