

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Summer Principals Academy Students Recognized for Cincinnati School Leaders Fellowship

SPA | New York City 2020 Cohort members each receive full funding thanks to the Cincinnati School Leaders Fellowship.

Press Conference: Monday, December 7, 2020 via Zoom Webinar. [Register here.](#)

Media Contact: Yolanda Davis | yd2452@tc.columbia.edu
Easton Clary | ec3542@tc.columbia.edu

New York, NY – December 2020 – Crystal Watson and Dean Bryson have been selected as the Cincinnati School Leaders Fellowship recipients. The Cincinnati School Leaders Fellowship at Summer Principals Academy | New York City (SPA|NYC) is made possible by Cincinnati Public Schools, Accelerate Great Schools, and Teach for America Ohio. Due to their generosity, Teachers College Columbia University prides itself on extending fellowship offers to aspiring school leaders in financial support of their attendance to SPA|NYC.

"Scarcity of scholarship opportunities often impedes the ability to participate in our program," said Director of Summer Principals Academy at Teachers College Dr. Brian K. Perkins. He notes, "I am elated to welcome these passionate educators to SPA and to celebrate the leadership they will provide in public education in the future."

"This scholarship has allowed me to pursue my own freedom through education without additional financial burden to my family and from such a remarkable and rigorous institution aligning to my goals as a leader," said Ms. Crystal Watson, 2020 fellowship recipient and teacher at Cincinnati Public Schools. "I feel honored to be able to learn alongside other brilliant minds dedicated to increasing opportunities for freedom through quality education for all kids and communities."

"Building on my skills as a teacher leader, the Summer Principals Academy at Teachers College has positioned me to grow as an aspiring school leader, especially in the areas of decision making and leading with graceful accountability," said Dean Bryson, 2020 fellowship recipient and intervention specialist at Cincinnati Public Schools. "Receiving this scholarship award has empowered me to develop my leadership skills further, so that I can pursue educational equity here in Cincinnati."

Anthony Williams, Teacher for America Director of Statewide Impact explains, "We have invested in the Cincinnati School Leader Fellowship because we know how important high quality and well-trained talent is to the success schools. Students get leaders who approach their work with an equity lens, are critical of the systems impacting the community, and are now part of a larger network of educators they leverage as support throughout their careers."

This past summer at Summer Principals Academy was unlike any summer the program has experienced thus far. With the formidable challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic, SPA students attended class virtually and engaged in discussion around the role of education leaders during a worldwide pandemic. Faculty incorporated scenarios and challenges that the pandemic brought to life into class exercises, case studies, and assignments so that students would be prepared to lead in the world as we know it and overcome any hurdles they may encounter in the future.

SPA will celebrate the achievement of these fellowship recipients on Monday, December 7, at 2:30 pm CST/3:30 pm EST with a virtual press event to extend an official congratulations and to welcome prospective reporters.

For additional information on the Summer Principals Academy and its curriculum, visit our website at www.tc.columbia.edu/spa, or email directly to spanycinfo@tc.columbia.edu. To register for the Summer Principals Academy Cincinnati School Leaders Fellowship Press Conference on Monday, December 7, please visit our [registration website here.](#)

About Summer Principals Academy

Summer Principals Academy is a proven & effective principal training program through which aspiring school leaders earn a master's degree in Education Leadership from Teachers College, Columbia University, the oldest and largest graduate school of education in the United States. Advocating innovation, creativity, and risk-taking to promote institutional change, our outstanding faculty introduce students to new possibilities for student learning, school improvement, social equity, and creative school design. With cohorts in both New York City & New Orleans, teachers from all over the U.S. and abroad can earn their master's degree in just 14 months without having to miss a day of teaching. Applications for Summer 2021 are now open and can be found at tc.edu/apply.

Media Contacts

Yolanda Davis, Associate Director
yd2452@tc.columbia.edu

Easton Clary, SPA PR Intern
ec3542@tc.columbia.edu

Summer Principals Academy | New York

525 West 120th Street
New York, NY 10027
Email: spanyc@tc.columbia.edu
Phone: (212) 870-8605
<https://www.tc.columbia.edu/spa>

Summer Principals Academy | New Orleans

540 Broadway Street, Room 307
New Orleans, LA 70118
Email: spanolainfo@tc.columbia.edu
Phone: (504) 522-3395
<https://www.tc.columbia.edu/spa>



Crystal Watson

Teacher Hartwell Elementary School,
Cincinnati, OH

Summer Principals Academy,
Teachers College 2020 Cohort



Dean Bryson

Intervention Specialist, Robert A. Taft
IT High School, Cincinnati, OH

Summer Principals Academy,
Teachers College 2020 Cohort