



**BRYAN ALLEN STEVENSON  
SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE**

## Meet Dr. Julius Mullen

*The Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence*  
*Executive Director*



**Dr. Julius Mullen** comes to BASSE with over two decades of education experience, executive leadership, non-profit management, and behavioral health expertise. A native of Sussex county, Julius brings a unique set of skills, knowledge, and background which align perfectly with the fundamental mission of BASSE - proximity. Dr. Mullen has embraced the concept of proximity throughout his professional and personal journey. He has earned a portfolio of credentials and experiences propelling his ability toward getting proximate or closer to solving real challenges impacting so many students and families in Delaware. He has served as the chief clinical officer

for Children & Families First for the last ten years primarily overseeing an array of education services. Julius graduated with an education doctorate in innovation and leadership from Wilmington University; completed executive leadership certification from University of Michigan and Alliance of Strong Families and Communities; managed multi-million dollar education program operations; lead a variety of school-based multi-tier services; taught hundreds of doctorate, master and bachelor level education, psychology and prevention science courses; developed and implemented a grassroots parent-driven mentoring program and trained thousands of education professionals, mental health practitioners, community leaders, parents and youth in a variety of topics. Dr. Mullen values the significance of board governance and education policy as he sits on several state and national boards including the role of interim president for Trauma Matters Delaware, long-term board member for Sussex Child Health Coalition (founding board president), former board member for professional mental health counselor, board member of national Executive Leadership Institute and advisory member of the national education policy committee for Social Current.

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Complimenting his educational leadership expertise, Dr. J is a licensed professional counselor of mental health in Delaware, a nationally board-certified counselor, and trained in several evidence-based therapeutic interventions. He is also a national expert in trauma-informed care/social-emotional learning where he conducts keynotes, presentations, and seminars at national conferences and events. He also developed and lead several organization-wide initiatives at Children & Families First including a Brain Science Training Institute for professional and community disciplines, a professional development program for leaders, and a trauma response support team for helping professionals. Most recently, Julius has increased his attention on infusing equity policies and procedures across systems where he co-chaired United Way Racial Justice Collaborative, serves on Populations of Inequities Coalition with Beebe Healthcare, and oversees an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force at Children & Families First. Dr. J and his wife, Natasha wrote two children's books Just Love Me and I Got A Big Brain highlighting student diversity and youth resilience in schools.

Reflecting on his new role, Julius commented, "I am excited, honored, and humbled to join a diverse team of talented and compassionate parents, students, founders, board members, professionals, and stakeholders. Our mission focuses on proximity which emphasizes the closer we get to people and things, the better we understand the answers. We will use hands-on service opportunities, academic rigor, personalized learning, and community partnerships to help students be who they were meant to be regardless of any life circumstance. When we "get closer" to understanding what matters most to students, a bridge of hope, healing, and promise can make the ultimate difference in a child's trajectory. Families, generations, and communities can be forever changed. Our school plan is to partner with other schools in Sussex County by ensuring options for all students to obtain the most suitable education based on their holistic needs. There is no "I" in BASSE but there is a powerful "A". The success of our school will take All of us, so All educational dreams and aspirations for All students can be realized."



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## Meet Crystal Timmons-Bryant

*The Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence*

*Director of Development*



**Crystal Timmons-Bryant** has worked in Nonprofit for over 15 years, building and maintaining grassroots relationships with funders, social service partners, community, faith leaders, elected officials, and others throughout the state. Over the last 7 years building her business consulting for Nonprofits she helped to improve the quality of life for all Delawareans by focusing on improving community outcomes in the areas of education, income, and health.

Crystal started her career in Nonprofit with the Food Bank of Delaware as the Milford Branch Manager. Crystal's role evolved when she took over the Summer Food Service and After School at Risk Food Service Program through the Department of Education, she and her team served meals to over 2,000,000 at-risk youth in one summer throughout Delaware. Crystal also secured a grant that led her to work with Feeding America as a train-the-trainer and helped to

open several school pantries in at-risk communities in other states as well as securing funding to pilot school base mobile pantries in all three counties which lead to securing the funding to open more. During that time Crystal also secured a grant to purchase a mobile food truck that provided mobile pantries in the at-risk communities. Crystal worked with local businesses and community members to secure funding for a capital campaign for the Milford Expansion that would provide a culinary school and training program in Sussex County.

During her time at The Food Bank of Delaware, Crystal, a single mother, completed her Bachelor of Science in Communication with a concentration on Asian, African American, and Hispanic cultures. Crystal knew the importance of wrap-around services for people needing a hand up and knew she wanted to be able to help raise awareness and money to provide the services for those in need. Crystal started working with United Way of Delaware as their Community Relations Manager and was responsible for fundraising, community engagement activities, and advancing UWD's relationships with stakeholders throughout Sussex County. During this time, Crystal used her skills in grant writing and secured a USDA grant that provided her the first

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\$300,000.00 to build a Poultry Farm in Sussex County. Crystal took pride in her farm and placed as a top grower several times before selling in 2018.

For the past five years, Crystal has served as a consultant for Sussex County Health Coalition where she helped drive the mission to engage the entire community in a collaborative family-focused effort to improve the health of children, youth, and families in Sussex County by working in proximity with public, private and nonprofits.

Crystal's love of the community and desire to provide EVERYONE who works and lives in this community a place of hope. La Esperanza became near and dear to her after her friend Matt Haley introduced her to the Carmelite Sisters of Charity—Sister Maria Mairlot, Sister Rosa Alvarez, and Sister Ascencion Banegas, Crystal started volunteering and later became the Interim Executive Director in 2015 & 2016 where she worked closely with the board to hire and train the leadership and grow programs. For the past two years, Crystal acted as a part-time operations consultant.

Crystal has volunteered her services to many smaller nonprofits in Sussex County helping them with startup questions, board governance, and grant writing.

Crystal is excited and eager to bring her skills to the team at BASSE and continue to support the mission to create pathways through proximity, for our students, their families, and our community.