



NBCDI
National Black Child
Development Institute

NBCDI NAMES

DR. LEAH AUSTIN

As President & CEO in Support of its New #50forward Strategy

*Lifelong Educator
Visionary
Black Child Advocate
Policy Reformer, Leader*

New Leadership to Shepherd in the Next Level of Impact for Black Children and Families

SILVER SPRING, MD (July 26, 2021) — It's a New Day at NBCDI! In support of its 50th Anniversary's #50Forward strategy, the National Black Child Development Institute, Inc. (NBCDI) today announced Dr. Leah Austin as its new President & CEO. After conducting a national search, we are pleased that Dr. Austin will join NBCDI on August 2, 2021. She will bring over two decades of experience in education; philanthropy and social justice advocacy; to guide the implementation of the #50Forward initiative designed to build momentum and chart a course for NBCDI's next 50 years of impact on the lives of Black children and families.

"The dynamics of life have changed drastically in one year as a result of the pandemic and our Black communities, especially our children, have experienced cumulative trauma, loss of loved ones, hunger, and social isolation from quarantine and virtual learning," said Board Chairman T. Anthony Waller. "As we support our communities' recovery, Leah is a heavy-hitter in education and policy, who will lead the fight to change outdated systems that perpetuate disadvantages."

No stranger to NBCDI, Leah served as an intern under NBCDI's founder Ms. Evelyn Moore, and as one of its Policy Fellows. Most recently, she worked at The Schott Foundation for Public Education, supporting education justice organizing, and has also worked at the United Way of Greater Atlanta and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, among other organizations and educational institutions. Dr. Austin's immediate focus will be to align NBCDI's strategic vision against the unique needs of Black families today; and to expand and deepen the organization's influence and footprint.

"I am honored and excited to serve in this role," said Dr. Austin. **"The mission of NBCDI "to improve and advance the quality of life for Black children and families through education and advocacy" is as relevant today as it was in 1970 when the organization was established. At the same time, this is an opportunity to shape how this great organization serves them in this new day."**

During 2021, NBCDI is celebrating its 50th anniversary, which was delayed due to the pandemic. A new cohort of NBCDI Policy Fellows, revamped programs, and a stronger brand presence are key initiatives underway at the organization. To learn more about NBCDI, donate, or become an affiliate, visit www.NBCDI.org or @NBCDI on social media.

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