

Curtis L. Lewis, Ph.D.

Dr. Lewis is principal of Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies, Detroit's premier art and design middle/high school, located in the heart of Detroit. He was also the founding principal of Henry Ford Academy: Elementary School located in the greater Boston-Edison area.

An accomplished urban educator, Dr. Lewis taught as a 5th grade teacher, middle school math teacher, and an alternative education teacher at the secondary level. After seven years of teaching, Dr. Lewis set his sights on impacting education at the administrative and collegiate levels. While in graduate school, he taught a myriad of courses at Michigan State University, coordinated an intervention program for first time youth offenders, and was director of a mentoring program for young males of color. He also served as a visiting instructor at the University of Michigan and as a Student Services Specialist with the Lansing School District. Dr. Lewis has presented his research findings in urban education at a host of conferences, most notably the American Education Research Association and Piaget Society Conference. Prior to his principalship at the Henry Ford Academies, he was Manager of Teacher Leadership Development for Teach for America for which he received the Core Value Team award for his unwavering commitment to effectively developing young educators.

In 2013 Dr. Lewis was recognized by the Michigan Chronicle's 40 Under 40 and was recently selected to the third cohort of the nationally recognized America Achieves Fellowship for Teachers and Principals. He is also the author of a chapter in the book "Mentoring African American Males: A Research Design Comparison Perspective," which was published in 2014. In 2015, Dr. Lewis met with Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, senior U.S. Department of Education officials, and White House officials for two days of learning and advising at the White House, as part of the Principals at ED effort.

Dr. Lewis earned his Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and Doctoral degree in Education Policy and Curriculum Teaching - all from Michigan State University. He credits his educational experience at MSU for instilling in him a strong foundation in teacher development and math curriculum and instruction.

Felicia Brimage, M.Ed.

Felicia Brimage, principal of Henry Ford Academy: Elementary School, is responsible for developing and sustaining a learning environment at HFA: Elementary School that prepares students to read, write, and do math at, or above, grade level; engages all students through project-based learning and design thinking; provides a firm foundation in art and design; cultivates strong parental support; incorporates community partners to create real-world learning experiences; and, instills a love of learning. An educator with more than 12 years of experience, Mrs. Brimage has demonstrated a keen ability to inspire students and help them develop into well-rounded, independent, responsible and successful individuals. After 8 years as a teacher at Woodmont Academy in Southfield, and 1 year prior to that in Southfield's public schools, she joined our district in 2012 as a founding teacher and a part of a dynamic team that has developed an inclusive, joyful school culture of achievement at Henry Ford Academy: Elementary School. In addition to teaching third grade and acting as the lead teacher for the 2nd/3rd floor, Mrs. Brimage was the summer education program administrator and a part of the Design Thinking Expo team. She was most recently the middle school dean of students at Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies. Mrs. Brimage earned a M.Ed. in Reading and a B.A. in Elementary Education, both from Eastern Michigan University.