

**Dr. Equasia Yard-Jean** is a distinguished educator with nearly 30 years of experience serving diverse learning communities across all educational settings, including Head Start, elementary, middle, high school, and higher education. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from York College (CUNY), a Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education, and a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Brooklyn College. Dr. Yard-Jean's academic journey culminated in a Doctorate in Instructional Leadership from St. John's University. Her scholarly research has been recognized with the **NYU PDK International Award** and the **Adelaide Sanford Award** in 2023.

Throughout her career, Dr. Yard-Jean has made a profound impact as a classroom teacher, literacy coach, and assistant principal serving incarcerated students. Her advocacy and leadership supported numerous students in earning their GEDs and high school diplomas, contributing to efforts to reduce recidivism through education. She currently serves as a **school district administrator**, where she supports principals in addressing chronic absenteeism and implementing innovative strategies to engage underrepresented student populations who were at risk of disengaging or dropping out. Her expertise also includes the design and facilitation of professional development for educators and nonprofit organizations.

Beyond her district leadership, Dr. Yard-Jean serves on the executive board of the **PDK International NYU Chapter**, advancing research and dialogue in the field of education. She is an active member of the **New York Academy of Public Education**, where her research was published in 2023. She also proudly serves as **Leadership Chair** and **Past Education Chair** of **NCBWSC 100**, an organization dedicated to empowering young women and girls through education, health, advocacy, and economic empowerment.

In addition, Dr. Yard-Jean is an adjunct professor at the **University of Mount Saint Vincent**, where she empowers students from diverse backgrounds to critically examine and dismantle systemic barriers to educational equity. As a visionary educational leader, Dr. Yard-Jean continues to inspire meaningful changes within educational systems, ensuring that every student can thrive and succeed.

