



CAS-CIAC STUDENT EMPOWERMENT DAY

**OCTOBER 20, 2025
FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
10 MONTEITH DR, FARMINGTON**



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AGENDA

8:30AM – Check-in

8:45AM – Welcome

9:00AM – 9:10AM – Dismiss Students to Sessions

9:15AM – 10:05AM – Session One

Men of Color in Leadership Panel Discussion (Auditorium)

- Idhaant Bhosle, Senior, Rocky Hill High School
- Demetrius Chamblee, Aerospace Production Manager & Real Estate Investor
- Malik Champlain, Education Consultant, Author & Motivational Speaker
- Dr. Damon Lewis, Principal, Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy, Norwalk
- Brandon Sherrod, Assistant Men's Basketball Coach, Yale University
- Maicen Long, Senior, Academy of International Studies, Bloomfield

Session One Breakout Sessions

Room	Title of Breakout	Presenter(s)
Gym	<i>Women's Empowerment Session</i>	Dr. Alicia Bowman
Room 1109	<i>Desarrollar La Confianza Y El Autoestima En Uno Mismo</i>	Marissa Cardona
Black Box Theatre	<i>Building Confidence & Self-Worth</i>	Anvi Bose
Room 1107	<i>Mindfulness for Everyday Life</i>	Natalie Simpson & Suli Serrano
Rooms 1518–1519	<i>Using Your Voice for Change</i>	FHS Social Justice Group
Rooms 1103–1105	<i>Building Relationships That Matter</i>	Kayla Lin
Room 1113	<i>Leadership Through Athletics</i>	Ashlyn O'Rourke

AGENDA

10:10AM - 11:00AM - Session Two

Women in Leadership Panel Discussion (Auditorium)

- Dr. Noha Abdel-Hady, EdD, Acting Superintendent of Schools Windsor Public Schools
- Marissa Cardona, Senior Engagement Specialist, Connecticut Association of Schools
- Allison Chen, Senior, Hall High School, West Hartford
- Laura Dixon, Assistant Principal, John Barry Elementary School, Meriden
- Cheryl Hilton, Community Health and Well Being Manager, Trinity Health Of New England
- Kayla Lin, Student, E.O. Smith High School, Mansfield
- Pehansa Samarakoon, Student, Academy of Aerospace and Engineering, Windsor

Session Two Breakout Sessions

Room	Title of Breakout	Presenter(s)
Gym	<i>Owning Your Story: Confidence, Character, and Choices</i>	Brandon Sherrod
Rooms 1518–1519	<i>Building Confidence & Self-Worth</i>	Dr. Damon Lewis
Room 1107	<i>“Blessed to be Stressed”: The Joys of Leadership</i>	John Ramos II
Black Box Theatre	<i>Built for This: Finding Your Why, Sharpening Your Focus, and Leaving a Legacy</i>	Malik Champlain
Room 1111	<i>Using Your Voice for Change</i>	FHS Social Justice Group
Rooms 1103–1105	<i>Building Relationships That Matter</i>	Marc A. Mojica, Sr.

AGENDA

10:25AM – 11:00AM – Adviser Round Table and Networking Session (Cafeteria)

11:05AM – 11:30AM – Lunch & Networking

- Group A – Cafeteria
- Group B – Auditorium – Student Facilitated Empowerment Activity

11:35AM – 12:00PM – Lunch & Networking

- Group A – Gym – Student Facilitated Empowerment Activity
- Group B – Cafeteria

12:05PM – 12:55PM – Closing Session

Leadership in Action – Kendrick Moore & FHS Social Justice Club (Gym)

12:55PM – 1:00PM – Final Reflections, Student Highlights & Dismissal (Gym)

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PANELISTS, PRESENTERS & MODERATORS



