

Kyra Marcano

Director of Teaching & Learning, Namaste Charter School

2018 Surge Fellow

Kyra Marcano is an educational architect, data-driven problem solver, and lover of food and running --- in no particular order. The opportunity to merge her commitment to providing Chicago youth with an equitable education with her passion for health and wellness led Kyra Marcano to her current role as Director of Teaching & Learning at Namaste Charter School in Chicago's McKinley Park neighborhood.

Serving as a classroom teacher, special educator, and school leader, has supported the refinement of Kyra's ability to drive system development. As a classroom teacher, Kyra quickly identified the wide range of needs her students brought year-to-year, and adapted her classroom model to maximize student growth. She was able to bring this approach to Brooke East Boston, where she coached teachers through implementing inclusive techniques in the classroom and refined the school-based intervention system.

Now a school leader, Kyra is commended for her ability to hold and work toward a strategic vision with great intention. Using her experience growing up in Chicago and graduating from Chicago Public Schools, she navigates her professional and leadership roles with a consciousness rooted in the history and systemic nature of educational inequality.

Kyra holds a Master of the Arts in Teaching Elementary Education with a Special Education endorsement from National Louis University, and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Loyola University Chicago. Kyra sits on the Next Generation Board of Chicago Run and is an active member of Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority, Inc.

To exercise mindfulness, she spends her free time talking to her cat, Meow Meow, writing poetry in her head and forgetting to write it down, and training for the marathon she said she was never going to run.

