

CREW PROFILE



CANDICE VICKERS

SCHOOL DIRECTOR

**UNIVERSITY PREP
SCIENCE & MATH
HIGH SCHOOL**

University Prep Schools provides a culturally responsive educational experience for our scholars that builds that academic competence, habits of work and scholarship, and self-actualization empowering them to successfully accomplish their post-secondary plans, as well as socially and civically engaged as change agents for themselves and their community.

Please share what, or who inspired you to go into education?

When I was in high school I became pretty disillusioned with the educational experience. I had a mentor at the time that went by the name, Brother Escari, and he said, "Candice, if you can point at the way that you are dissatisfied and disillusioned with your educational experience, then what right do you have to not come back and fix it." In that same moment he slid a scholarship application across the table for the Portland Teachers Program, which then stewarded my educational development and got me to where I am today.

How long have you been in education?

I feel like I have been in education my whole life because I went straight from High School to College, and in my freshman year began doing internships in Elementary Schools. To be fair however, it has been about 15 years.

Please share a memorable experience during your tenure at U Prep?

Last year our amazing Dean of Culture Ayanna Dance, organized and orchestrated a phenomenal Black Excellence event, where we had a variety of community members share how to actualize black excellence in their lives. During the event not only did I get to hear and meet so many professionals from the City of Detroit but I was also able to hear the interests of our students and all of the many different ways they want to actualize their own black excellence.

What advice would you give a new teacher?

I would say you teach who you are. That's not something you can change nor should you. Really understanding who you are as a human being and how you show up in this world, along with being able to recognize how this shows up in your relationship with students is probably the most important thing about being an educator. Also, remembering that you are educating all the time, not just when you are in the classroom. Education and spreading learning in this world is something that happens on a daily basis, so really give yourself that love like you've been educating for a long time. Just because you are someone now with that title does not mean much.

What activities do you enjoy in your free time?

I have many hobbies but I really enjoy doing activities that fill my soul. This includes watching my daughter engage in drawing anime, screaming at my sons' football games and driving around the City of Detroit learning about our new home.

Is there a philosophical saying or belief that you live by?

One thing that my husband and I started when we had kids was, *what does it mean to have values and actualize them as a family.* One of our values is realized through our family saying, and it is "Vickers never quit!" So, every time it gets a little tough at home or at work, my husband and I remind ourselves that, "Vickers never quit!"