DR. NOHA ABDEL-HADY, EDD

Acting Superintendent of Schools, Windsor Public Schools

Dr. Noha Abdel-Hady is a passionate and dynamic educational leader dedicated to empowering students and inspiring future leaders. As Acting Superintendent of Windsor Public Schools, she leads with a vision of academic excellence, equity, and opportunity for all. With over two decades of experience in education—spanning classroom teaching, district leadership, and higher education—Dr. Abdel-Hady is known for turning big ideas into bold action. She has launched innovative initiatives such as the Windsor Mobile Classroom, which brings learning directly to neighborhoods, and the district's "4Cs" cultural framework, which unites students and staff around the values of being Courageous, Caring, Committed, and Creative. A global citizen who has lived on three continents, Dr. Abdel-Hady brings a unique perspective on leadership, resilience, and the power of staying true to one's identity. She was honored with the Phenomenal Woman Award by the Windsor Human Relations Commission for her outstanding achievement, advocacy, and commitment to excellence. Her leadership journey reflects her core belief: that every young person has the power to dream boldly, lead with purpose, and make a lasting difference in their community and beyond.



IDHAANT BHOSLE

Senior, Rocky Hill High School

Idhaant is a civic strategist and cultural translator passionate about diplomacy, educational equity, and youth empowerment. He testified before Connecticut's Education Committee and helped lead Civic Education Week, advocating for systemic change in how democracy is taught. As a board member of CIAC SEAB and SSACE, he contributes to statewide policy on student mental health, math education, and the ethical integration of AI in schools. He founded his school's Model UN chapter and leads a regional student-run conference. A former NSLI-Y scholar, he studied Mandarin in Taiwan and brings cross-cultural insight to his work. He believes diplomacy begins with empathy—and that every student should be a co-author of democracy.



ANVI BOSE

Senior, Rocky Hill High School

Anvi is a high school senior who aims to blend her intellect with impact. She is a driven and collaborative student leader with a passion for building community through presentation, science, and service. She has founded and led innovative initiatives in public speaking, Model UN, and student equity, including being one of the 16 members nationwide of the National Student Advisory Council, all while excelling in STEM as a medium for her leadership. A dynamic communicator and organizer, she is committed to empowering others and creating meaningful, sustainable change that makes room for passions to flourish.



DR. ALICIA BOWMAN

Associate Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Schools

Dr. Alicia Bowman joined the CAS-CIAC staff after twenty years of service to the Farmington Public Schools. She began her career as a sixth grade teacher at West Woods Upper Elementary School before shifting into math and literacy leadership roles there. In 2008, she was appointed the school's assistant principal and, two years later, its principal. Alicia was recognized by CAS as Connecticut's Elementary Principal of the Year and National Distinguished Principal in 2015. After leading West Woods Upper Elementary School for a decade, Alicia was named an assistant superintendent.

In her role at CAS-CIAC, Bowman supports school leaders through professional learning, advocacy, and networking opportunities. As an associate certified coach, she also works closely with leaders through a coaching relationship. Alicia is also an active adjunct faculty member of the Neag School of Education, her alma mater. In 2025, Bowman received an Neag School Alumni honor of Outstanding Professional.

Alicia is a graduate of the University of Connecticut's Neag School of Education where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Education, Master of Arts in Education, and sixth-year diploma in Educational Administration. In 2022, she earned a doctorate in education from the University of New England.



MARISSA CARDONA

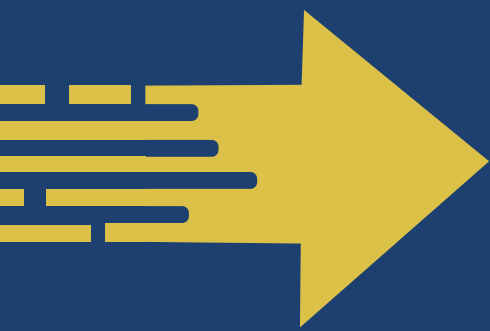
Senior Engagement Specialist, Connecticut Association of Schools

Born and raised in Connecticut, Marissa Perez Cardona is the daughter of Luis and Natalia Perez, who migrated from Puerto Rico in the 1970s. Raised with family and faith as her foundation, Marissa was the first in her family to earn a college degree, graduating from the University of New Haven with a BA in Communications.

