

Latoyia K. Baily, Ph.D

As a little girl, Dr. Latoyia Bailey often enjoyed listening to her mother read book excerpts to her. It was not long before Latoyia wrote in daily journals and for citywide poetry events and newspapers. Although she admits her life-long dream is still to become a successful full-time author and publisher, she loves operating in her calling as an educator in the School District of Philadelphia.

'Doc B,' as she is lovingly called by her students, is an author, educator, and motivational speaker who uses her platform to work with children, families, and other educators extends beyond Philadelphia into both the national and international areas such as South Africa and India. Quite the feat for someone who started as a per diem substitute. It all started in 1996 as a substitute in special education at Bache Martin Elementary before leaving the District in 2000 to teach English for a myriad of charter schools.

It was the opening of The Academy at Palumbo High School that brought her back to the School District in 2006 with a new outlook on education and passion to complete her own educational endeavors at Temple University as the first PhD recipient in her family in 2007. It was at Palumbo where she learned leadership skills that would afford her the courage to take the chance at becoming an Assistant Principal. Her roles as the English Department Chair, Roster Chair, Instructional Reform Facilitator, School-Based Teacher Leader, and Building Committee Member all taught her one of her greatest mantras: *One must lead from behind for real leadership to shine.*

In 2009, she became the South Philadelphia Regional Finalist for the Dr. Ruth Wright Hayre Teacher Award, and in 2010 she became the Winner for Distinguished Teaching and was awarded the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation Award. In October 2013, this was followed up by the Acme teacher of the Month Award, which was of her proudest moment as it was awarded to her by her students.

After self-publishing her first book, she was given the *I Am My Sisters' Keeper* award for dedication to women by the members of the Greater St. Thomas Baptist Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania after they read and featured her book *You Are Already A Wife... Long Before The First Date!* Presently, her writing focuses on loving, supporting, encouraging, and seeking connectivity to children: our most precious commodity. Dr. Bailey serves as a liaison between the miscommunication of the "teenager" to many of the decision-making adults in their lives.

Dr. Bailey is the dedicated godmother of five and is currently a high school Assistant Principal for The School District of Philadelphia and the Director of Administration for the Bible college, Destiny Bible Institute at New Destiny Fellowship church located in Wilmington, Delaware.

#TeensAreMyBusiness
#LoveIsOurFirstLanguage
#OutOfTheMouthsOfBabe
#OurBabiesNeedUsToListen
#LoseNotOneMoreChild