

# TEACHERS' NOTES

May 2022

## CELEBRATING EDUCATORS IN OUR SCHOOLS

2022 began AATF's 18<sup>th</sup> year of supporting and developing current and aspiring educators to serve students in local schools. With more schools and districts facing growing amounts of teacher shortages, we are consistently reminded of the importance of our work in local schools. Now more than ever, our vision of recruiting and retaining African American educators is needed.

We are eager to continue our work and excited about the growth we've had over the past few

months.

The Program Committee has recruited two new Fellows to join the current Fellows, who we highlight in this newsletter. Both Zahra Edwards and Raylaja Waller are two phenomenal additions to our group and will be joining Cohort 2023.

Additionally, Shantron Franklin-Sims, Daisa Granger-Pascall, Jody London, Angel McGhee, and Ashley Miller all transitioned into their first year of teaching in local schools as Fellows. The Program Committee as-



*Fellow Quana Dennis  
Cohort 2023*

sisted this group of Fellows by providing mock interviews, reviewing resumé's, and providing advice on the recruitment and hiring processes.

For the 2022-2023 school year, two Fellows are seeking teaching roles.

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# WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST FELLOWS!

We are pleased to introduce you to our newest Fellows! These Fellows will join Cohort 2023, and they will teach in schools in the 2023-2024 school year.

**Name:** Zahra Edwards

**Hometown:** Fairfax, VA

**College Attending:** University of Virginia

**What are you most looking forward to as a new Fellow?** I am really looking forward to meeting and getting to know everyone! I am also looking forward to hearing more about other Fellows' experiences in the program, because I feel as though there is a lot to learn!



**Name:** Raylaja Waller

**Hometown:** Charlottesville, VA

**College Attending:** Liberty University

**What made you interested in becoming a Fellow?** I knew I needed additional help and support transitioning from a Substitute Teacher and Pathway Coach to being the primary classroom teacher. I have had mentors such as Dr. Rosa Atkins, and Ashley & Wes Bellamy who have always encouraged me to look into the idea of teaching and to go through AATF to better assist with my transition into teaching.



# CELEBRATING EDUCATORS CONT'D

We are excited about the impact these Fellows will have on the children in our community's public schools! In addition, we are gearing up for our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Institute, which begins next month.

Each May, schools and communities all over the United States honor and recognize educators for their work with students. Teacher Appreciation Week, celebrated this

year from May 2<sup>nd</sup> until May 6<sup>th</sup>, is a week focused on the commitment of educators to teach the next generation. At AATF, we are fortunate to have supported over 60 educators in our organization's history, and we celebrate their work in the Charlottesville-Albemarle community over the past 18 years.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission to recruit, support, develop, and retain a cadre of African American teachers to serve the schools of Charlottesville and Albemarle County. Consider a contribution using the enclosed envelope or online gift via our website



to

*Fellow Shantron Franklin-Sims  
Cohort 2022*

support our mission to develop and sustain African American educators for local schools. We look forward to making a bigger impact as the year continues!



## NEW BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

James Bland recently joined the board, and he is excited to support AATF's mission in the Charlottesville area.



As the Director of the Center for Diversity in Engineering at the University of Virginia, he sees the importance of equity in schools. James shared: "In a community where Black students are three times more likely to drop out than their white peers, this group of amazing scholars and educators will be key in shifting our community and youth for the better."

James' favorite part about serving on the board is brainstorming about ways to advocate for educators. He wants to work alongside fellow board members to create strategies to remove barriers for Black educators in the community.

Welcome to the board, James!

## ALUMNA FELLOW SPOTLIGHT



Nicole Carter, member of Cohort 2012 and AATF Alumnus currently serves as the Assistant Principal of Charlottesville High School.

A 2018 recipient of the Golden Apple Award, Nicole continues to support students and teachers at the same school where she began her teaching career over a decade ago. Whether supervising lunch or meeting with parents, she builds relationships with students and their families to enhance family engagement at CHS.

We are so proud of the work Nicole is doing in our community, and we are excited to highlight her as an AATF alumna!

## Save The Date



2022 Celebration of Fellows

November 5th, 2022

Location: TBD