

# BRANDI NICOLE CHIN, PHD

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## Thought Leadership

Recognized as a thought leader in education, with features in Education Week and Teach Like a Champion (TLAC) for driving transformative outcomes in schools.

Highlighted in RELAY Graduate School of Education's Follow the Leaders Series for fostering a culture of high expectations, mastery of standards, and academic excellence.

## Key Leadership Competencies

- Strategic Planning and Execution • Leadership Development & Management
- Data-Driven Decision Making • Leadership Development • Organizational Alignment
- Board Relations and Governance • Cultivating a High Performing & Values Driven Culture

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## Experience

### Partner, Quality Schools & Talent (aka Chief of Schools & Talent)

#### The Opportunity Trust, St. Louis, MO | 2022 – Present

- Handpicked by the CEO and Board to lead a department merger, restructuring the schools team and new schools portfolio for greater alignment and efficiency.
- Directed a \$6.5 portfolio of charter and transitional schools serving 11,000 students, leading talent programming and strategic initiatives to increase quality seats in St. Louis by 25% by 2027.
- Oversaw the full lifecycle of investment work, including due diligence, Board recommendations, impact evaluations, and grantee support.
- Designed a data-driven "proof point" strategy to refine strategic planning, enhance focus, and strengthen feedback loops, ensuring outcomes-driven decision-making.
- Developed systems to enhance Board relations and governance, facilitating seamless communication and progress monitoring.
- Secured a \$33M federal grant for charter expansion and led efforts to ensure high-quality outcomes for grant-recipient schools.
- Expanded the impact of talent and advocacy programming, driving higher retention, promotion rates, and performance among participants compared to peers.

## **Assistant Superintendent**

### **Uncommon Schools Camden Prep Region, Camden, NJ | 2021 – 2022**

- Lead and managed a region of six schools (\$22M budget), driving student outcomes and operational efficiency.
- Launched a new middle school and led the expansion of a high school, both of which became the highest-performing schools in the region.
- Lead restructure to create the condition for the turnaround of underperforming schools.
- Designed and implemented leadership training initiatives across multiple regions, strengthening instructional capacity, enhancing compliance, and advancing organizational vision.
- Fostered Board relationships and lead regional development, recruitment, marketing, and external initiatives to align governance with organizational goals and drive regional success.

## **Founding School Director**

### **DSST Middle School @ Noel Campus, Denver, CO | 2017 – 2021**

- Promoted to Executive School Director, overseeing my own school while coaching and mentoring other school directors and associate directors, elevating academic outcomes region-wide.
- Successfully led in one of the nation's top-performing charter networks, DSST Public Schools, recognized as national model of excellence.
- Founded and led DSST middle school ranked #1 citywide (out of 207 schools) for ELA and Math growth, and #2 statewide (out of 536 schools).
- Implemented data-driven systems that improved academic performance and staff retention, achieving the #2 highest retention rate in the network.

## **NPAF Advisory & LLI Coach**

### **RELAY Graduate School of Education, National | 2017 – 2023**

- Coached and developed 100+ network and school leaders nationwide on strategic planning, systems development and implementation, and adaptive leadership skills, consistently meeting or exceeding program benchmarks.

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## Additional Roles

- Senior Research Analyst, Denver Public Schools (2011–2013)
  - Adjunct Professor, University of Northern Colorado (2012–2013)
  - Co-Instructor, University of Denver (2009–2010)
  - Research Analyst, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (2008–2011)
  - Legislative Aide, Colorado State Senate (2008)
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## Service & Recognition

- Fellow, Leverage Leadership Institute, RELAY Graduate School of Education (2020–2021):
    - Achieved the highest distinction, “Platinum Level,” upon program completion.
    - Certified to lead professional development for a national audience through LLI.
  - Fellow, National Principals Academy Fellowship, RELAY Graduate School of Education (2015–2016).
  - Editorial Board Member, Research in the Schools Journal (2008–2014).
  - State Review Panelist, Colorado Department of Education (2012–2014):
    - Provided evaluations and recommendations to the Commissioner and State Board of Education for turnaround schools and districts, focusing on sustained improvement strategies.
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## Education

BGS, Organizational Studies | University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI | 2003

MEd, K-12 Education, Certificate in Adult Education | Regis University, Denver, CO | 2006

PhD, Higher Education, Cognate: Statistics | University of Denver, Denver, CO | 2010