



Name: Chantelle C. Lewis, Ed.D.

Current School District and Location: Lorain City Schools (Lorain, Ohio)

INTRODUCTION

In the words of John C. Dvorak, an influencer is someone who exerts influence by inspiring or guiding the actions of others. Over the past two decades, my personal and professional journey in education has encompassed K–12 schools, higher education, and public service. Throughout my career, I am often told that I have influenced individuals through my servant leadership and results-driven advocacy because of my empathy and commitment to growing people. Not to mention my striving for excellence and educational empowerment for all students—regardless of their socioeconomic background. This passion has been the foundation of my work and a driving force behind the tangible outcomes I have delivered in the various communities I serve.

While working as an administrator, I spearheaded initiatives in these schools that resulted in measurable growth and recognition for students. From being recognized for committing to academic excellence and positive school culture, the Ohio Department of Education awarded us with the Momentum and PBIS Bronze awards. In 2021, I was appointed to the Northeast Ohio Boys and Girls Club Advisory Board, which supports initiatives that extend education beyond the classroom and into the community within the City of Lorain.

As a leader, I have worked in various classrooms, school buildings, university lecture halls, city councils, and state-level political platforms. I am often told that I have a negotiable demeanor, which influences my ability to lead change and my consistency in modeling authentic, purpose-driven leadership in action. Not to mention, serving as a part-time adjunct professor at Ashland University and a mentor to new administrators under the OAESA/OASSA Administrator Mentoring Program throughout the state.

Apart from this, my experience in public service extends beyond the education system. I was elected as a member of the East Cleveland City Council, vice president of the East Cleveland School Board, and member of the Ohio Financial Planning and Supervision Commission, advocating fiscal responsibility and student-centered policies.

In addition, I expanded my commitment to public service during my campaign for Lieutenant Governor alongside Justice Bill O'Neill in the Ohio gubernatorial race of 2018. Traveling throughout the 88 counties in the State of Ohio, provided me with additional insight of statewide

educational policies and the importance of leadership, which bridges communities with government. As well as the importance of leadership, which bridges communities with government.

On the other hand, I have extended my leadership to national spaces, including an appearance on Principal Baruti Kafele's podcast on leadership authenticity. I discussed school culture, trust, and leadership authenticity in schools. At the NASBE (National Alliance for Black School Educators), as a co-facilitator, we presented a topic on the nameism and promoting equity, inclusion, and access in monocultural and learning environments. At the University of Dayton, the topic of imposter syndrome, an experience many first-year law students experience, motivates me to address it. I co-presented "Journey in Authenticity: Conversations on Imposter Syndrome" and "Building Resilience Against the Imposter Phenomenon." Both the podcast and presentations underlined and empowered individuals to reclaim their worth, influence, and voice.

As of April 2025, I was appointed as a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Council at the University of Dayton. My role on this committee is to provide strategic guidance; strengthening alums and external relationships; and advancing the college's mission as a Catholic and Marianist institution are among the functions of the council. As a member of the Advisory Council, I am allowed to bring practitioner and policy perspectives to the college to increase its reach, impact, and sustainability over time.

In sum, throughout my career, my leadership has been characterized not only by a commitment to service and a strategic vision but also by an influence that brings trust, which inspires all individuals to thrive.

Education

Doctor of Leadership for Organizations, Educational Administration (Ed.D.), School of Education and Health Sciences, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio.

Dissertation title: Examining Educators' Belief in Educational Equity and Their Role in Eliminating Instructional Barriers in Schools: May 2024

Master of Education, Educational Administration, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio. 2005.

Master of Education, Curriculum and Instruction-Educational Technology, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio. 2001.

Bachelor of Science. Elementary Education, University of Akron, Akron, Ohio. Minor: History. 1999.

Experience

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

2025-Present: **College of Arts and Science Advisory Council Member (University of Dayton):** The CAS Advisory Council advises the college, strengthens relationships, supports fundraising, and promotes UD's mission. Members serve three-year terms, provide strategic input, and uphold confidentiality while advocating for CAS initiatives.

2025-Present: **Adjunct Professor (Ashland University):** Design, develop, and present professional development programs for educators. Deliver course content and facilitate student learning. Meet the professional learning services standards. Through the Professional Learning Proposal process, develop and submit course proposals for approval.

