

OPPORTUNITY CULTURE DIRECTORS GATHERING

FOR EDUCATORS COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

2022 OPPORTUNITY CULTURE DIRECTORS GATHERING PANELISTS

Dr. Timisha Barnes-Jones



Dr. Timisha Barnes-Jones is an area superintendent in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County (North Carolina) Schools, which is in its third year of Opportunity Culture implementation. She holds a doctorate degree in education leadership from Gardner-Webb University and a master's degree in curriculum and supervision from UNC-Charlotte. As part of her 25 years in education, she served as principal of West Charlotte High School—one of the first high schools in the nation to implement Opportunity Culture roles. Under her leadership, West Charlotte's graduation rate increased by over 31 percentage points, and the school was removed from the state's low-performing school list and named a school of high growth in 2017. In 2019, she was named the Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year for the Southwest Region. She completed the National Principal's Academy Fellowship in 2014 from Relay Graduate School and has since served as a principal advisor for the program; she graduated from DA National Superintendents Academy in 2019. She taught for 13 years in elementary, middle, and high school, and her experience has included being a dean of students and principal coach, and two years as director of school improvement for Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools in Savannah, Georgia.

Marlene Garcia Saucedo



Marlene Garcia Saucedo is the assistant director of Opportunity Culture in the Klein (Texas) Independent School District, which is in its third year of Opportunity Culture implementation. She holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Lamar University and a master's in curriculum and instruction in math from the University of Texas in Arlington. She taught elementary school for 10 years beginning in 2005 in La Joya ISD, then became a math curriculum consultant with Sharon Wells for grades 2–5 throughout the state of Texas. When her family relocated to Houston in 2016, she taught one year of fourth grade in Klein ISD, then worked as an elementary school instructional specialist until 2021. She has held leadership roles at both districts such as summer school principal, testing coordinator, district language arts curriculum writer, district math curriculum refresh team, professional development trainer, campus lead mentor, campus leadership team, and destination imagination coach. She was also a member of the Klein ISD Instructional Leadership and Instructional Coaching Academy as well as a member of the District Leadership Academy at her previous district. She enjoys working alongside Public Impact to develop Opportunity Culture within Klein ISD.

Robin May



Robin May is the assistant superintendent of instructional services for Wilson County (North Carolina) Schools, which is in its second year of Opportunity Culture implementation. She holds a master's degree in curriculum and school administration from East Carolina University and a bachelor's degree in middle school education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her roles over 28 years in education have included middle and high school assistant principal, elementary and middle school principal, School Improvement Grant coach, executive director of secondary schools, and executive director for federal programs; she has served on accreditation teams under SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) and AdvancED. Wilson County Schools began Opportunity Culture implementation during the 2021–22 school year and has added more implementing schools this year, and the district and May are excited about the positive impact it is having on teacher and student success.

Christie Toland



Christie Toland is the assistant superintendent of Gentry (Arkansas) Public Schools, which is in its third year of Opportunity Culture implementation. She is a doctoral candidate at Arkansas State University and holds a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Central Arkansas. Over 23 years in education, she has served rural, suburban, and urban communities, including roles as a principal and as North Little Rock's director of college and career readiness. She is passionate about ensuring equitable access to education for all by establishing and maintaining systems that recruit, support, and retain high-quality educators.