

Cydnee C. Patterson, PhD, M.Ed.
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Executive Bio

Dr. Cydnee C. Patterson is an accomplished educational leader and instructional designer with more than a decade of experience transforming learning environments through inclusive, student-centered strategies. She holds a Ph.D. in Global Leadership and Change from Pepperdine University, where her research and practice have centered on advancing equitable educational outcomes for diverse communities.

In 2020, Dr. Patterson launched a YouTube channel where she reads children's books aloud, with a distinct focus on stories written and/or illustrated by people of color and those featuring characters of color. Her goal is to inspire young readers—especially those from underrepresented backgrounds—by increasing their engagement, representation, and enthusiasm for reading. Through this platform, she merges literacy with advocacy, making inclusive stories more accessible to families, educators, and communities.

Throughout her multifaceted career, Dr. Patterson has served in leadership roles across K–12 education, higher education, and public health. Her work includes teaching and advising in diverse educational settings, developing Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), and spearheading initiatives aimed at closing academic achievement gaps. As a Scholar Researcher at Pepperdine University, she contributed to the advancement of educational leadership practices through qualitative and mixed-methods research.

As Co-Chair of the My Brother's Keeper Initiative in Houston, she leads collaborative efforts to promote early literacy and ensure children read proficiently by third grade. In addition, she manages the Diabetes Awareness and Wellness Network, championing public health education in underserved communities. Her leadership consistently results in the implementation of effective, equity-focused programs that reflect the evolving needs of students and families.

Dr. Patterson's commitment to mentorship and mental wellness is a central part of her work. She mentors high school and college students from her hometown, guiding them through the college readiness process—from applications and financial aid to leadership development and career exploration. In 2019, she launched *Thee Fashionable PhD*, a brand and community designed to empower scholars—especially women and students of color—to prioritize mental wellness, express themselves through fashion, and embrace the importance of community while pursuing their academic goals. Through this platform, she fosters a space where academic rigor meets creative identity, encouraging scholars to thrive authentically in every aspect of their journey.

Her approach to education is rooted in collaboration, cultural responsiveness, and continuous growth. She excels in curriculum design, instructional coaching, and professional development—equipping educators with tools to better serve all learners. Beyond the classroom, she advocates for inclusive policies that enhance educational access and long-term student success.

Her scholarly contributions include her 2023 dissertation, *What is a Book: Best Practices for Literacy Specialists to Engage K–5 Students in Reading*, which explores innovative literacy strategies tailored for young learners. She also authored a chapter in *Early Psychological Research Contributions from Women of Color, Volume II* (SAGE Publications, 2025), highlighting the legacy of Dr. Jessica Henderson Daniel. Dr. Patterson has presented her research at esteemed venues such as the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and The Forum for the Future of Education in Africa.

Her work has earned honors including the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Scholarship and the Pepperdine University Merit Scholarship. With a steadfast dedication to equity, Dr. Patterson continues to push the boundaries of education, using creativity, scholarship, and community engagement to elevate every learner's potential.