She began her career at ESPN in the International Soccer Department, traveling to Europe to cover matches. However, driven by a desire to give back, Marissa transitioned to roles supporting families and communities. She supervised the Nurturing Families Network, empowering first-time mothers, and advocated for Universal Healthcare in Connecticut as a Community Organizer prior to the Affordable Care Act. While raising her two children, she worked with Children First Initiative and later served for the next 15 years as a Family School Liaison and College and Career Coordinator in the Meriden Public School system. Currently, she is the Senior Engagement Specialist at the Connecticut Association of Schools. Throughout her career, Marissa has been dedicated to supporting children and families facing challenges similar to those she overcame as a first-generation college graduate. Music remains a vital part of Marissa's life and a way to express her Latina heritage. She released her debut album *Ayer y Hoy* in 2013 and her original single "Tu Naciste Para Mi" in 2017, available on major platforms including iTunes and Spotify.

In her youth, Marissa gained confidence and scholarships for college through pageants, earning titles such as Miss Puerto Rico of Meriden (1994), Miss Connecticut Teen USA (1996), and Miss Connecticut (2001).

Marissa's greatest achievements are marrying her husband, Miguel Cardona, and raising their two children, Miguel Jr. and Celine, both passionate about music and community performance. She continues to live her purpose through service, embracing her community, family, and faith.



BUILDING LEADERS OF TOMORROW



HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2025



SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025



KEY DETAILS

Check-in & Breakfast:
8:15-8:45 AM

Conference:
8:45 AM-1:00 PM

Optional Campus Tour:
1:15-2:15 PM

Registration Deadline:
November 21, 2025

Cost: \$35 per person
(students & advisors)

Capacity: Max 15 students
+ 2 advisors per school*

*Schools bringing more than 12
students must register twice.
Additional space may open
closer to the event.



WHAT TO EXPECT

Hands-on, student-led workshops on:

- Collaboration & Communication
- Diversity Awareness
- Problem-Solving & Decision-Making
- Mental Health & Wellness
- Financial Literacy

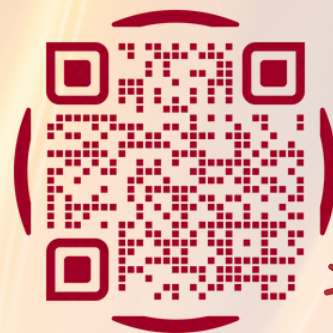
Connect with peers across Connecticut!

Leave inspired, motivated & ready to lead!



QUESTIONS?

CONTACT COREY PLASKY
cplasky@casciac.org



<https://casci.ac/12122>





DEMETRIUS CHAMBLEE

Aerospace Production Manager & Real Estate Investor

Demetrius Chamblee, a proud native of Hartford, Connecticut, is an entrepreneur, community builder, and operational leader with deep roots in both aerospace production and real estate investment. He earned his Associate's Degree in Business Administration from Manchester Community College in 2016 and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Organizational Management. Above all, he is a devoted husband to Latoya and a present, purpose-driven father to Xyimea and Demetrius Jr.

In his role as a Production Manager in the Aerospace Heat Treat Industry, Demetrius is known for transforming work cultures and production systems. He has implemented effective strategies to reduce turnaround time, eliminate communication breakdowns, and foster greater alignment between production and quality. His leadership style blends discipline, empathy, and execution.

Demetrius leads as President of ASE Investments, a real estate investment group dedicated to empowering communities through property ownership. In his role as Vice President of Prolific Society Investment Group, he helps build collective wealth through the stock and crypto markets, and entrepreneurial ventures. He also gained retail business experience through his five year ownership of Madams Beauty Supply.

