

Crystalyn M. Whitaker Nelson

512 Columbia St Shreveport, LA 71104
(318) 455-4913 | crystalyn.whitaker@gmail.com

Statement

My life's work is to rekindle the love for knowledge, community, and culture to promote success through strategic education. With particular regard for the inner-city black community, my work aims to abate generational ailments and suture the broken families and psyches that have developed throughout American History.

Community Leadership

- 2025- Currently: Caddo Parish Poet Laureate
- 2022-2024: Member of Krewe of Highland
- 2022-2024: Shreveport Green Board Member
- 2023 G.U.T.S. (Girls United to Succeed) Artistry Honoree by Gertrudes Gifts
- 2020: Appointed to Shreveport, LA Mayoral Advisory Council for Race Relations Commission¹
- 2019: Contributor to KSLA "Code of Conduct" documentary²
- 2019: Member of "Reconciliation Dinner" Steering Committee³
- 2018: Author of "Civil Rights & Galilee Baptist Church Museum" article in Shreveport Magazine⁴
- 2018: Host of YWCA Book Club, Student in YWCA "Dialogue on Race"
- 2018: Host and Facilitator of "Dinner and Dialogue" Initiative
- 2017: Member of Friends in Unity (FIU) Outreach Organization⁵
- 2011: Published in Northwestern State University *Argus* Literary Magazine⁶
- Numerous Speaking Engagements & Workshop Facilitations⁷

Career

12 years in Education, 6 Years in Caddo Parish School System at Booker T. Washington High School
4 years as English Department Head & Mentor Teacher, Currently: Teacher-Librarian

Accomplishments

2019: Teacher of the Year
2019: District English Teacher Leader
2018: Teacher of the Month

Academic History

Collegiate

Louisiana State University - Shreveport

1 University Place - Shreveport, LA 71115

Degree Program: Master of Education - Curriculum and Instruction

Graduation Date: October 2020

Northwestern State University

444 Caspari Street - Natchitoches, LA 71457

Degree Program: Middle Grades-Secondary English & Social Studies Education

Graduation Date: December 2012

Degree Attained: Bachelor's Degree

¹ <https://www.shreveporttimes.com/story/news/2020/05/29/shreveport-mayor-announces-members-race-commission/5282186002/>,
<https://www.ksla.com/2020/06/02/can-shreveport-commission-race-bring-about-change/>

² <https://www.ksla.com/2020/01/01/ksla-documentary-reveals-alarming-disparities-school-discipline-louisiana/>

³ <http://www.reconciliationshreveport.com/>

⁴ https://issuu.com/crawforddesigngroup/docs/issue_13_web

⁵ <https://www.arklatexhomepage.com/news/local-news/group-hosting-citywide-kickback/>

⁶ <https://archive.org/details/argus2011nort/page/94/mode/2up>

⁷ https://www.ktbs.com/community/black-history-month-series-offers-film-screenings-with-community-discussions/article_45ba931a-287b-11e9-a7db-274a1549782d.html

High School

Caddo Parish Magnet High School

1601 Viking Drive - Shreveport, LA 71101

Graduation Date: May 2008

Academic Accomplishments

2020: Recipient of Marge Kozak Memorial Endowed Scholarship from LSUS

2019-2020: President's List (4.0 GPA)

2019: National Society of Leadership & Success - LSUS Chapter

2008, 2010-2012: Dean's & Honors Lists

2008: 1st Place Recipient of *Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship* from VA Medical Center for Volunteerism⁸

Artistry Career: Digital Portfolio: <https://culturalyst.com/ladymunira>

- 2025- Currently: Caddo Parish Poet Laureate
- 2025 "US Always Skipping 13": The Color of Rebellion Online Exhibit - Inside Small Exhibits⁹
- 2025 "You Don't Know How Much Comfort I Need // You Are Felt, Love": Duality Exhibit - Bossier Arts Council
- 2024 - 2025 National Leaders of Color Fellow - South Arts Jurisdiction¹⁰
- 2024 Contemporary Museum Education Certificate of Completion (50 Hours - Kadenze Platform)
- 2023 Kallenberg Artist Tower (KAT) Residency Recipient for Literary/Visual/Performing Disciplines¹¹
- 2022 Curated & Presented The Colored Port Saga - Colored Faith Walk Art Exhibit¹²
- 2022 Shreveport Regional Arts Council National Endowment for the Arts ARP Subgrant Recipient
- 2022 Honorably Mentioned by Literary Critic in Critical Mass Arts Show (SRAC)
- 2021 Literary Fellowship Recipient for Shreveport Regional Arts Council (SRAC)
- 2019 - Currently Juried Roster Literary Artist of Shreveport Regional Arts Council (SRAC)¹³
- Lyricist and Vocalist in Tipsey the Band (Winners of 2018 Louisiana Music Prize)¹⁴
- 2017 - 2019 Host of "Poems and Songs" Open Mic - Bon Temps Coffee Bar
- Published in Northwestern State University *Argus* Literary Magazine
- Author of "Civil Rights & Galilee Baptist Church Museum" article in Shreveport Magazine
- Numerous Events Hosted and Spoken At, Including C.O. Simpkins Honorary with Andrew Young¹⁵

