

Equitable Procurement, Inclusive Impact: Elevating Minority Educational Consultants in School Districts



Presentation to InDepth
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Dr. Sharon Kherat, Superintendent, Peoria, IL
Jeff Dase, Deputy Superintendent, Rock Island-Milian, IL



1ST CLASS EDUCATOR
Helping Educators Soar!

— Reflective Objectives

Why do you think this session is relevant?

What do you want to gain by attending this session?

This session is geared towards Board Members, Superintendents, Asst. Superintendents, Administrators, Professional Development Coordinators, and Minority Vendors. The audience will learn about the strategies used by each Superintendent to identify and vet high quality minority educational vendors to promote equitable procurement practices while empowering marginalized service providers in the education ecosystem.



- 1) Strategically inform District Leaders on the Importance of Collaborating with Minority Educational Vendors as a means of advancing equity in the education industry holistically.
- 2) Increase awareness and understanding of the unique value proposition and expertise that minority educational consulting vendors bring to school districts in promoting equity and inclusive practices.
- 3) Raise awareness about the barriers and challenges faced by minority educational consulting vendors in the industry, and discuss strategies for overcoming these obstacles to promote a more inclusive and diverse educational ecosystem.
- 4) Provide a framework on identifying and selecting high quality educational partners.
- 5) Building partnerships with minority communities and leveraging community resources.

Who is 1st Class Educator, LLC

1st Class Educator is an educational consulting company, formed by Ms. Locha Brooks, that offers professional development for school administrators, staff and community, with the primary focus being on the importance of being culturally competent, relevant, and responsive to their students needs.



Jeff Dase, Deputy Superintendent of Schools

Rock-Island Milan School District 41



Jeff Dase has been dedicated to the students and communities of Illinois since 1998. He assumed the role of Deputy Superintendent of Schools for the Rock Island-Milan School District 41 on August 12, 2024. Prior to this, he served as the Assistant Superintendent of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and was the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning at Decatur Public Schools since July 2019.

Currently, Jeff is pursuing a doctorate in psychology and a chief school business officer certification. He holds an EdS in Educational Leadership, an M.A. in General Administration, and a B.S. in Elementary Education. Additionally, he has completed a Leadership Academy for aspiring leaders at the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University, as well as several superintendent preparation programs, including those offered by NABSE and IASA (IL). Jeff is also a participant in the Chicago and CAHN Fellows Program (New York).

Dr. Sharon Kherat, Superintendent

Peoria Public Schools District 150



Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat is a distinguished servant leader in the field of education, with a career that spans from being a teacher to various administrative roles. She embarked on her academic journey at Bradley University, later earning a doctorate from Illinois State University.

Dr. Kherat served as the Principal of the Blue-Ribbon Whittier Primary School and the Assistant Principal of Roosevelt Magnet. She took on the role of Principal at Manual High School and then entered into district-wide administration as a Transformation Officer for Springfield Public Schools. Dr. Kherat served as Associate Superintendent of Schools in Danville, IL. She is now currently in her 10th year as the Superintendent of Peoria Public Schools.

Dr. Desmoulin-Kherat's vision for education is rooted in her community involvement, love and passion to provide opportunities for children to succeed. She firmly believes that schools cannot function in isolation, and it is the collective effort of the community that can truly make a difference. The vision for Peoria Public Schools (PPS) for the period 2021-2026 is to "reimagine schools to ignite student passion", a testament to her creative and forward-thinking approach to education.

Ice Breaker

Think about one of your top district vendors.
Please do not say the vendor's name.
What type of service do they provide.



— Ice Breaker

Besides acquiring “the contract,” how else has this top vendor invested in your school district? For example: Community partnerships, sponsorship, community engagement.



Ice Breaker

Is your top district vendor a minority vendor?



Background



1st Class Educator, LLC **Partnerships**
Decatur Public Schools & Peoria Public Schools





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Equitable Procurement Framework & Checklist District Leaders



Vendor Sustainability Plan Minority Vendors





Taking Action Example: NABSE Minority Vendor CoOp Petition

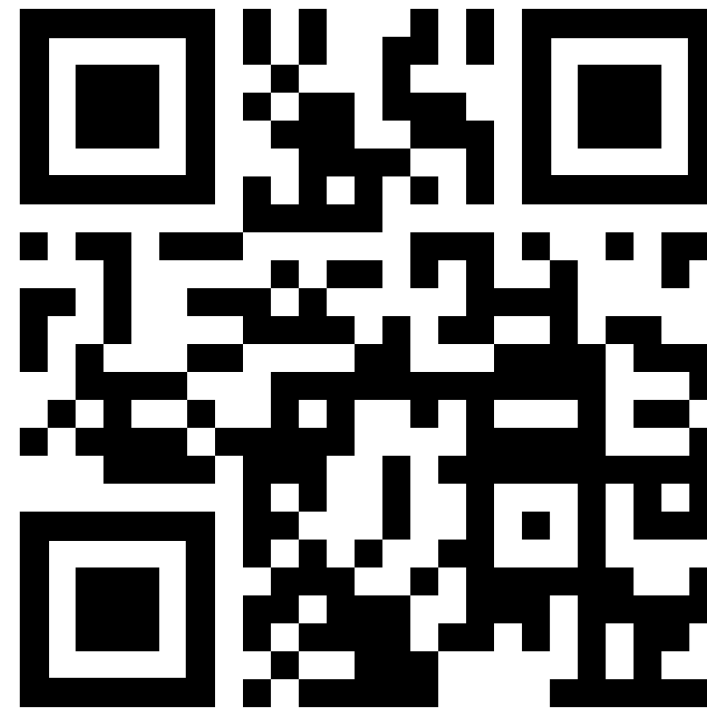




How did we do?



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Connect with Dr. Kherat



Connect with Mr. Dase