



Pursuing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership at the University of Maryland equips me to become a district leader who advances equity, fosters innovation, and builds the capacity of others. This advanced degree expands my knowledge of systems-level leadership, governance, and policy implementation, all of which are essential for guiding schools toward measurable improvement. Through rigorous study and research, I am learning to interpret data, align resources, and design strategies that promote student achievement and organizational growth. These skills prepare me to mentor, coach, and support school leaders, enabling them to create the conditions where students can excel.

My professional goal is to serve in a district-level role that focuses on developing the capacity of principals and assistant principals. Effective school leadership drives sustainable improvement, and administrators must be ready to balance instructional priorities with culture building, family engagement, and accountability. The doctoral program strengthens my ability to design professional learning systems, assess leadership practices, and provide targeted feedback that builds both confidence and competence in administrators. In this way, the degree directly supports my aspiration to lead by investing in people as the foundation of educational excellence.

This work aligns closely with the mission of the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE). The organization is committed to increasing achievement for African American students and preparing educators to serve diverse communities. My doctoral studies will sharpen my ability to advocate for equitable practices, address systemic barriers, and craft policies that support historically underserved populations. By applying research-based strategies and culturally responsive leadership, I will contribute to NABSE's vision of closing achievement gaps and fostering environments where all students, particularly students of color, succeed.

Additionally, my commitment to leadership development aligns with NABSE's goal of cultivating a pipeline of strong educators and leaders. By mentoring and coaching current and aspiring administrators, I will support individual schools while also building broader district capacity. My work will include facilitating equity-focused professional learning, creating collaborative networks, and ensuring that leadership pathways are inclusive and accessible. The advanced degree provides both the theoretical foundation and the practical tools to carry out this responsibility with clarity and purpose.

Ultimately, this doctoral program represents more than a personal milestone. It reflects a commitment to service and a responsibility to advance the field of educational leadership. It reinforces my dedication to amplifying the mission of NABSE and contributing to systemic change that ensures every student has access to excellent teaching and supportive school communities. Through this work, I aim to leave a lasting impact by developing empowered leaders and thriving schools.

