

Member Highlight

Dr. Dia Collins Thomas,
Director of Migrant & Multilingual
Education, McKinney-Vento Liaison



WHO IS DR. COLLINS THOMAS?

Dr. Dia Collins Thomas is currently the Director of Migrant & Multilingual Education and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison for Bladen County Schools in North Carolina. As the director of Migrant Education, the program supports the migratory families as they transition from district to district. She assists with school enrollment and supplies that may be needed. Her program was awarded the NCDPI 2021-2022 State Migrant Program of the Year.

In the area of Multilingual Education, the program provides support to scholars that need help with learning the English language, assisting them with reading, listening, writing and speaking. Additionally Dr. Collins Thomas supports social workers with families that are experiencing homelessness or a housing transition due to financial hardships as part of her role as the McKinney-Vento Homeless liaison.

With all of her experience and passion for education, she aspires to be an assistant superintendent and then a superintendent of a public school district.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO DIA?

As Dia thinks about women in leadership, specifically in the superintendent role, she feels men outnumber women. She believes that women must support and motivate each other, just like winning teams encourage each other. She feels leadership positions for women can be challenging, as well as lonely. For this reason, she encourages women to turn to other women leaders that have "been there and done that" for advice and guidance, allowing each woman to become the best leader they can be!

WISDOM FROM DIA

"Do your best in everything you do and people will recognize your hard work and worth ethic. Additionally, when you do not understand something, seek to understand."

"When you hear other successful women doing great things, make a note so you can implement similar great things in your district. We learn from each other!"

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

"I truly enjoy the networking sessions with other WE LEAD members, when my schedule allows me to join."

