

## Dr. Femi Skanes

Chief Excellence Officer/Lead Consultant

Dr. Femi Skanes is a passionate leader who believes that all students should have access to a quality and equitable education. Dr. Skanes is the founder of Leadership EDGE, LLC. Leadership EDGE, LLC believes that leadership is a lifestyle, equity is essential, and parenting is the promise. LE provides customized professional development and consulting services to foster school improvement and improved educational outcomes for all students in all communities. Prior to launching Leadership EDGE, Dr. Skanes served in many educational and academic capacities including classroom teacher, literacy coach, reading department chair, assistant principal, and principal. As part of serving as a high school principal for ten years, Dr. Skanes is well known for her commitment to revitalizing schools through goal driven leadership and by fostering positive community relationships. Through Leadership EDGE, she finds joy in presenting and delivering keynote addresses to encourage, empower, and promote academic success and racial equity.

Dr. Skanes completed her undergraduate studies at Tennessee State University where she earned a Bachelor of Business Administration. After graduation, she had hopes of exploring a corporate business career. However, not long after her first corporate recruiting job, she learned that she had a passion for helping people and serving her community differently. She enrolled at Chicago State University and graduated with her Master of Arts degree in teaching, which became the turning point in her calling and her career. Dr. Skanes developed a passion for educating young people. She went on to earn two additional degrees, a Master of Arts in reading and a Master of Arts in educational leadership, both from Concordia University. She advanced her leadership skills, earning a doctorate degree in educational leadership from National Louis University. As a result of her passion and academic pursuits, Dr. Skanes is a master educator who believes that all students in all communities should have access to a high quality education.

Dr. Skanes believes in developing leadership skills and advancing excellence and equity in education. Dr. Skanes' presentations include "High School Multi-Tiered Systems of Support: A Path to Equity in Action" and she has years of expertise in practical education that addresses the areas of equity in education, leadership development, youth development, school administration, family and community engagement strategies, small business coaching for educators, and educational consulting.

Dr. Skanes has received numerous awards and accolades. She is a 2016 Cahn Distinguished Principal Fellow and continues to serve as an advisor to new Cahn fellows. Dr. Skanes serves as a board member of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce Small Business Development Center. She has also become one of the newest 2023 cohort members of Willie's Warriors Leadership Initiative, a leadership development cohort of Black women in the Chicago region, named after Rev. Willie T. Barrow, a civil rights activist and co-founder of Operation PUSH. Most recently, she was one of 22 recipients of the Iconic Woman 2023 Award, lovingly bestowed upon her by her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Her humble spirit, amazing sense of humor, and no-nonsense leadership style sets her apart from other leaders.

Dr. Skanes is an accomplished mentor, speaker, writer, and school leader. She is a visionary and extraordinary problem solver who is often acknowledged for her strong and calm leadership style. As a leader, she is most proud of her ability to develop other successful school leaders. She is also passionate about helping parents evolve their parenting and leadership skills into key indicators and motivators for cultivating holistically healthy children.

Dr. Skanes seeks to make a better world by strengthening parenting skills, molding well-rounded children, and making schools pillars in their communities. Dr. Femi Skanes is the author of ***Encouragement for the School Leader's Soul***, which is available for purchase on Amazon.