



**LATASHA
GOODALL**

SCHOOL DIRECTOR

**UNIVERSITY PREP
SCIENCE & MATH
MIDDLE 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.

CREW PROFILE

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

My inspiration for becoming an educator began at an early age. I was raised around many educators, and some of my favorite teachers over my educational journey have inspired me to go into education. Ever since I was a little girl, I wanted to be an actress in Hollywood or a teacher. I figured I could do both and go into education where I could perform for my scholars daily, and the classroom was my stage. I was born to do this, and I knew it from the very beginning. You just can't run from your calling in life. It's just as simple as that.

How long have you been in education?

I am entering my 15th year of education this year! I truly can't believe it! I feel like it was just yesterday when I started as a founding teacher at one of our amazing U Prep Schools.

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

A memorable experience that I have is always the first day of school for us! We literally roll out a red carpet, wear the same shirt, make posters and signs, and wave pom-poms high to welcome our scholars into an epic school year ahead of them. We play music, and every single staff member gets to 'cheer' on each scholar as they walk in. It's truly a way to kick-off the school year and to make sure the energy and excitement is at an all-time high. The smiles on their faces are priceless. We have truly come to love this tradition that was created.

What advice would you give a new teacher?

Stay organized, stay focused, don't be afraid to ask for help, get in a routine that works for you to be successful, always take time for you, and most of all, get to know each and every one of your scholars on a personal level. If you do, they can sense you care, you've earned their trust, and thus you can teach them anything.

What activities do you enjoy in your free time?

In my free time, I enjoy shopping, decorating, organizing, and spending as much time as possible with my family. They are my everything!

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

I always live by the famous quote "A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child." It is truly what I was born to do! I am here for it all, and the legacy that I will leave behind wherever I go in my lifetime.