A passionate advocate for literacy and lifelong learning, Demetrius co-founded The Revolution of the Mind Book Club, which has grown to over 300 members. The club centers on financial education, personal growth, and cultural pride. Through his Books to CT Prisons initiative, over 400 books have been donated to incarcerated individuals, offering inspiration, knowledge, and a second chance through learning. His 20/20 campaign has supported more than 30 Black-owned businesses with visibility and community-backed investment, stretching its reach to Massachusetts and California.

Demetrius continues to lead financial education workshops that break down complex topics like the debt-to-income ratio, credit, budgeting, and investing. He is often invited to speak at schools, churches, and community events where his relatability, clarity, and humility resonate with youth and adults alike.

He is especially committed to uplifting boys and men so they can develop confidence, discipline, and purpose. Through his own example of fatherhood, financial responsibility, and a consistent message around reading and health, Demetrius is seen by many as a modern day blueprint for leading with strength and heart. His work has been recognized with multiple honors, including the Modern-Day Martin Luther King Jr. Award, the 100 Men of Color Award, and the Neighborhood Hero Key to the City of Hartford Award in 2021. Those who know him describe him as consistent, grounded, disciplined, and quietly powerful, someone who not only teaches leadership but lives it.



MALIK CHAMPLAIN

Education Consultant, Author & Motivational Speaker

Malik Champlain is an educational consultant, author, and motivational speaker dedicated to empowering the next generation of leaders. A former college basketball student-athlete and coach, he draws on his athletic and leadership journey to connect with students in real and relatable ways. He has worked extensively with schools, districts, and community organizations across Connecticut and beyond to create spaces where young people, especially young men of color can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. As the author of *Passion Hunger Drive: Live Your Dreams, Not Your Fears*, Malik blends personal experience, storytelling, and practical strategies to inspire students to discover their purpose, build resilience, and lead with integrity.



ALLISON CHEN

Senior, Hall High School, West Hartford

Allison Chen is a senior at Hall High School with a strong passion in entrepreneurship, finance and STEM. She is a stern advocate for financial literacy and seeks to empower student voices through advocacy and youth leadership.



LAURA DIXON

Assistant Principal, John Barry Elementary School, Meriden

Laura Dixon is a dedicated educator, leader, and advocate for equity in education. A wife, mother of three young children (ages 6, 8, and 10), and breast cancer warrior, she embodies resilience and commitment both personally and professionally.

Her academic journey began at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she earned her undergraduate degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education. Returning to her home state of Connecticut, she went on to pursue a master's degree in Special Education at Southern Connecticut State University, obtained her 092 certification, and completed further studies at Sacred Heart University. She is currently pursuing her doctorate at the University of Connecticut, advancing her expertise in educational leadership.

Laura began her educational career as a teacher leader in New Haven, where she taught both Kindergarten and 6th grade for 11 years. She has since spent the last seven years serving as Assistant Principal at John Barry Elementary School in Meriden, Connecticut. During her tenure, the school was recognized nationally and locally, earning a Blue Ribbon designation in 2019 and being named a School of Distinction in 2024.

Beyond her administrative role, Laura has been deeply involved in advancing districtwide equity initiatives. She serves as a member of her district's affinity group, equity team and holds the role of Title IX coordinator for her building. Her leadership and impact were recognized in 2025 when she was honored as Connecticut's 2025 Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year by the Connecticut Association of Schools.

Looking ahead, Laura remains committed to creating learning environments where all students feel valued and supported. Her vision is to continue fostering a culture of belonging, equity, and inclusivity, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.



MAICEN LONG

Senior, Academy of International Studies, Bloomfield

Maicen Long is a senior at the Academy of International Studies and a dedicated student leader passionate about growth, equity, and representation. He serves as President of the Men of Color Leadership Program, a Student Ambassador, and a member of several statewide organizations, including the CIAC Athletic Advisory Board, Student Empowerment Board, Sportsmanship Committee, and the CREC Student-Athlete Leadership Program. Through his leadership and commitment to excellence, Maicen strives to inspire others to embrace discipline, resilience, and purpose in everything they do.



