

EL Education Silverberg Leadership Award Nomination

• • • Dr. Diamond Ford • • •

It is without hesitation that the faculty, staff, and administration of Hollis Innovation Academy nominate Dr. Diamond Ford for the EL Education Silverberg Leadership Award. Dr. Ford is a dynamic, passionate leader, with an innate ability to build culture that reflects high expectations, inclusivity, teamwork, and joy for students, staff, and stakeholders.

Dr. Ford consistently focuses on **uniting staff, students, and the broader community around an inspirational vision of student success rooted in EL Education's three dimensions of student achievement**. Under Dr. Ford's leadership, Hollis has developed a strong, consistent, and innovative partnerships program that supports the overall mission and vision of the school, and she **works tirelessly to engage our school community in continuous improvement to fulfill the vision**.

Mastery of Knowledge and Skills

Dr. Ford shows sincere interest in all aspects of her position, and is constantly seeking ways to cultivate and enhance her passion for student learning and achievement.

As part of our close partnership with CEISMC (Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics and Computing) at Georgia Tech, Dr. Ford works regularly with CEISMC leadership to create a robust Expeditionary STEM program to qualify Hollis for state STEM certification. CEISMC provides two to four Innovators-in-Residence, who support teachers in designing tasks that require students to apply, analyze, evaluate, and create as part of their work. These Innovators-in-Residence meet weekly with our STEM team to plan and develop projects that integrate complex work and connect to real world issues.

Character

Dr. Ford's communication and leadership make partners feel engaged, and her strategic planning makes their work impactful and meaningful. She is heavily involved with volunteers from our partner organizations, who regularly support service learning at Hollis with events like Better World Day and Great Day of Service. She also uses the school's strategic plan to integrate Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in all areas of instruction, school culture, and student/staff/family programming.

High-Quality Student Work

With a heavy emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), Dr. Ford's vision for Hollis involves students utilizing technology to solve real world problems within their school or community.

Dr. Ford persistently aims to **ensure high-quality instruction through adequate allocation of resources and supporting structures so that all students excel**. She

allocates funds to support three STEM labs that are tailored for each grade band, and each STEM lab has 21st Century technological tools to engage students' learning, allowing them to create high-quality and meaningful STEM products.

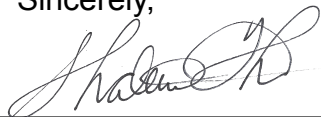
She consistently **cultivates a professional culture among adults that parallels the empowering culture they foster for students**. Dr. Ford lends support and encourages educators to identify their abilities, skills, and expertise. She provides opportunities for educators to creatively express their abilities, and launch leadership initiatives across the school. She offers support in starting these initiatives, as well as feedback to assist in cultivating and improving skills. It is clear that she **respects teachers and other staff members as creative agents, and supports them as professionals continually seeking to improve their craft**. She empowers teachers to lead and facilitate professional development within their learning communities. To help ensure that instructional goals are met, Dr. Ford helps organize regular, intense professional learning sessions ("The Strategy Café"), which are led by faculty and staff members, and are differentiated, allowing options for focus areas of professional growth.

Dr. Ford exudes excellence, and pushes her staff and students to always put their best foot forward. She believes strongly in **building the leadership capacity of others and empowering them to lead improvement across the school**. Her commitment to growing leaders, not only in students, but also in adults, is modeled through her utilization of shared leadership.

Dr. Ford not only empowers her staff members to lead change within in the school, but she also cultivates student leadership through her Principal's Advisory Council, which is comprised of student leaders who provide student voice and advocate for positive change throughout the school.

Dr. Diamond Ford's steadfast dedication to student success is evident daily. She continues to break barriers and build bridges that enrich the lives of her students, staff, and community. She is unwavering in her educational philosophy, and it impacts every interaction she has with students and teachers. Dr. Ford is caring, compassionate, and highly competent in her understanding of fostering a learning environment for children that teaches to the whole child, and she truly advocates for the best for her students. It is for these reasons—among many others—that we enthusiastically nominate Dr. Ford for the EL Education Silverberg Leadership Award.

Sincerely,



Dr. Shalewa Thrash
Assistant Principal



Danika Woods
Math Instructional Coach



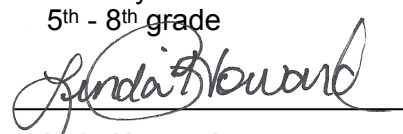
Sheryl Spikes
Literacy Instructional Coach
5th - 8th grade



Adeila Dixon
Literacy Instructional Coach
Pre-K - 4th grade



Dana Vance
1st Grade Teacher



Linda Howard
STEM Teacher, K - 2nd grade



Dr. Natasha Lyles
7th Grade Teacher



Upenda Dubose
Partnerships Program
Manager



Dennis Toliver
Social and Emotional
Learning Coach