

DR. SONYA WHITAKER

Dr. Sonya L. Whitaker is a dynamic national speaker and highly regarded educator with over 25 years of experience at every level of the educational system. Her experience includes serving for a combined total of 7 years as Superintendent of Schools. She has also served in the capacity of Director of Literacy, principal, assistant principal and classroom teacher. Dr. Whitaker's unquenchable thirst for knowledge has led to her pursuing and successfully obtaining the National Superintendent's Certification, sponsored by The School Superintendent's Association (AASA). She is one of only four educators in the State of Illinois to do so.

Dr. Sonya Whitaker is the author of the book entitled *Is There Anybody That Can Teach Me How to Read?* She is currently in the process of writing her second book in which she introduces what she identifies as the *Six Core Competencies Deeply Engrained in Culturally Responsive Leaders*. She refers to these competencies as: *Game Changers*.

Her work was recently published in the September 2018 edition of the American Camp Association's *Camping Magazine*. In addition, she has published a professional development DVD (made available world-wide) with Heinemann Educational publishing company which is entitled: *The Culturally Responsive Teacher: How Understanding Culture Positively Impacts Instruction and Student Achievement*.

Her career highlights include serving as a moderator for the National Bullying Conference hosted at Columbia College in New York, New York. In February 2018, Dr. Whitaker delivered two workshop presentations in Orlando, Florida during the annual conference hosted by the American Camp Association.

Dr. Whitaker and her husband are the parents of two oldest sons. Their first born is a college freshman and their youngest son is in grade 8.