



## Chris Hooten

Director of Diversity, Equity, and Community Engagement; Internships Director, The Downtown School

Chris (they/them) is an experienced educator and belonging practitioner with a record of creating inclusive learning environments that honor and cultivate students' agency in their learning. Throughout their career, they have developed programs, initiatives, and practices that shift institutional cultures towards the approach of inclusion, cultural appreciation, and growth. As an educator, they've taught English in Kinigi, Rwanda, fourth grade in Washington DC, and high school in Seattle, WA.

Throughout their practice, they've honed their skill as an expert community builder who lovingly challenges and supports each student, faculty member, staff person, and their families to contribute to a school in which equity is the expectation in all experiences. Chris leads with love and infuses humor, pop culture, storytelling, and empathy in their practice of leading institutions through knowledge acquisition, reflection, and antiracism.

They received their Bachelor's degree in Political Science with a concentration in Gender Studies from Indiana University-Bloomington and their Master's in Education and Human Development from George Washington University.

Chris is a dark-skinned nonbinary person descended from enslaved Black Americans and is a member of the Queer, Trans, and Neurodiverse communities. For most of their life, they lived in extreme poverty and experienced housing and food insecurity. Outside of work, you can usually find them voraciously reading Queer feminist poetry, planning a trip, jogging very slowly, or walking in nature.