

Member Highlight

JoAnna Gwynn,
Superintendent, Caswell County Schools,
NC



WHO IS JOANNA GWYNN?

JoAnna Gwynn currently serves as the Superintendent for Caswell County Schools in North Carolina. She started her educational career as a Freshman Seminar teacher in Alamance-Burlington Schools. Educating students in her hometown of Caswell County brought her back to teach at the middle school level, lead as a high school assistant principal, middle school principal, high school principal, director of human resources and now serve as its superintendent.

There have been many life experiences that have impacted JoAnna in her professional journey. She lived and grew up in rural Caswell County. In addition, she served in the U.S. Armed Forces where she traveled the world as a young woman. Opportunities such as assisting fellow colleagues as a teacher, promotions to the principalship and then ultimately leaving the principalship prompted her to re-evaluate her "Why"?. She then went back into the classroom to gain perspective and climbed the ranks again through the principalship and central office to the superintendency. During the process, she has made promises to herself to lead with kindness, yet intention.

JoAnna's biggest professional accomplishment is authentically sustaining leadership in various roles. She has fulfilled and met her own expectations of success both personally and professionally. She has learned how to be and stay true to herself while working to make the lives of children better in her district.

WISDOM FROM JOANNA

"The career advice I live by is...show up authentically and don't diminish yourself for anyone or anything. Women maneuver in a variety of spaces, some that welcome our presence and some that dismiss our presence. I have learned to shift and bring the wisdom, knowledge, experiences and my intellect that resonates within my soul each day."

"The career advice I would give to other women would be to reflect on your practice often and use it to build your own leadership style. Be confident as it pertains to your ability, and listen. Listen to others and be kind, it will serve you well in any situation. Take deep breaths often, and take time for yourself when it is necessary. Select the best literature for self-improvement, growth and allow yourself to connect with others as frequently as possible."

"We are truly life-long learners. It does not stop because we reach the pinnacle of the career we choose. Growth, relationship-building, learning, experiences all continue to happen in everything we do. Giving grace is important in education. Grace will be given more than anything else in the business of children, parents, and all stakeholders. That is a lesson for sure."

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT BEING A WE LEAD MEMBER?

"I have been a part of this organization since I was a principal. Learning from other women is the **best** part of membership for me. Sharing experiences with other women and observing the comradery of women. There are so many layers to women and we are amazing together."

