

Member Highlight

Dr. Vonda Martin Jenkins,
Principal, Wake County Public Schools,
North Carolina



WHO IS DR. JENKINS?

Dr. Vonda Martin Jenkins currently serves as an elementary school principal in the Wake County Public School System, where she leads instructional improvement, school culture, and staff development to ensure all students grow and succeed. Her nearly 30-year career includes experience as a classroom teacher, school administrator, and member of the NC Department of Public Instruction's State Assistance Team supporting low-performing schools.

When asked, her biggest professional accomplishment has been leading her current school to exceed academic growth for the first time in more than a decade while also improving culture, systems, and collaborative practices. Being recognized as a Model School in 2024 and invited to present nationally on PLC best practices and instructional leadership has been especially meaningful for Dr. Jenkins, as well.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO HER?

Her future goals include expanding her impact beyond a single school by supporting principals, leadership teams, and districts in strengthening instructional systems and improving outcomes for all students. She hopes to move into consulting work where she can serve as a thought partner for leaders who need clarity, strategy, and encouragement in navigating complex school challenges. Ultimately, Vonda wants to use her experience to uplift schools and leaders who are committed to doing the hard work of improvement.

WISDOM FROM VONDA

"Believe in your voice, even when the room feels intimidating. Seek community, ask for help, and trust that your perspective adds value. Set your standards high and never underestimate what you bring to the table. YOUR leadership is needed."

"The best advice I live by is: Lead with purpose, serve with humility, and never stop believing in the gifts and talents in every student. Much of this wisdom came from powerful mentors such as Dr. Jones, also the late Mr. Marvin R. Pittman who also served as my mentor for many years and navigating challenging leadership moments. I've learned that consistency, empathy, and high expectations are non-negotiables in this work. When you stay grounded in your "why," everything else aligns."

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

"I love the sense of community and shared purpose among women who are deeply committed to leadership, positivity and prioritizing social and emotional well being . The network offers inspiration, accountability, and professional learning that truly elevates my practice."

