



*De'Andre S. Pickett, Ed.D*

Though not a native Georgian, De'Andre has worked tirelessly for the last 13 years to advocate for the families and children within the state, particularly the Metro Atlanta communities. De'Andre, originally from Springdale, Ohio, moved to Atlanta to attend Morehouse College to study English, Sociology and African American Studies.

Morehouse is also where he gained his love for education. Serving as a class assistant to his professor, volunteering at local schools and participating in summer programs like Breakthrough Atlanta, teaching was the occupation of choice.

While in college, Dr. Pickett was selected by the Israeli Government to become the first African American to serve as an intern (finishing as the senior intern) to the Consulate General of Israel to the Southeast. In this role, DeAndre was given the opportunity assist the consul general's office in diversity and inclusion conversation, including the racial relations summit in 2009.

Since 2006, De'Andre has served in many educational capacities from Educational Specialist and Dean of Students to recently having served as the Dean of Student and Academic Affairs for Literacy Action, the oldest, largest, and leading adult basic education nonprofit in the Southeastern United States. In this role, De'Andre continued to advocate for families across the Metro-Atlanta and South DeKalb communities by assisting with GED preparation, reading and writing skills, and finding additional resources to succeed. Through his experience in the classroom, De'Andre works hard to correlate what is happening to our low-performing students and the household they come from.

De'Andre's community ties continue to run deep within organizations that are building educational improvements and financial stability. Serving as the Educational Attainment and Community Relations Director for the South Fulton Business Coalition, De'Andre's diverse background in community relationship building along with his experience in education, makes De'Andre a key asset to the Business Coalition and other community partnerships and relationships.

He continues to serve in many capacities that enrich the quality of life for the families in our communities. In 2013, De'Andre was appointed as Commissioner of the City of East Point Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. While in office, Dr. Pickett was able to secure financial resources to have three Kaboom playgrounds build, was able to increase participation in the recreation division by 300%, broke ground on a new bike trail, helped implement the creation of the "East Point Path" project, along with making Parks and Recreation its own department.

One of De'Andre's greatest accomplishments as Commissioner is the implementation of PARC:360, an initiative that engages families, elected officials, and community stakeholders to invest in the city's Parks and Recreation Center, creates new programs that will enhance student learning and assist families with resources that will help find jobs, provide G.E.D courses and trade school opportunities, and promotes athletics and fitness for youth throughout the city.



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In 2015, DeAndre was appointed as the Deputy Executive Director for the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus under then leadership former State Representative Dee Dawkins-Haigler. During the same year, Google selected DeAndre as one of 16 persons from around the nation to become the first Digital Inclusion Fellows. During this fellowship, it was De'Andre's responsibility to build a curriculum for the City of Atlanta to use for their *Connect Home* Initiative. This is a train the trainer module and curriculum that the city still uses.

If that wasn't enough, in 2016, De'Andre became the recipient of a dual doctoral degree from Liberty University in Educational Leadership & Sociology. DeAndre also became the co-host to the Stacey Hill and Dr. D Radio Show and started the Dr. D Chronicles Blog and Podcast.

Now serving as the President and CEO of the Governing Board for The Main Street Academy, Inc., a Charter School within the Fulton County School District, De'Andre advocates for over 900 students and 100 staff members through ensuring fiscal health for the school and academic standards are being met. De'Andre has also served as the first Vice-President to be elected to the board back in 2016 while also serving as the Chair of the Academic & School Performance Committee.

De'Andre continue to volunteer with community organizations such as the Habitat for Humanity, The American Cancer Society, The Special Olympics of Georgia, the local YMCA, meals on wheels, and coaching his award-winning basketball team, the Southside Bulldogs, now in their fourth season and returning as three-time District Champs. De'Andre gets invited regularly to provide lectures and professional development trainings throughout the country and continues to secure his spot as an activist, a scholar, and a trailblazer, blazing the paths of young men and women to follow.