CHERYL HILTON

Community Health and Well Being Manager
Trinity Health Of New England & Realtor

Cheryl Hilton, a 1991 UConn graduate with a BS in Human Development and Family Relations (HDFR), has built a dynamic career spanning health insurance, real estate, education, and community advocacy.

After 14 years in health and welfare insurance, Hilton transitioned into real estate, where she founded the Greater Hartford Association of Realtors Bridge Committee—Connecticut's first and longest-running DEI committee in the industry. In 2016, she co-led the successful push to reinstate mandatory in-person Fair Housing Education, earning the Connecticut Fair Housing Empowering Communities Award.

In 2020, Hilton focused on curriculum development, creating and teaching the influential course Understanding and Preventing Bias in Your Real Estate Practice to over 8,000 licensees. Her leadership extended to board service with both the Greater Hartford and Connecticut Realtor Associations, and she was named 2021 Realtor of the Year. Hilton's advocacy work includes founding The Hilton Advocacy Group, LLC in 2010, supporting K-12 students with IEPs, 504 Plans, and those facing racial or LGBTQIA+ challenges. She serves as Board Secretary for RE-Center's Race & Equity Board and is the Immediate Past President of The Waterbury (CT) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated.

In 2023, Hilton became Community Health and Well Being Manager at Saint Mary's Hospital / Trinity Health Of New England. In 2025, she was honored with the Community Legacy Leader Award by Legacy Leaders. She lives in Southington, CT with her spouse, Howard Campbell, and is the proud mother of Jared (RPI '22) and Trent (UConn '26).



DR. DAMON LEWIS

Principal, Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy, Norwalk

Dr. Damon C. Lewis is the Principal of Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy in Norwalk, CT, where he leads efforts to close the achievement gap for students of color and create equitable learning opportunities for all. Under his leadership, Ponus Ridge saw a 23% decrease in chronic absenteeism during the 2024–2025 school year (including an all-time low of 7.7% in May 2025). Dr. Lewis also expanded opportunities for Latinx and Black students in the Gifted and Talented Program and increased female participation in Accelerated Math. Eighth-grade PSAT scores surpassed district, state, and national averages in fall 2024.

He believes that every student can achieve great things when exposed to learning aligned with their interests, and that progress—rather than perfection—drives lasting change. Together with his staff, Dr. Lewis has built an “Every Day Counts” culture focused on consistency, collaboration, and high expectations.

A 15-year veteran of Ponus Ridge and an 11-year Principal, Dr. Lewis has served in multiple educational roles across Connecticut, including teacher, coach, counselor, and administrator in Bridgeport, Trumbull, and Stratford. He is also a co-facilitator of the Norwalk Early Principal Academy, a panelist for aspiring administrators at Cooperative Educational Services (CES), and co-author of *Aligning Voices: Urban Teachers and Leaders*.

Dr. Lewis was named the state of Connecticut Middle School Principal of The Year by CAS in February 2025. Additionally, Dr. Lewis was named the National Middle School Principal of the Year by NASSP (National Association of Secondary School Principals) in July 2025. Dr. Lewis has appeared on several podcasts, and been interviewed by several outlets including Education Week and the National School Boards Association.

Dr. Lewis was also honored by the Norwalk NAACP with the J.P. Ball Memorial Award for Leadership and served as honorary captain for the University of Connecticut's 2025 home opening football game. A proud graduate of Harding High School, Bridgeport, CT and former UConn football captain, Dr. Lewis holds multiple degrees from UConn, the University of Bridgeport, and Southern Connecticut State University. He is an avid reader who admires the work of Jim Collins and Malcolm Gladwell.



