



Dr. Sonya L. Whitaker is the current Deputy Superintendent of Schools for Dolton West School District 148. Additionally, she is a highly regarded national speaker and educator who has a combined total of seven years of experience as a school district Superintendent. Her commitment to excellence in education led to her pursuing and successfully obtaining the National Superintendent's Certification, sponsored by The School Superintendent's Association (AASA). Dr. Whitaker is also the host of her new education radio talk show entitled: What's Really Going On?? Her broadcast is featured live on WVON1690 am Talk of Chicago Voice of The Nation, every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. CST. And if that isn't enough her voice continues to be elevated in very significant ways nationwide. Dr. Whitaker is set to launch her new television series entitled: Education REAL Talk with Dr. Sonya Whitaker. This series is being launched on VonTV which is a digital streaming platform set to rival all other top-notch streaming platforms, such as Netflix. VonTV is WVON Talk of Chicago Radio amplified. Dr. Whitaker is a blogger and she is also the host of a podcast show entitled: What's Really Going On?? A Spotlight on Solutions to Improving Student Achievement in America's Schools.

Throughout her progressive career as a public-school educator, she has also served as Director for Academic Improvement and Director of Literacy. Dr. Whitaker has extensive experiences

as a Principal, Assistant Principal, and Classroom Teacher. She is also a published author. She has published a book entitled: *Is There Anybody Who Can Teach Me How to Read? Practical Strategies for Dramatically Improving Student Learning*. She is currently in the process of writing her second book in which she introduces what she identifies as the *Six Core Competencies Deeply Engrained in Culturally Responsive Leaders*. She refers to these competencies as: *Game Changers*.

In April of 2010, Heinemann Educational publishing company released Dr. Whitaker's professional development DVD (which is made available world-wide) entitled: *The Culturally Responsive Teacher: How Understanding Culture Positively Impacts Instruction and Student Achievement*. Dr. Whitaker has also served as adjunct professor for National-Louis University. At the state level, she has served as an appointed member of the Ensuring Success in Schools and Special Education Illinois State Level Task Forces.

Her career highlights include serving as a moderator for the National Bullying Conference hosted at Columbia College in New York, New York (event captured via the CNN network) as well as delivering a powerful presentation during the 53rd Annual IASA state conference and the Norfolk Public Schools Tidewater School Boards Regional Conference, held in Norfolk Virginia. Most recently Dr. Sonya Whitaker delivered a keynote presentation to over 63 different school boards at the South Cook Regional Dinner hosted by the Illinois Association of Schools Boards (March 2019) and then again to over 40 different school boards in the state of Illinois (March 2020). In September (2019) she conducted a *standing room only* presentation at the annual conference hosted by the National Council of Urban School Boards of Education (CUBE) in Miami, Florida. Dr. Whitaker and her husband are the proud parents of two boys ages 15 and 20.