

OTIS D. HACKNEY, III

BSED '98



OTIS D. HACKNEY, III is a talented and compassionate educator who has dedicated his career to serving Philadelphia's youth.

Currently, Hackney is the chief education officer for the City of Philadelphia in the Mayor's Office of Education. He was appointed to this role by Mayor James Kenney in 2016 and has been charged with the development and implementation of community schools and the City's pre-kindergarten program, PHLpreK. He also helped lead the School District of Philadelphia through the challenge of returning to a mayoral-appointed school board.

Prior to his appointment as chief education officer, Hackney developed a reputation as a gifted educator, teaching secondary mathematics at Germantown High School and completed his principal's internship at Overbrook High School while a graduate student studying educational leadership.

In 2006, he was appointed assistant principal of South Philadelphia High School and became the assistant principal of Springfield Township High School the following year. In 2008, Hackney was appointed principal of Springfield Township High School, the first African American to serve in this capacity in that school district.

Hackney returned to South Philadelphia High School in 2010 as principal. There, he helped heal racial divisions and fostered a collaborative, welcoming environment, successfully guiding the school through three years of compliance with a U.S. Department of Justice consent decree. He was determined to bolster academic achievement and transform the school into a model for other diverse urban high schools. The Philadelphia Inquirer chronicled the transformation of the school under his leadership throughout 2010 and 2011.

The Cheltenham Chapter of the NAACP recognized him with its Trailblazer Award for his work at Springfield Township High School and he has received a Barrymore Award for excellence in theater education and community service. He also serves on the board of Research for Action, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving opportunities and outcomes for all students.

After completing his bachelor's degree from Temple, Hackney earned his master's degree from Lehigh University.