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Black Men In White Coats YOUTH SUMMIT

**THE PALACE THEATER & UCONN WATERBURY
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025 • 8 A.M. – 3 P.M.**

For the second year in a row, Saint Mary's Hospital, a member of Trinity Health Of New England, will host the annual Black Men In White Coats Youth Summit in Waterbury, Connecticut. We continue to partner with the national organization in support of its mission to increase the number of Black men and women in the field of medicine through exposure, inspiration, and mentoring.

Throughout the day, students will engage in hands-on activities and network with healthcare professionals from diverse backgrounds to strengthen the future of healthcare.

All students in 3rd grade and up, parents, educators, healthcare professionals, and community influencers from across the region are welcome. Join us for an unforgettable and inspiring event!

Scan the QR code above or visit us at TrinityHealthOfNE.org/BMWC.

Keynote Speaker • Hands-on Sessions • Exhibits • Mentorship Opportunities • Food Included



Saint Mary's Hospital
Trinity Health





KAYLA LIN

Senior, E.O. Smith High School, Mansfield

Kayla Lin is a senior at E.O. Smith High School and serves on the State Student Advisory Council on Education. She is currently researching the limitations and influence of empirical evidence in educational policymaking. With ambitions to foster interdisciplinary approaches in education, she is passionate about reimagining leadership within nontraditional spaces, particularly in STEM fields. Beyond the classroom, Kayla co-owns Froaky Friends, a frog-themed Etsy sticker shop, with her long-distance best friend. An avid camper and National Park enthusiast (32 parks and counting!!), she enjoys spending time outdoors and competes as No. 1 singles player on her school's tennis team. On rainy days, she can be found painting or binging a lineup of great movies at home. Kayla hopes to fill her future with travel, adventure, and, most importantly, food from every corner of the world.



MARC A. MOJICA, SR.

Superintendent, Recruiting & Retention, SMSgt, United States Air Force

SMSgt Marc Anthony Mojica is the Recruiting & Retention Superintendent, Senior Enlisted Leader for Joint Force Headquarters at the 103rd Airlift Wing in East Granby, Connecticut. He leads as the principal administrator for all ANG programs associated with recruiting & retention requirements for Connecticut's mission readiness. He manages a team of 14 members and services 1174 Air National Guardsmen with career progression, retraining, and separations to other Air Force components, various military branches, and the civilian workforce. Sergeant Mojica is responsible for providing strategic planning, direction, oversight, development, and implementation of recruiting & retention objectives. Additionally, he executes policies and procedures outlined in applicable ANGIs & AFIs directed by the National Guard Bureau and the Director of the Air National Guard to support Connecticut's critical manning requirements.

Sergeant Mojica is a Connecticut native and entered the Air National Guard in July of 2002. He joined the Services career field that encompassed several technical training skillsets relating to fitness, culinary arts, lodging hospitality, honor guard, search & rescue, and mortuary. He assisted in leading the Wing's fitness program for many years and performed as a key contributor during training exercises and activities throughout the United States and Europe.



KENDRICK MOORE

Assistant Director of Equity & Leadership, CAS-CIAC

Kendrick Moore is the Assistant Director of Equity & Leadership for the Connecticut Association of Schools - Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CAS-CIAC), where he leads transformative initiatives that strengthen school culture, leadership development, and athletic mentorship across the state. A former Division I athlete and coach with an MBA from Providence College, Kendrick brings a rare combination of competitive experience, educational insight, and strategic leadership to every program he designs.

At CAS-CIAC, Kendrick develops and facilitates leadership training sessions, keynote assemblies, and athletic mentorship programs that empower students, coaches, and administrators to create inclusive and high-performing environments. His work extends from restorative practices that rebuild school culture and climate to customized team workshops that emphasize character, accountability, and collective growth.