Employment History

Caddo Parish School Board – Certified Teacher

1961 Midway Ave – Shreveport, LA 71108

Supervisor: Crystal Barnes

Office Phone: (318)222-2186

June 2017 - August 2022, August 2023 - August 2025

Responsibilities: I managed the library and fixed assets on campus. I also served on the Leadership Team, culture and climate PBIS committee, and taught English at Booker T. Washington High School.

⁸ <http://www.davdol.org/newsannouncements/crystalynwhitaker.html>,

<https://www.dav.org/learn-more/news/2017/where-are-they-now/?print=pdf>

⁹ <https://www.insidesmall.com/the-color-of-rebellion?pgid=m98n3tbz3-c690df83-0a19-47b2-a308-e6058f3c4cee>

¹⁰ <https://artslead.org/leaders/leaders-of-color-fellowship/2024nationalfellows/2024southartsnational/>

¹¹ <https://www.ksla.com/2023/07/21/shreveport-writer-resident-artist-hosts-free-writing-workshop/>

¹² <https://www.ksla.com/2022/09/18/colored-port-saga-colored-faith-walk-gives-cultural-educational-artistic-experience/> & https://www.ktbs.com/community/blackhistory/shreve-memorial-library-hosts-crystalyn-whitaker-nelson-s-the-colored-port-saga-colored-faith-walk/article_0c3091f2-a3ed-11ed-a424-5f3852192414.html

¹³ <https://www.shrevearts.org/nwlaroster>

¹⁴ <https://www.arklatexhomepage.com/community/events/louisiana-music-prize-winners-ricky-latt-and-tipsey-the-band/>

¹⁵ <https://www.ksla.com/2018/10/26/andrew-young-honor-dr-co-simpkins-civil-rights-gala-shreveport/>

Crystalyn M. Whitaker Nelson 512 Columbia St Shreveport, LA 71104 (318) 455-4913 crystalyn.whitaker@gmail.com

Ayers Career College - Director of Academic Affairs

8820 Jewella Ave - Shreveport, LA 71108

Supervisor: Campus President Billy Hanisee

Office Phone: (318)252-1972

August 2022 - August 2023

Responsibilities: I ensured students and faculty were supported academically through assistance, training, seminars, tutoring, evaluations, and other means. I enhanced student experience, resolved interpersonal conflicts, taught, and performed administrative duties.

Mastery Prep- Certified Teacher

7117 Florida Blvd – Baton Rouge LA 70806

Office Phone: (855)922-8773

August 2014-June 2017

Responsibilities: I taught high school students the needed strategies and material to be successful on the ACT.

Ombudsman Educational Services - Certified Teacher (Night Session)

8805 Jewella Ave - Shreveport, LA 71108

Office Phone: (318) 220-4749

January 2014 – May 2014

Responsibilities: I was to lead English and Social Studies instruction for grades 6-12. I assisted students in independent computer based instruction, also.

City of Shreveport - Recreation Specialist (Full Time)

4300 Illinois Ave - Shreveport, LA 71109

Office Phone: (318) 673-7814

April 2013 - August 2014

Responsibilities: I was responsible for assisting the manager in daily affairs, coordinating and executing community events and providing assistance and education to after-school students and the general public.

Sci-Port Discovery Center - Pilot/Demonstrator (Part Time)

820 Clyde Fant Parkway - Shreveport, LA 71101

Office Phone: (318) 424-3326

February 2013 - June 2013

Responsibilities: I was responsible for assisting visitors, performing educational entertainment experiments for visitors, and maintaining basic decency and cleanliness of the center.

CLV USA - Resident Assistant (Academic Year)

200 Tarlton Drive - Natchitoches, LA 71457

Office Phone: (318) 214-5414

January 2011 - May 2012

Responsibilities: I was responsible for monitoring on-campus living communities, planning & executing events for the community, and performing annual inspections of property ensuring standards were met by all tenants.

Shreveport Green - Earth Camp Counselor/Instructor (Summers Only)

3625 Southern Avenue - Shreveport, LA 71104

Supervisor: Donna Curtis

Office Phone: (318) 219-1888

May 2008 - August 2019

Responsibilities: I was responsible for educating camp attendants (inner-city children ages 7-11) and ensuring the safety of all present.