

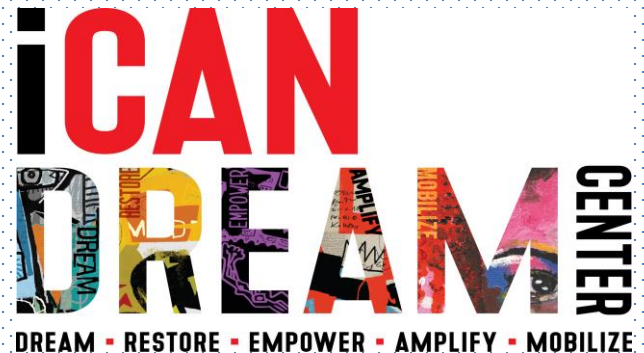
2024



COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING[®]
CONFERENCE

Building Bridges: Fostering Belonging for Marginalized Learners

*Dr. Evisha Ford
Matthew Adkins*



"What we are ethically called to do, is create a space in our schools and classrooms where all students can walk in and, for the day or hour, take off the crushing weight of their armor, hang it on a rack and open their heart to truly being seen. **We must be guardians of a space** that allows students to breathe and be curious and explore the world and be who they are without suffocation. "

-Brene Brown, Dare to Lead

Agenda

Introductions

Defining Belonging

Documentary

Engage: iBelong Moments

Expanding Moments:
CAPE Strategies for Belonging

Action Plan

DR. EVISHA FORD TRAUMA-COMPASSIONATE LEADER

Women of Faith who might be God's favorite

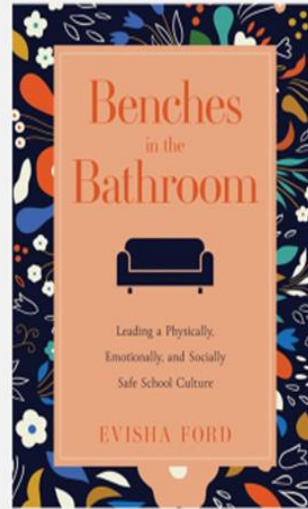
Favorite Book: *Traveling Mercies* by Anne Lamott. I discovered her & my passion for writing as a Junior in College.

Fun Fact: I visited six continents before age 30

Hobbies: Scuba Diving, Body Building, Performing Arts Events & Prank Master

Adulting: Founded, iCan Dream Center, a therapeutic school for neurodiverse learners in Tinley Park, Illinois

Family: Newlywed & Boy Mom



Matthew Adkins

INSTRUCTOR

Motto

Find a Way, or make one.

Hobbies

Fishing
Road Trips
Sound Healing/Native Flute
Nature hikes



Interesting Fact

I work with an Ancient medicines like Kambo, which resets the nervous system by flushing the endocrine system.



Mission

Give students the tools necessary to create opportunities for themselves.



"...the extent to which students feel personally accepted, respected, included, and supported by others in the school social environment."

-Goodenow and Grady, 1993

WHAT IS BELONGING?

