



## BIPOC Voices Spring 2026

### The Art of Becoming: Reshaping Ourselves and the Spaces We Lead

#### Dr. Tiffany S. Russell

Dr. Tiffany Simpkins Russell is the Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer at The Galloway School in Atlanta, Georgia, where she works at the intersection of leadership, culture, and community to help schools cultivate environments of belonging, curiosity, and courageous dialogue.



A certified HBDI® practitioner and Qualified Administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI®), Dr. Russell brings more than 25 years of experience in leadership development, equity strategy, and organizational transformation. Her work focuses on helping individuals and institutions develop the awareness, language, and practices necessary to navigate difference, strengthen relationships, and lead with intention. Prior to joining Galloway, Dr. Russell held leadership roles at St. Martin's Episcopal School, The Lovett School, and Spelman College, supporting educators and organizations as they explored identity, culture, and the evolving purpose of schools in a diverse society. She earned her Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies from Georgia State University and both her bachelor's and master's degrees in African American Studies from Temple University.

In addition to her work in education, Dr. Russell is a ceramic artist whose clay practice explores themes of memory, restoration, and belonging, often bringing reflective, hands-on creative processes into her leadership work.

In both her leadership and her clay practice, Dr. Russell explores the same enduring question: how do we shape communities that are strong enough to hold difference and generous enough to cultivate belonging?

## **Mahtab Mahmoodzadeh**

Mahtab Mahmoodzadeh is a transformative equity leader, strategist, and educator with over 20 years of experience in independent school. Her passion is advancing justice, inclusion, and belonging in schools and organizations. She currently serves as the Assistant Head of School at Giddens School in Seattle, where she leads school-wide teaching and learning focused on culturally responsive pedagogy, interdisciplinary and inquiry-based learning and cultivating cultures of thinking and learning for students and educators. As the founder and principal of Toward1ness, Mahtab partners with schools, districts, and organizations—locally and globally—to build equity-focused systems, strengthen leadership capacity, and design inclusive, actionable strategies for change.



A proud Iranian American and first-generation immigrant, Mahtab is also a proud mom of two radiant humans who inspire her daily.

## **Darin Knapp:**

Darin Reynaud Knapp is on the Equity in Education team at Puget Sound ESD focusing on diversifying educators in the region, especially recruiting and retaining educators of color. She is working to create systemic changes to make the pathway to becoming a teacher more accessible and a place where educators can thrive.

She grew up in Washington State and identifies as a multiracial woman, mom, sister, coach and educator. She is also a former middle school math and science teacher and loves working with young people.

