



### **MEDRIA BLUE-ELLIS**

#### **PRINCIPAL – ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE UNIVERSITY MAGNET SCHOOL**

Medria Blue-Ellis has been the principal of the Engineering and Science University Magnet School (ESUMS) for 8 years. ESUMS is New Haven Public Schools District's (NHPS) only 6-12 school and although it is only 10 years old, it has earned national and state recognition. ESUMS leads NHPS in all standardized tests scores and its averages are higher than state averages in all grades and in all areas. During her tenure, ESUMS students have won numerous local, state and national science, technology, engineering and math competitions and have earned hundreds of college credits through Project Lead the Way engineering courses and Advanced Placement courses including AP physics, AP calculus, AP computer science and AP statistics. Students have also gained credits in NHPS' College Before College Program where they take classes at Yale University, Southern Connecticut State University and Gateway Community College and the ESUMS/University of New Haven (UNH) STEP early college program.

To support ESUMS success and initiatives for college and career readiness, Ms. Blue-Ellis has secured outside funding of over 100K through grant writing and private giving. Grant awards support extended learning and subsidize field experiences such as annual regional college tours and international travel experiences. She has recruited top business and industry professionals to form a Business Advisory board that engages with staff and students in addition to providing input on strategic planning, marketing and career readiness skill development.

Prior to being appointed to ESUMS as principal, Ms. Blue-Ellis was Assistant Principal at a HOTS school, Edgewood K-8 School and Roberto Clemente Leadership Academy. To these roles, she brought experience from being both an urban and private school educator. She taught high school at Hamden Hall Country Day School and had the good fortune of beginning her career in one of NHPS' first magnet schools, West Hills Magnet, where she taught middle school. There she was trained under the Bank Street integrated thematic teaching model. During this time, she also became a Connecticut Writing Project fellow. She has earned several fellowships and residences including 2009 Orton-Gillingham Fellow; 2004-2001 Cave Canem Fellow; 2000-2002 Niantic Prison Girl Scouts Behind Bars, Artist in Residency; and 2000 Wesleyan Writers Workshop Fellow. Ms. Blue-Ellis has found it exciting to merge knowledge of general pedagogy, social development and literacy with that of STEM education while also building ESUMS' foundation and brand. She has spearheaded focuses on school-wide initiatives to strengthen writing and reading skills and practices such as Restorative Circles, Non-violent Communications and Emotional Intelligences.

Ms. Blue-Ellis is a native of New Haven. She attended Howard University where excellence, activism and service were instilled in her. She holds a MA in Education from UNH and a 6<sup>th</sup> Year Degree in Administration from Southern Connecticut State University. She writes, "a belief that education, a major civil rights concern of the 21st century, can either rewrite or seal destiny fuels my work as an educator." She is a proud Magnet School educator and desires to spend twenty more years in the field contributing positively to the Choice landscape.