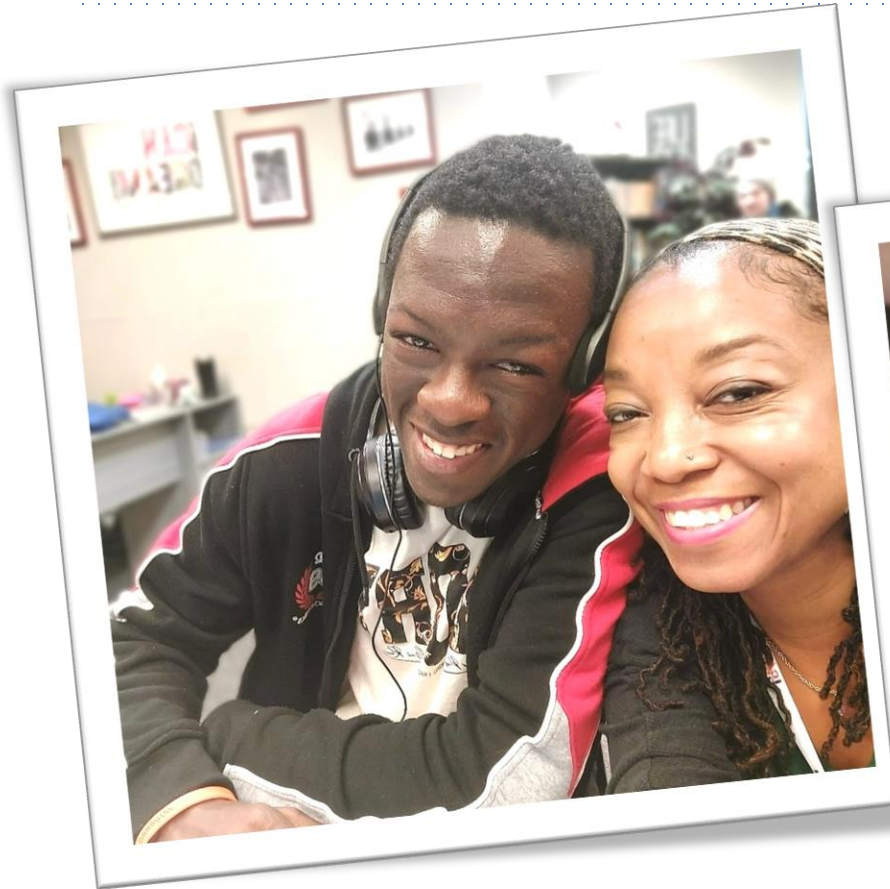


Celebrating
10 Years
of **STORIES**
and **HOPE**

**iCAN
DREAM** CENTER

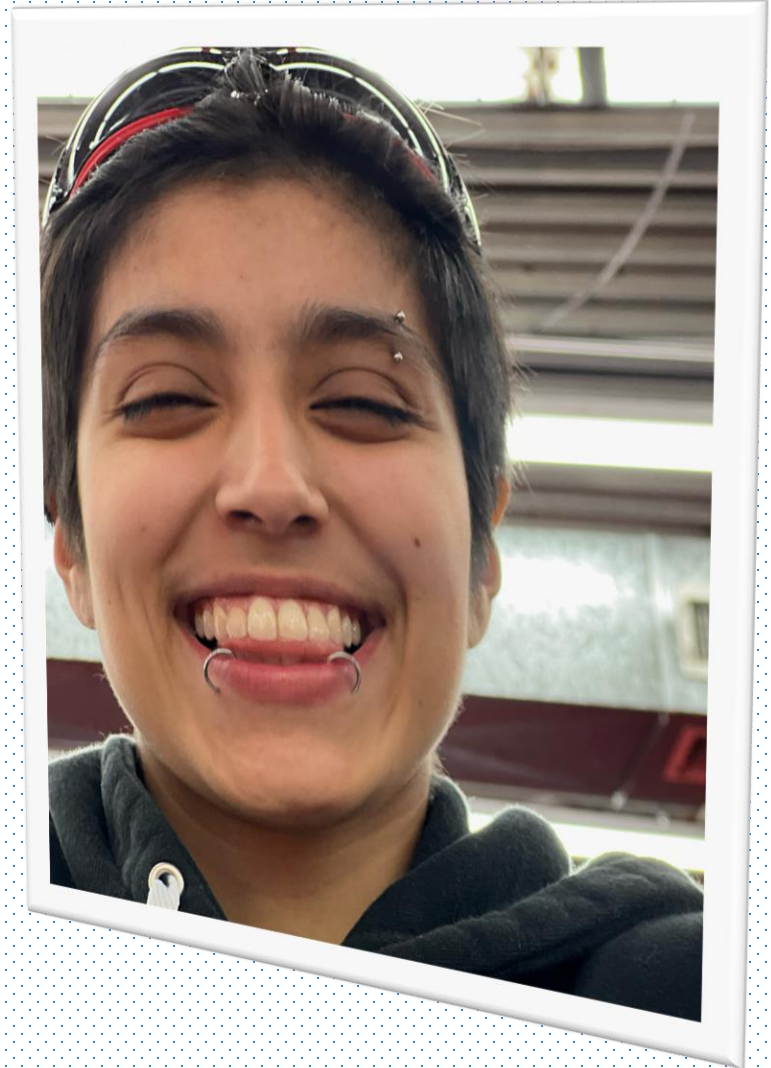
DREAM • RESTORE • EMPOWER • AMPLIFY • MOBILIZE

Engage: iBelong Moments



Expanding Moments: C.A.P.E Strategies

1. Community building activities
2. Affirm all students' full identities.
3. Professional Development
4. Establish routines and norms.



Plan of Action: C.A.P.E. Strategies

Strategy: Increase students' experience of belonging and inclusivity to improve academic outcomes

Activity	Partners	Cost	Date	Matrix for Success
Which CAPE Strategy?	Who needs to be involved ? Human Resources?	Funding needed?	Implementation date?	How will you know you've succeeded?



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A Facebook Community

HOSTED BY:
DR. EVISHA FORD

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