



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
UNIVERSITY CITY
Transform the Life of Every Student Every Day!

Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley, PhD, PHR
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Suzanne Tucker
CEO, Generation Mindful
1409 Rankin Drive
St. Louis, MO 63117

Dear Suzanne:

I currently serve as the Superintendent of The School District of University City in the Greater St. Louis area and have been an educator and advocate for equity, trauma-informed practices and student voice in education for over 20 years. I also serve on the boards for University City Children's Center, The Magic House and United Way of Greater St. Louis. I am part of the Child Well-Being and Education Equity Committee of the Ferguson Commission and serve on advisory boards for Harris-Stowe State University, Webster University and University of Missouri-St. Louis. I am a member of the Early Childhood Design Leadership Council of the St. Louis Region and speak at the regional and national level on integrating health and well-being, student equity, restorative practices and student voice in the school community. I was also a principal writer on the state guidelines for trauma-informed schools through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

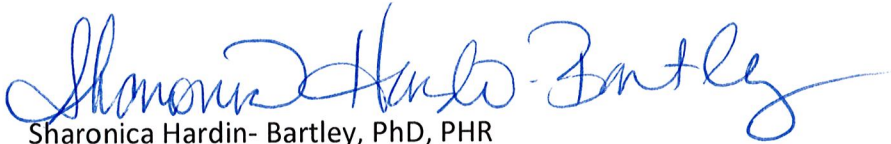
In our District, we serve a diverse population of about 2,800 students. We operate under the vision of Learning Reimagined, a plan to humanize, personalize and problematize student learning through modern, rigorous and relevant experiences and academics. The plan strives for well-being and joy in our students and staff. We believe students learn better when they feel loved, safe, and included. The District measures social emotional health in all its schools twice a year through a Panorama survey of students, staff and parents and responds to data with targeted programs and training.

Our teachers and staff participate in regular training to be able to teach with both the head and the heart with the understanding that positive relationships are the foundation to exceptional learning. All of our schools participate in restorative practices, a social science that builds positive relationships and strengthens communities. We work in conjunction with other organizations to train teachers and staff on trauma-informed practices with the understanding that children face obstacles to learning if traumatic experiences and toxic stress are not recognized and properly addressed. We provide care teams to address social emotional and educational supports and practice mindfulness exercises in our elementary and middle schools.

We believe that mindfulness and social-emotional learning are foundational to having children feel safe and ready to learn. We are excited about the affordable, tangible tools and programs provided by Generation Mindful and see the potential value of incorporating them into our programs. While this grant is focused on the home visiting community, we are ready to provide our feedback and advice on how the tools and programs can effectively prepare pre-school children to be ready to enter school, be used in a school setting as tangible tools in conjunction with other programs, and be used to bridge the home to school connection.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,



Sharonica Hardin- Bartley, PhD, PHR
Superintendent of Schools