Dr. Latrese D. Younger is a seasoned educator and dynamic leader with over eighteen years of experience across multiple school districts in Virginia. She began her career as a passionate English Language Arts teacher in Dinwiddie County, VA, a role she credits as foundational to her commitment to educational excellence. Over the years, she has taught ELA in grades 6–12, consistently advocating for student growth, literacy development, and equity in instruction.

Dr. Younger holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Education from Virginia State University and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership with a concentration in Technology Integration from Strayer University. She earned her Doctor of Education degree from Virginia Tech, where she also served as a Graduate Assistant in the Office for Equity and Accessibility, designing professional learning modules for faculty and staff.

A trailblazer in advocacy and leadership, Dr. Younger is the founder and former content curator of <u>Black Women Education Leaders</u>, <u>Inc. (BWEL)</u>, a nonprofit organization dedicated to uplifting and advancing Black women in educational leadership. She has also served in a range of impactful roles including: Director of Achievement in Literacy, Instructional Assessment and Data Specialist, and Assistant Principal at both the middle and high school levels. Her leadership has been instrumental in building teacher capacity, shifting school culture, and driving student outcomes.

Her service extends beyond the school walls. Dr. Younger has led initiatives as an Effective School-Wide Discipline Coordinator, New Teacher Academy Director, District-Wide PD Presenter, and curriculum developer. She has also contributed nationally as a board member and liaison for the Virginia Association of Teachers of English and the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

Dr. Younger formerly served as a School Quality Coordinator with the Virginia Department of Education, where she supported school leaders across the Commonwealth in advancing school improvement initiatives and equity-driven practices. Her leadership philosophy is grounded in the belief that great teaching blends empathy, expertise, and an unwavering passion for students.

She is a proud and active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and several professional organizations including WELV, VAABSE, ASCD, and NASSP, where she contributes regularly as a thought leader and blogger.

Dr. Younger resides in Virginia with her husband, son, and their beloved English bulldog. Her life and work are guided by the timeless wisdom of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education." As a former RPS teacher, central office staff member, and Assistant Principal, she is excited and proud to return back home.