

Dr. Timothy Purnell

*Chief Executive Officer AMS (American Montessori Society)*



Dr. Timothy Purnell is an innovative leader, strategic planner and inspiring educator who proudly serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the American Montessori Society.

Striving for excellence in education has been of utmost importance throughout his dedicated 18 + years, serving in roles as educator, administrator, superintendent and now as Chief Executive Officer.

Dr. Purnell served as the superintendent of Somerville Schools and on the NJ State Board of Examiners, was superintendent of Harding Township, and previously held positions as a

principal, vice principal and science teacher. In addition to these roles prior to AMS, Dr. Purnell currently is an adjunct professor at Montclair State University in the Health Science department and an Executive Board member for both *District Administration* and *Hope + Future*. In showcasing his devotion to the future of education, Dr. Purnell is a nationally recognized presenter and keynote speaker; speaking at numerous events in settings both grand and intimate, including two TEDx talks entitled, “Truth in Leadership: #getoffyourisland” and “Grace and Courtesy: Building a Better World.” He also has held numerous honors and awards throughout his career. He was one of just 100 educators selected to attend President Obama’s ConnectED Initiative at the White House, recipient of the 2019 Many Are One Award and 2017 Spirit of Somerset County, selected as the 2016 NASS National Superintendent of the Year, honored as the 2015 Highest Rated Professor in the nation and received the “Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation School Leadership Award” (for studying public education in Italy). His passion and enthusiasm for education is palpable. Dr. Purnell holds a strong belief that children must have a voice in their own educational journey and provides advocacy for continuing the quality of Montessori education.