

Lildella Douglas

Regional Manager, Illinois and Northwest Indiana,
Leadership for Educational Equity

2018 Surge Fellow

Without a foundation, even the most beautiful of structures is compromised. This analogy has been Lildella's motivation for serving in education for the past 14 years. Lildella is Regional Manager at Leadership for Educational Equity. She has served as a classroom teacher, mental health consultant, community organizer, professional and leadership development coach and project manager. She has dedicated her life to helping others live out their purpose. Her passion to see others thrive has been a staple of her career.

Born and raised in Chicago. Lildella has experienced firsthand the perils of urban education. These experiences led her to found Spirit of Excellence (SoE) Consulting. SoE builds human capital in schools to promote excellence for the benefit of teachers, parents and students. Lildella identifies self-interest, personal values and story, combined with skills and assets, to breathe life into the educational experience of those she serves.

Lildella's passion has led to several successes for those she serves. She led in the development and launch of Illinois first Polish Immigrant Providers Association, serving Polish childcare providers across Chicagoland. She transitioned a portion of Illinois Action for Children professional development program, ensuring childcare professionals from over 30 zip codes across Chicago received support. She created and executed LEE's first African American history and community violence sessions, reengaging over 300 African American members in Chicago and NW Indiana. Lildella was also selected to serve on Mayor Emanuel's Early Childhood Workforce Development Task Force to ensure ECE professionals who work and live in Chicago's communities with the most need, have access to quality program options.

She holds a Master in Education and Community Counseling, from St. Xavier University and Bachelor in Education from Chicago State University. She is a nationally certified counselor (NCC) and Licensed Professional Counselor in the state of Illinois. Lildella is a sought-after speaker on child/lifespan development of urban youth. Lildella serves as a volunteer at the Cook County Temporary Juvenile Detention Center and sits on the inaugural Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council for Teach for America.

Lildella enjoys hot chocolate and marshmallows in winter, horseback riding in summer, creative writing and nonfiction literature. She resides in the Chicagoland suburbs with her husband and newborn daughter.