2024 and 2015-**OAESA/OASSA-Administrators Mentoring Program.** Mentored two administrators to assist administrators in the first year of administration in the State of Ohio.

2023 Pearson: **ETA-Parttime Consultant:** Score preservice assessment portfolios for new teachers.

2013-Present: **Lorain City School District: Elementary Principal.** In charge of overseeing students' academic and personal development, leading a team of educators and support staff. Analyze and utilize student achievement data to create new short-term and long-term strategies by ensuring the school meets academic goals for each school year. Evaluate teacher performance to ensure ambitious gains in student achievement.

2007-2013: **Cleveland Municipal School District: Elementary, Middle, and High School Principal.** In charge of overseeing students' academic and personal development, leading a team of educators and support staff. Evaluated teacher performance under the TDES evaluation system. Participated in the Ohio State University Executive Principal Program.

2005-2007: **Cleveland Municipal School District: Elementary teacher.** Taught various elementary grades 2-8. Taught all subject areas required for elementary.

2003-2005: **Lorain City School District: Special education teacher (Intervention Specialist)** Worked with a general education teacher to plan and implement instructions while ensuring 100% compliance with IEP standards. Develop interactive lesson plans to deliver high-quality special education instructions.

2001-2002 **Cleveland Municipal School District: Elementary teacher.** The fourth-grade teacher taught all required subject areas. Received recognition for highest proficiency test scores.

1999-2001: **Archbishop Lyke School-St. Henry's Campus: Elementary teacher.** The fourth-grade teacher taught all required subject areas.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2006-2007	Ohio Department of Financial Planning and Supervision Commission
2007-2009	East Cleveland City School Board Member
2009-2013	East Cleveland City Council Member
2019-Present	Northeast Ohio Boys and Girls Club Advisory Board

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

2013-Present	Lorain Administrators Association-Vice President
2023-Present	Ohio Alliance for Black School Educators
2002-Present	Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Outstanding Achievement(s)

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2023—Nominated for the National Principal of the Month (Black Principals Network)
- 2023—Ohio Alliance of Black School Educators (Leadership Award for Exemplary Leadership)
- 2017—Received Lorain City School Award for receiving an “A” in Closing the Achievement Gap
- 2015 – Ohio Momentum Award: The Momentum Award is presented by the State Board of Education and recognizes districts and schools for exceeding expectations in student growth for the year.
- 2012-Stephanie Tubbs Jones Humanitarian Award (StoneWall)
- 2011—Received Service and Dedication for Ohio Planning Supervision Commission
- 2010—Who's Who in Black Cleveland for Education Leadership
- 2009—Received East Cleveland Board of Education Award for Commitment and Dedication

AN INTERVIEW

Tell us about how you see today's superintendent.

An effective superintendent must skillfully balance instructional leadership, fiscal stewardship, and community involvement. Beyond managing schools, this role entails uniting diverse voices around a shared mission to improve student outcomes. My experience serving on the Ohio Financial Planning and Supervision Commission taught me the importance of financial transparency and strategic planning. During my tenure as vice president of the East Cleveland School Board, I gained a deeper understanding of governance and community alignment. The superintendent of today must also be a trusted community partner.

What new understandings did you acquire after two or three years on the job?

As I have gained experience, I have learned that sustainable transformation requires more than a strong strategy -- it requires relationships, reflection, and resilience. During my early years in leadership, I served on the School Board and the Financial Commission, where I learned how important it is to align educational resources to student-centered objectives. Leading a school, however, has also taught me that policy and fiscal decisions need to reflect the reality of classrooms and communities. Through my experience, I have learned to value an inclusive leadership style that promotes trust, empowers educators, and centers the voices of students and their families. The real impact is achieved when we connect big-picture strategy with lived experience.

Share an idea to use or something you've learned with your colleagues.

I encourage colleagues to adopt the idea of leveraging community partnerships as an extension of the school system. As a Northeast Ohio Boys and Girls Club Advisory Board member, I have seen the positive impact of aligning school goals with youth-focused programming. Our Momentum Award and PBIS Bronze Award recognize our efforts to integrate academic data and social-emotional supports with community input, resulting in significant gains in student growth and behavior. As superintendents think beyond the school gates and develop relationships with families and organizations, they create a supportive ecosystem that accelerates achievement and well-being.

Submitted by: Dr. Chantelle Lewis

March 30, 2025