Shoot for The Moon: LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT

PETER McKNIGHT
Charles R. Drew Charter School Senior Academy

Peter McKnight graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, having earned Bachelor’s degrees in both Religious Studies and Mathematics. Upon graduation, he joined Teach for America and was assigned to teach at South Atlanta High School. During his tenure at South Atlanta, he taught Geometry, Calculus and Advanced Placement Calculus. In 2006, Peter collaborated with a group of teachers to found a small learning community focusing on law and social justice, and in 2007 he was hired as the founding principal of the new South Atlanta School of Law and Social Justice. During his six-year tenure as principal of the School of Law and Social Justice, the school was recognized as a Reward School and a National Title I Distinguished School. In 2013, Peter accepted the position of founding principal of the new Charles R. Drew Charter School Senior Academy. In 2017, the Senior Academy graduated its founding class, which achieved 100% graduation and college acceptance rates. The school currently enrolls approximately 425 students in grades nine through twelve, engaging in a rigorous STEAM and Project-Based Learning curriculum.

Reach For The Stars: TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT

JASMINE DENNARD
Charles R. Drew Charter School Elementary Academy

Jasmine Dennard is committed to cultivating the strengths not only in her students, but her fellow teammates as well. As a Teach for America Alumna, Jasmine has spent the last 6 years challenging herself to be a relevant and informed educator for the benefit of her students. She strongly believes, “You can’t be, what you can’t see.” So, she makes it her goal to expose her students to many different possibilities they have for their futures. Jasmine’s Leadership encourages collaboration and productive struggle amongst colleagues, to ensure that they are all providing rigorous and quality instruction for student. She sees herself as lucky to have worked under very influential leaders, and to also have a phenomenal mother who teaches 2nd grade. As the mother of to year old, Jasmine strives to provide the same high quality education she hopes her son will receive one day. Jasmine has a Bachelor’s in English from Georgia State University and a Master’s in Early Childhood Education from Fordham University.

“I am honored to be the GCSA 2019 Reach for the Stars award recipient. I believe the title alone truly embodies what I strive to do everyday for my students, my team, and my school.”