

Dr. Irvin M Brown

Irvin was born and raised in the Pelican State of Louisiana. He is one of 7 siblings. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the United States Navy. After serving aboard the U.S.S. New Orleans, LPH-11 in San Diego, California, he was reassigned to the beautiful Pacific Northwest at Naval Station Everett, Washington. There, he served alongside the Judge Advocate General as a paralegal (NCO/E5 Aviation Warfare Specialist) until he earned an honorable discharge to pursue the field of education.

With encouragement from family and friends, he took a teaching position in Oregon. While teaching, he decided to advance his education by completing an M.Ed. at Lewis & Clark College. Continuing his passion to serve, he mentors students within K12 and colleges, works with non-profit businesses (i.e., HOLLA, NAACP, Human Rights Commission, Younglife), volunteers with community organizations and boards, and campaigns for local political offices.

Unwavering in the call of equity and leading the next generation, he served students, staff, and families as an assistant principal and policy advising for a state agency. He is excited to partner with teams, firms, and agencies to bring organizational change for marginalized populations and creating safe, inclusive learning cultures for all employees and student learners. As the first African American to earn a doctorate from the University of Portland, I believe my research on examining the intersectionality of race, microaggressions, and resiliency for students of Color places me uniquely qualified to give voice to those students and families who struggle with dyslexia and other learning differences.

We all are aware of the ongoing unrest and uprising in our country - including right here in the City of Roses. The curtain has been pulled back and we now see with greater clarity the impact of historical, structural, and systemic forms of racism. That impact - especially within the Black community - is clearly understood with feelings of hurt, pain, justified anger, and rage. I firmly believe we are compelled as a community that recognizes this movement and calls us towards a collective response of *solidarity* and *to do better*.

As a disabled-Veteran and someone with a learning difference, I believe we are **better together**. Because true growth only occurs through struggle, empathy, and intentionality. Authentic transformation begins on the inside first. What I know for sure is that we will be **better** and stronger **together** if we unify as one and create space at the table for all voices.