Central to Kendrick's approach is the MooreMotivation "5 Pillars of Leadership"—Discipline, Commitment, Sacrifice, Resilience, and Lock-In—a framework he uses as the foundation for guiding schools, teams, and student leaders. These pillars serve as both a compass and a challenge: to help every individual and organization align their actions with purpose, consistency, and integrity. Through his work, Kendrick continues to build a statewide culture of excellence, reminding communities that leadership is not about position, it's about preparation, persistence, and the power to uplift others.



ASHLYN O'ROURKE

Senior, North Branford High School

Ashlyn O'Rourke is a current senior at North Branford High School, who serves on the CIAC-CAS Student Empowerment Board. I am presenting on leading through sports and activities, as I will go through why team work with one another is important, and taking time to understand each other as a whole.



JOHN RAMOS II

Principal, Discovery Interdistrict Magnet School, Bridgeport

John Ramos II is an Assistant Principal at Bunnell High School in Stratford, CT, where he has led equity initiatives for the school and the district. Under Mr. Ramos' leadership Bunnell has created a number of student leadership groups, created an annual Cultural Showcase (pep rally) and has become a No Place For Hate School. Inspired by the CAS/CIAC Men of Color in Leadership Conference, Bunnell's Men of Color Leadership was created in 2021 under Mr. Ramos' leadership. Members of the MOC attend weekly meetings, participate in volunteer projects, attend leadership conferences and much more.

Prior to assuming his role in Stratford, John was the School Counseling Department Coordinator at Harding High School in Bridgeport, CT. Additionally, John brings over 12 years of experience coaching high school football and wrestling. He takes great pride in being a transformative leader, focused on equity, proactive social emotional strategies, and restorative practices. He earned his Administrator Certification at Quinnipiac University, a Master's degree in Counseling Education at UMass Amherst, an Education Specialist degree in Leadership/Administration at UMass Amherst, and a Bachelor's degree in African-American Studies at Morehouse College.



PEHANSA SAMARAKOON

Senior, Academy of Aerospace and Engineering, Windsor

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SULI SERRANO

English Language Arts Educator
Farmington High School

Suli Serrano is an English Language Arts educator at Farmington High School and a current graduate student in UConn's Administrator Preparation Program (UCAPP). Passionate about student voice and culturally sustainable teaching, she designs learning experiences that empower young people to tell their stories, think critically about the world, and engage as leaders in their communities. Suli also advises the Yearbook Club and helps lead Farmington's Culture & Climate PLC, where she focuses on fostering belonging and engagement across the school community.



BRANDON SHERROD

Assistant Men's Basketball Coach, Yale University

Brandon Sherrod was born and raised in the great city of Bridgeport, Connecticut and is a proud graduate of Stratford High School and post-graduate at Choate Rosemary Hall. In 2016, he received his BA in Political Science from Yale University with a concentration in Urban Education. During his time there, Sherrod was a member of the 2016 Ivy League Champion Men's Basketball team and led them to their first NCAA Tournament victory in school history.

In addition to his on the court acclaim, Sherrod took a leave of absence from university and toured globally in 2015 with the a cappella group known as the Whiffenpoofs of Yale. Since graduating, Sherrod enjoyed a 7-year professional basketball career that took him to Italy, Finland and Israel. Sherrod is the founder of BS35 Basketball, a mentorship and training company that focuses on empowering youth through education, holistic wellness and the game of basketball. He is entering his third season of college coaching with Yale Men's Basketball, the back-to-back winners of the 2024 & 2025 Ivy League Championship. Sherrod is also an Ambassador for Connecticut Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and is a lover of good food, travel and community building.



NATALIE SIMPSON

Equity & Inclusion Coordinator, Farmington Public Schools

Brandon Sherrod was born and raised in the great city of Bridgeport, Connecticut and is a proud graduate of Stratford High School and post-graduate at Choate Rosemary Hall. In 2016, he received his BA in Political Science from Yale University with a concentration in Urban Education. During his time there, Sherrod was a member of the 2016 Ivy League Champion Men's Basketball team and led them to their first NCAA Tournament victory in school history.

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