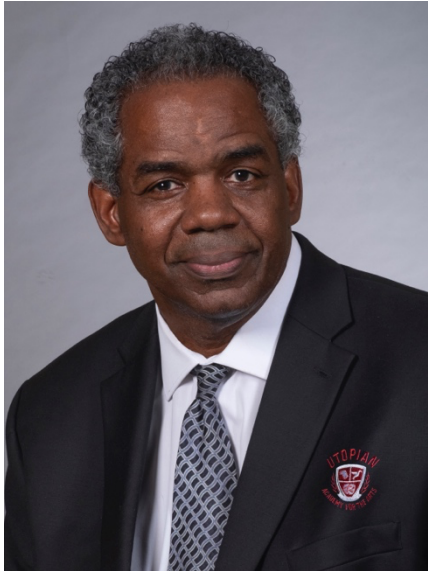


## Dr. Ron Boykins: A Visionary Principal



Dr. Ron Boykins is a change agent who believes that it takes a village to raise and educate a child. He sets high expectations for student conduct and academic performance, and creates a creative school environment conducive for scholastic growth and achievement.

Under his leadership as principal of Utopian Academy for the Arts Middle School, the district out-performed similar Clayton County public schools in math, science, reading, and language arts in grades 6-8. As a result, UAFA Middle School was named among Georgia's top-performing state-commission charter schools. It opened in 2014 as Georgia's first performing arts charter school.

Boykins' focus on excellence, accountability, and discipline as an educator comes from his military background. He was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army after graduating from North Carolina State University in 1981. During his eight years in the Army, he served as an assistant professor of military science at the University of Arizona, where he earned his doctorate. He then relocated to Atlanta to begin his career in K-12 education.

Boykins was hired as Headmaster of Greenforest Christian Academy where he worked for three years to boost academic achievement and accountability. His strategies and the outstanding work of his educational team helped the school to be recognized as the National Institute of Independent Education School of the Year.

After his success at Greenforest, Boykins turned his focus to improving academic achievement within the public school system. He was soon hired as an administrator at Tri-Cities High School in Fulton County and later served as principal at the Space Theme School at Pitts Elementary in Atlanta Public Schools.

Boykins then moved on to the Clayton County school district to work as principal of E.W. Oliver Elementary School, a position that he held for 11 years. When he took over leadership of Oliver, the school was ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the county. After a few short years, Oliver was ranked as the top-performing school in Clayton.

Boykins is dedicated to the mission of improving student achievement, especially in math and science. He encourages students to demonstrate mastery and gain confidence in their skills by providing them with opportunities to compete with their peers nationally and internationally. On January 26, 2007, he led a team of 105 advanced-placed elementary students to victory at a math competition against students in the Charlotte Mecklenburg School District in North Carolina. The win was highlighted in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

A year later, Oliver produced three of the top-performing teams on the Georgia Stock Market Competition. Of the 4,400 teams that participated during the session, most of the teams were composed of high school and college-level participants. This was the second time in the competition's history, that an elementary school claimed the top ranking. It was the first time, however, that any school claimed the top three places. The victory also earned press coverage.

Boykins, a former New York district superintendent, is a sought-after speaker on youth empowerment and educational issues. He has developed programs and activities that engage students in learning and challenge them to achieve. He travels the country inspiring educators to develop success strategies for the classroom that help to boost achievement.