

**Dr. Alexandria Connally** has dedicated herself to empowering students and improving the quality of education for all children. She began her career as a milieu therapist at a residential treatment facility. During this time, she provided professional development for faculty members in the areas of Therapeutic Crisis Interventions, Sanctuary Schools – A Trauma Informed Model, Restorative Practices, Athletic Based Counselling, and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. She continued as a special education teacher. Later, Alexandria became the assistant principal of a residential school and in a public-school district in New York. Currently, she serves as the Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Innovation of the Nyack School District. Alexandria has devoted her professional life to ensuring equity in education.

Dr. Connally was the assistant to Regent Judith Johnson, former Assistant Secretary of Education of Elementary and Secondary during the Clinton Administration. In her role Alexandria helped to shape the Committee of Equity, Integration, and Diversity. Dr. Connally also served as the Youth Voices Advocacy Program facilitator to the New York State Board of Regents Chancellor, Dr. Betty Rosa. Alexandria is a leader of the My Brother's Keeper Initiative. Under her direction, the program has received state and national recognition. Dr. Connally was also appointed to the Westchester County Youth Board. Currently, she serves on the Yonkers City Council President's Special Education Advisory Board as well as the Pace University's Transformative Leadership Program Board. Alexandria also serves as the co-chair of Sister-to-Sister International's, Black Woman's Girl Child, Juvenile Justice/Suspension Committee.

Dr. Connally is the founder and CEO of Culturally Responsive Environments and Discipline (C.R.E.A.D.). Trained by Dr. Bryant Marks, Alexandria serves as an implicit bias consultant for NTIRE. Additionally, she is a certified restorative practice trainer and has expertise in culturally responsive pedagogy.

In August 2018, Dr. Alexandria Connally successfully defended her dissertation entitled, "In Pursuit of Equity: Does the Implementation of Culturally Responsive Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Have an Effect on the Racial Suspension Gap?"