



Champion of teachers
and 'liberated learning'

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Black Teacher Project, a community-based organization founded in 2015, strives to unlock the love of learning and create lifelong learners, says Micia Mosely, its founder and director. Its vision "is that every student will benefit from the diversity, excellence and leadership of an empowered Black teaching force."

"We are really focused on supporting Black teachers and Black teacher leadership to reimagine schools," Mosely says, "as sites of liberated learning."

As a 15-year-old student at Brooklyn Technical High School in Brooklyn, New York, Mosely decided she wanted to become a teacher.

"I will always claim it as the best high school in the world," she says. "It really made me fall in love with teaching. The commitment of the teachers and the diversity of the students had such a big influence on me. Black academic excellence was normalized every day."

Mosely studied history and education at Brandeis University in Massachusetts and graduated in 1995. She moved to San Francisco, California, to teach social studies to high school students.

Although she developed strong relationships with her students, after almost three years, she felt depleted.

"I had trouble helping them succeed academically," Mosely explains. "I felt like, 'What am I doing? I love what I do. I love what I am teaching. I have great rapport with the students. I have solid lesson plans, but there's something bigger.' So, I ran away to grad school."

Planting seeds

After finishing her doctoral degree in 2003 at the University of California, Berkeley, Mosely led professional development sessions for principals and teachers through the Bay Area Coalition of Equitable Schools for several years. Black teachers often found her after the program to ask questions. Those discussions planted a seed in Mosely's mind for the Black Teacher Project.

"It was the session after the session," she says. "I thought, 'What if we had professional development that was geared toward Black teachers?'"

Mosely moved to New York City and worked at the Posse Foundation, as a national training specialist. She realized not



"We are really focused on supporting Black teachers and Black teacher leadership to reimagine schools," says Micia Mosely, director of the Black Teacher Project. Photo by Bethanie Hines

enough attention was being given to the college experience once students arrived, particularly for students coming from an urban setting and moving to a small liberal arts college or a large university. Another seed was planted.

Mosely returned to Oakland, California, where she resides, and reconnected with a former student Belinda Bellinger, at a professional development workshop Mosely was leading. Bellinger – who struggled in high school but became a teacher – became disillusioned when the school's values didn't align with hers, Mosely says.

"It was because of her (Bellinger) that I founded the Black Teacher Project," Mosely says. "The things she was dealing with are the reasons why I left. I said, 'I am not going to let this happen to another generation.'"

Nurturing the seeds

Black Teacher Project operates under four pillars: Quality Instruction Rooted in Blackness, Wellness, Black Liberation for Liberation and Black Identity Development. An 11-teacher advisory board guides the organization's offerings.

"When teachers say they need it," Mosely says, "our job is to respond."

Trained teacher leaders and staff facilitate the virtual professional development programs for teachers, schools, districts and system leaders. Services are varied and include long-term contracts with school systems, an 18-month fellowship opportunity for Black teachers, and workshops on how to recruit, hire and sustain Black educators for school leaders.

Mosely works diligently to connect resources to Black teachers.

"Since we've been intentional about making sure we keep a national profile," she says, "it's allowing us to have partnerships in different parts of the country so that our teachers can get support locally, even if we can't be there every day."

On the cover: Micia Mosely, founder of Black Teacher Project. Photo by Bethanie Hines. Article by Vanessa Infanzon. Published 10 times per year, *Unity* is exclusively distributed to clients of Thompson Hospitality and Compass Group, both world leaders in foodservice. To contact us, send an email to marketing@thompsonhospitalityjv.com. ©2025 Thompson Hospitality and Compass Group. Produced by [Content Spectrum](#).

