



EDUCATORS OF DISTINCTION TEACHER OF THE YEAR

JEMELLEH COES

LANGSTON CHAPEL MIDDLE SCHOOL

My name is Jemelleh Coes, and I am an eighth grade special education teacher at Langston Chapel Middle School. I received both my bachelor's and master's degrees from Georgia Southern University. I began my teaching career at LCMS, and I have been there for five years.

When I entered college, I knew that I wanted a career in a field that helped others. My maiden name was Nurse, so I initially thought being Nurse Nurse would be interesting, but once I realized that nurses actually put needles in arms, I had to rethink my life plan.

My mother and father were immigrants from the small country of Guyana. They both worked quite a bit to make a better life for us. They have always empowered me by letting me know that they care and by encouraging my personal growth. This is what influenced me to become an educator. It was the same feeling that I wanted to provide to others, and for me, it is one of the most rewarding parts of being an educator.

You have a choice, choose wisely. This is one of the most important lessons I instill in my students. I encourage my students to set goals, and we work to achieve them throughout the school year; therefore creating a habit of goal setting. It is truly overwhelming when even the most reluctant students set goals and meet them. Anything I do as a teacher is well worth the effort when I see their goals become a reality.

For me, the most rewarding aspect about teaching is helping all students find value in themselves. I pride myself on celebrating individuality and diversity in the classroom. This allows students to better understand and connect with the world around them as well as classmates.

As an educator my job does not stop in the classroom. Community involvement is necessary and rewarding. I am the site coordinator for the 21st Century Community Learning Center at LCMS, an after-school program that serves at-risk students. Also on the first and third Saturday of every month, I facilitate a program called Delta Academy. The program helps to foster a love for science, engineering and math for 30 middle school girls. In addition to these programs I am also a part of the Ordered Steps Mentoring Program which works with girls' homes in Bulloch County. I also enjoy volunteering at the Hearts and Hands Clinic, the Kiwanis Fairgrounds, and the local Delta Sigma Theta Chapter.

One of my greatest contributions to education is the enthusiasm for learning and life-long success that I share with all students. Whether we as educators realize it or not, students learn from everything we do, from the information we give to the behaviors, levels of enthusiasm and the dedication that we display regularly. It is my hope that everything that I teach in the classroom will serve as a lesson throughout the lifetime of my students.



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