

WE LEAD AMBASSADOR

DR. DIA COLLINS
THOMAS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
STUDENT SERVICES, *BLADEN*
COUNTY SCHOOLS, NC



WHY ARE YOU A WE LEAD AMBASSADOR?

I respect and appreciate how Dr. Cox and WE Lead supports women leaders on our leadership journey. I started attending WE Lead virtual sessions in October 2020 and have attended two spring conferences. Additionally, I have attended three WE Lead book studies which allowed me to read books that I have now referred to other women. My experiences and trainings with WE Lead have helped prepare me for the next leadership position that God opens for me. I said YES to becoming an Ambassador because I believe in WE Lead and want other women leaders to experience the available opportunities.

PROFESSIONAL BIO

Dr. Dia Collins Thomas is serving her 24th year as a passionate educator. She is currently the Executive Director of Student Services with Bladen County Schools. Other educator roles include principal, assistant principal, mathematics instructional coach, high school mathematics teacher, and college mathematics instructor. She graduated from Elon University with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and Fayetteville State University with a master's degree in education. She attended Gardner-Webb University for her master's degree in administration and her doctoral degree in educational leadership. Dr. Thomas has presented at various district and state educational conferences over the years. Awards and recognitions include 2012-2013 finalist for the Cumberland County Teacher of the Year, 2014 Fayetteville Observer 40 Under 40 award and 2015 Woman of the Year Award by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Under her leadership Bladen County Schools was granted the 2021-2022 Award for the Outstanding Migrant Education Program by NCDPI.

Dr. Thomas is an advocate for self-care and makes sure she gets 7-8 hours of sleep each night. She bowls once a week and enjoys roller skating, traveling and golfing when she can. She is married to Ray Thomas and they have a fur-baby cat named Miracle.

PERSONAL LEADERSHIP BELIEF

"As a leader, we must allow those that work for us do the job they were hired to do. We cannot do everything and be an effective leader. We must learn to delegate and assist when needed. When we lead with the "Trust & Inspire" mindset, people will want to work for us and with us."