

Member Highlight

Dr. Shawn Benefield,
Testing and PLC Director



WHO IS DR. SHAWN BENEFIELD?

Dr. Benefield works for Ware County School System in Georgia. Her most significant professional achievement is obtaining her National Board Teaching Certification. Pursuing this certification pushed her beyond her comfort zone, leading her to attend meetings at Georgia Southern University and network with individuals beyond Ware county. Despite not passing on her initial submission, she was determined to persist. The moment she checked her scores remains a vivid memory for her. The confetti bursting on the screen prompted her to drop to her knees and express gratitude for achieving this long-awaited goal.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO HER?

Dr. Benefield holds the belief that every child can excel academically when they feel a genuine sense of care and support. This wisdom has been echoed by her numerous former principals and educational peers. She finds it remarkable to observe how students consistently meet and even exceed expectations when they sense that they are cared for in their classrooms and schools.

Additionally, she finds it crucial for female students to witness women in leadership roles. Observing someone who possesses many of the same qualities serves as a tangible representation. This enables female students to recognize their potential to attain leadership positions and surpass predefined boundaries.

WISDOM FROM DR. BENEFIELD

"My advice to fellow women in education is not to let fear hinder them from pursuing promotions. While obstacles may arise, trust in your capabilities and the tools at your disposal to overcome them. If needed, someone within your sphere of influence will be there to offer support throughout the process."

"The most significant professional challenge I've faced is grappling with the reality that it's impossible to please everyone. As a leader, making decisions comes with the responsibility, even when not everyone is on board. Prioritizing what's best for students and providing a sound rationale for implementation is crucial. I've had to navigate the pressure from those who may not agree, learning to make adjustments and draw strength from within to persevere through such situations."

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

"I enjoy my membership in WE LEAD because of the authentic stories that are openly shared. Within this community, we can freely express our thoughts and feelings. As members, we feel empowered and encouraged to pursue the next steps in our educational endeavors."

