

Tawannah G. Allen is an associate professor of Educational Leadership in the Stout School of Education at High Point University. She has been named the 2021 Higher Education Professional to Watch, by the North Carolina Association of Middle Level Education (NCMLE). Dr. Allen is also a NC Education Policy Fellow and is an inaugural cohort member of the Hunt Institute's Elevate NC: Higher Education. As a researcher, Dr. Allen engages in basic and applied research, focusing on the educational plight of K-20 students of color. Tawannah designs and facilitates professional development training, for school districts and private sector organizations, focusing on the opportunities and access to post-secondary education for underrepresented students, girls in STEM, stereotyping and implicit biases, and the impact of trauma on academics.

Bria Wright is an elementary educator that believes that every child can learn and has the right to a rigorous learning experience with a dedicated educator. She was born and raised in North Carolina and works in the same school district she attended K-12. As an educator, Bria has had the opportunity to partner with a variety of organizations to grow her capacity as an anti-racist educator. She currently serves as a Teaching Tolerance Advisory Board member. Bria is a double graduate of North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with a STEM concentration and a Masters of Education in New Literacies and Global Learning: K-12 Reading. She is currently a finalist for her Wake County Public School System's Teacher of the Year. In her free time, when she is not riding around listening to Beyonce, she enjoys family time and painting.

Dr. Patricia Hilliard serves as a Research Scholar at the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation at North Carolina State University. She works with school districts to design, develop and deliver professional learning. Dr. Hilliard earned a Doctorate of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Urban Education from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She has been a high school teacher, university instructor, curriculum designer, and instructional coach.

Hallie Brew is a junior at Middle Creek High school. She has played on the varsity volleyball team for the past three years and is involved in many clubs, one of those being the Social Justice club, which she is taking over next year.

Bryan Aguirre-Santos is a junior at Sanderson High School and the VP of Sanderson's Equity Team. As an afrolatino, he is always looking for ways to represent and include his community in important conversations regarding equity and social issues.

Jannell Powlen was born and raised in Fayetteville, North Carolina. She attended Fayetteville State University where she received her bachelors in History. She then went back to earn her teaching license and has been in Education for 15 years. Jannell is a facilitator for Equity in education and effective classroom management for Cumberland County. She is a mentor for new teachers and is married to a fellow educator. She has two wonderful children and her family keeps her very busy and she loves being a wife and mother and teacher.

Dayson Pasion serves the community of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School System as an equity specialist, primarily in their middle schools. Before joining CHCCS, Dayson was an instructional coach in the Alamance-Burlington School System and started his career in education as a science teacher at Graham Middle School. Dayson also serves on the Board of Directors for ISLA NC and Habitat for Humanity of Alamance County. He is also a co-chair of the Education Committee for the Alamance chapter of the NAACP. In these roles and as a community member, Dayson strives to make education equitable and just for all, but especially for those who have been systemically marginalized. He now makes his home in Burlington with his wife Jessica.

Sedrick Brown is a high school senior from Fayetteville, North Carolina who is deeply passionate about activism, politics, and law. This fall he will be attending UNC-Chapel Hill with a major in Public Policy. Sedrick hopes to become a lawyer and activist in the future, where he will actively pursue criminal justice reform and address issues surrounding civil rights.