

May 25, 2019

Hollis Innovation Academy is a Pre-K through eighth grade STEM focused school. Our school's goal is to ensure all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to become successful, empathetic, and nurturing citizens. Dr. Diamond Ford helps foster this goal by leading and supporting the Hollis STEM program. Dr. Ford's STEM vision for Hollis includes students utilizing technology to solve real world problems within their school or community. She allocates funds to support three STEM labs that are tailored for each grade band. Each STEM lab has 21st Century technological tools to engage students' learning, allowing them to create high quality and meaningful STEM products. Dr. Ford believes and encourages coding and programming for all students, beginning in kindergarten.

Dr. Ford promotes teacher growth and leadership. She builds teacher capacity by offering continuous STEM professional development within the school. She empowers teachers to lead and facilitate professional development within their learning communities. Dr. Ford provides learning opportunities for teachers to participate in local and national STEM conferences to increase their learning of STEM instructional strategies. Lastly, she also encourages teachers to visit STEM schools for planning and collaboration.

Dr. Ford has cultivated a strong STEM relationship with our community and business partners. NCR, CEISMC-Georgia Tech, Mercedes- Benz, Honeywell, and the Atlanta Science Festival are Hollis STEM partners. Dr. Ford has enriched the lives or students, teachers, and parents through these partnership with STEM events, student summer camps, teacher mentorships, and classroom volunteering.

Dr. Ford is a STEM leader, STEM visionary, and a STEM trailblazer. Her dedication to student success is shown daily. She continues to break barriers and build bridges that will enrich the lives of her students, staff, and community.

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Linďa Howard STEM Teacher, Kindergarten-2nd grade