

CASTA CHILDRESS

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Dedicated and highly successful educational leader with demonstrated track record of success in building sustainability programs. Articulate leader skilled in bringing in people of all backgrounds to build influential teams to support education growth and reform.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

MARCH 2021 – PRESENT

DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN & STRATEGY, THE HUNT INSTITUTE

Build relationships with local-level school leaders in Hunt Institute partner states. • Consult with schools, districts, state leaders, and policymakers to offer professional development and policy and research support that is tailored to local contexts. • Provide leadership on K-12 initiatives in policy and research and fosters internal and external relationships that expand the reach of the Hunt Institute's programs, products, and expertise. • Deliver professional development information on an array of K-12 educational topics/content to small and large groups. • Contribute to the design and development of major Institute policymaker convenings, including state legislative retreats and cross-state and national events for senior state policymakers. • Oversee the planning and implementation of the Institute's Regional Visits and School Site Visits for Hunt-Kean Fellows and state legislators. • Design and implement new employee onboarding development plan. • Partner with Operations team to screen and hire organization wide staff.

JULY 2016 – JULY 2021

PRINCIPAL, CHESTERFIELD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Served as an instructional leader to provide an environment that maximized the learning potential of all students and employees: to use data to lead the school efforts in achieving high academic performance of all students, ensured programs and strategies are in place for enrichment and remediation services for all students. • Provided ongoing staff development relative to Board vision and mission, school goals, and SIP initiatives. • Coordinated curriculum development with Instructional Services, administrators, specialists, and teachers. • Used the curriculum of the district to plan daily instructional activities and pilot district school wide initiatives for Dual Language Immersion-French, Instructional Designer, Integrated Resource Model-STEAM, Standards-Based Grading, EL Education ELA Curriculum. • Communicated division wide policy, procedures, and guidelines to school staff. Evaluated program effectiveness and efficiency. • Prepared regular reports for presentation to the Director of Elementary Education related to the elementary school instructional program and the operations of the school. Evaluated staff according to School Board policy. • Coordinated with the Director and Human Resources Department all staffing needs; participated in the recruitment,

selection, and assignment of the elementary staff. • Responsible for budget preparation and monitored school and activity fund budget status.

JULY 2014 – JULY 2016

PRINCIPAL, CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RICHMOND

- Recommended programs to improve teacher and student performance.
- Increased marketing and development staff. • Led \$2million fundraising effort for building renovation. • Diversified and increased school board representation. • Verified compliance with educational and pedagogical guidelines as provided by local, state, and federal agencies in alignment with the diocese. • Planned successful strategies focused on increasing student and parent engagement in educational process. Innovated strategies to retain students and maximize school funding. • Created STEM curriculum and programming for K-8. • Created a leveled library. • Increased staffing capacity to include a Instructional Specialist, School Counselor, Reading and Math Instructional Coaches. • Created secondary resource programming model. • Created Math/Science, ELA/SS content curriculum integration grades 4-5.

JULY 2011 – JULY 2014

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, CHESTERFIELD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Helped shape and develop school-wide culture to foster productive and enthusiastic learning environment for each student. • Supervised implementation of curricula and assessments to transform math instruction and student achievement. • Led secondary math/science curricular integration. • Supported pilot 1:1 technology initiative. Facilitated use of technology as communication and educational tool to improve teacher development and student achievement and manage work-related tasks. • Supervised, evaluated, and documented teachers' performance and coordinated educational assessments through leading instructional staff to improve teaching quickly and student engagement.

JUNE 2008 – JULY 2010

LICENSURE SPECIALIST, VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Demonstrated considerable knowledge of public-school organization and practices as well as knowledge of state government operations. • Demonstrated considerable knowledge of the statutes, rules, policies, and guidelines relating to issuing teacher licenses in the Commonwealth of Virginia preferred. • Demonstrated considerable knowledge of the components of graduate and undergraduate programs. • Processed, coded and entered licensure applications for printing, and generated reports on educator licensure activity. • Provided advice to school divisions, colleges, and the public regarding licensing policies, procedures, and regulations.

EDUCATION

2022

ED.D EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND POLICY STUDIES, VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

ANTICIPATED DEFENSE: MAY **2022**, “ACADEMIC OUTCOMES OF MANDATING ALGEBRA FOR ALL IN EIGHTH GRADE”

MARCH 2011

MED EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SUPERVISION, UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX

MAY 2000

BS LIBERAL STUDIES- ELEMENTARY EDUCATION NK-8, LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

DEVELOPMENT AND AWARDS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2011-2022 EL Education National Conference● 2019-2021 French Embassy Grant Awardee- \$100,000● 2018-2021 Superintendent’s Advisory● 2019-2021 Partner in the Arts Grant Awardee- \$50,000● 2020 VDOE Dual Language Immersion Education Program Implementation Guide Co-Developer● 2020 Superintendent’s Game Changer Award | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2018-2020 GADII French Immersion Conference● 2019-2021 CARLA● 2018-2020 National Dual Language Immersion Conference● 2017 Certified EL Education Facilitator● 2017-2019 Superintendent’s Innovation Grant Awardee● 2015 VAIS Presenter● 2014 National Site Seminar Presenter |
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