

Member Highlight

Dr. LaVette Lang Ford,

Retired Principal and Director of Federal Programs, Pitt County Schools, NC
Assistant Director in the Office of Sponsored Programs & Adjunct Professor,
Bennett College, NC



WHO IS LAVETTE LANG FORD?

Dr. LaVette Lang Ford retired from Pitt County Schools, where she served for 25 years in various administrative and instructional roles, including Principal and Director of Federal Programs. Most recently, she worked at Bennett College as Assistant Director in the Office of Sponsored Programs and as an Adjunct Professor in the Education Department. Her professional background spans both K-12 and higher education, with expertise in leadership, curriculum development, grants management, and teacher preparation. Each of these roles has strengthened her passion for equity, leadership development, and empowering others—guiding her to continue serving the educational community.

Although Dr. Ford is semi-retired, her future goals include continuing to support educational equity and leadership development, especially in underserved communities and institutions. She is seeking opportunities to foster growth, innovation, and collaboration by using her experience in both K-12 and higher education to mentor future leaders, support grant-funded initiatives, and contribute to programs that uplift women and underrepresented groups. Whether through consulting, teaching, or part-time leadership roles, her goal is to make a lasting impact by empowering others and helping organizations grow with both purpose and integrity.

WISDOM FROM LAVETTE

"The career advice I live by is: 'Lead with purpose, serve with integrity, and never stop learning.' I gained this wisdom through years of experience and by watching strong leaders around me—especially mentors who modeled servant leadership and a commitment to growth. I've learned that staying true to your values, being open to learning, and putting others first not only builds trust but also creates lasting impact. This mindset has guided me through every stage of my career, from the classroom to other leadership roles in both of my professional life as well as personal."

"I would advise other women in education to believe in their abilities, advocate for themselves, and seek out opportunities for growth. Surround yourself with mentors and peers who uplift you, and don't be afraid to lead, even in spaces where your voice may be underrepresented. Stay committed to your purpose, continue learning, and know that your work makes a lasting difference."

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

"What I like most about being a WE LEAD member is the supportive community of women committed to leadership and service. It's inspiring to learn from one another, share experiences, and grow together while making a meaningful impact."

