

Member Highlight

Dr. Kim Morrison,
Senior Project Director, The Innovation
Project, NC



WHO IS KIM MORRISON?

Dr. Kim Morrison is the Senior Project Director for The Innovation Project. She is a retired former Superintendent with 31 years of experience in the educational field, having worked in both Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools and Mount Airy City Schools. She also offers free Courageous Leadership resources to leaders who are leading through crisis.

Kim attributes much of her successful career to the leaders along the way. Her journey in educational leadership taught her a fundamental truth: *we rise because others see our potential before we do*. The leaders who invested their words, time, and belief in her didn't just change her trajectory—they multiplied their impact through every person she has been able to lead since. She is also concerned that while she was fortunate to have champions, too many talented women never receive that crucial moment of recognition.

She believes we should support women leaders and help them understand their full potential. Women leaders feel they are incapable when they are capable, untalented when they are full of talent, and unable to take leadership positions when they are the one for the job. We can support women and the world is a better place with women in leadership roles alongside men.

WISDOM FROM KIM

"The advice I received was to do something unique that no one else can do, make yourself indispensable, and forge a path forward to ensure every single child is successful. I have never forgotten those words and understand that some of the skills I have are unique to me and I should use those as much as possible for the good of students. But, many times I understand that to make myself indispensable is to build a team that can withstand challenges, and build strong bonds with those around me. We often lead in crisis mode and we need a team that will be resilient together and forge the path forward for all children."

"Find yourself a good network of mentors. It is no longer relevant to only have one "go to" person for your leadership journey. You need a network to give you different viewpoints and help you work through the many challenges for women leaders. Men often go golfing or experience things together and bond as leaders. Women need to spend time with other women leaders to bond and network as well. Women tend to be "workaholics" and work on the work 24-7. The best advice I could give is to leave work at work. Spend time with others, friends, family and yourself in reflection, fun and enjoyment. It's the hardest thing to do but the most important."

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

"I believe connecting with other women who are very different than me and sometimes very much like me is wonderful. I learn from everyone and just like hearing their personal journey stories. Women need each other's support and need to take encouragement from one another. One of the best things WE LEAD does is remind us to take good care of ourselves spiritually, emotionally, physically and professionally. This is unique to WE LEAD and other leaders help us to be successful and find work/life balance and thrive at every stage of life."

