

## A message from the DEI Director

*This letter was originally shared in August 2020, when I joined Worthington Schools.*

It was with excitement and profound gratitude that I accepted the opportunity to serve Worthington Schools as the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). While I cherish my previous experiences of doing DEI work in corporate America, I consider this opportunity to be one of great purpose and meaning. I realize now that those experiences provided the clarity I now have in knowing that Worthington is where I want to be doing this work - and should be doing this work. I couldn't be more pleased that my path in life has led me to Education.

On a personal level, Worthington Schools is of incredible significance to me and my husband, Mark, who attended Wilson Hill Elementary, Worthingway Middle School and graduated from Thomas Worthington High School. We are beyond thrilled to continue the legacy with our son, Langston, a second-grader at Wilson Hill.

I believe we are a district that understands the importance of doing the work that comes with challenging our implicit biases, pushing through our personal discomfort and having the courage to have difficult conversations that ultimately lead us to more inclusive schools for all of our students.

Furthermore, I believe that we've been presented with a tremendous opportunity to impact a generation by leaving them a better school district and community. I believe that we can:

- Embrace all the diversity that makes up our vast community
- Create a space for all voices to be amplified
- Lean into the discomfort of getting to know others in our community who may think, believe or act differently than ourselves

As we embark upon this journey together, I'd like to share my vision for the district. I see us being a lighthouse among the districts in Central Ohio - and even in the US. I see us fully embracing and acting on our responsibility and imperative to create a culture of acceptance, celebration and empowerment of racial differences. I really believe that partnering with our students (and their families), educators and the community; we will get there.