



## **Dr. Monique Perry-Graves**

Executive Director

Teach for America North Carolina

Dr. Monique Perry-Graves is a transformative leader and board director with over 20 years of experience leading in the business, non-profit, and higher education sectors. She has a relentless passion for education born from her lived experience becoming a young mom as she was graduating high school and the unwavering belief in her potential from her family, education and professional villages.

In July 2021, Dr. Perry-Graves began serving as Teach For America's first tri-region statewide Executive Director leading TFA's entire North Carolina footprint. As TFA's chief executive for the state, she leads multiple teams spanning Charlotte, the Piedmont-Triad, Triangle, and Eastern North Carolina, along with its two advisory boards in support of TFA's vision to ensure every child has access to an excellent education. In her first two years, she successfully led North Carolina's transition from a multi-region portfolio to unified statewide model, forged new statewide and national partnerships with entities such as the Aspen Institute and the Center for Creative while amplifying the impact of the TFA NC's network of educators and alumni during the initial recovery from COVID-19.

Prior to joining TFA she spent over a decade in leadership in the community college sector at York Technical College, starting in the classroom as faculty, and spending the majority of her tenure leading the college's student affairs/enrollment management divisions and its Chester and Lancaster County campuses. During her time as a college administrator, she received the State of South Carolina's A. Wade Martin Innovator of the Year award. In 2020, she was named one of 50 Most Influential Women leading in the Charlotte region by the Mecklenburg Times. Additionally, she was named to the Power 100 list by the Charlotte Business Journal in 2023. In Summer 2024, the Charlotte Business Journal named her to the Most Admired CEO's List.

Dr. Perry-Graves is also long-time community leader serving on numerous boards and advisory committees, including the Charlotte Executive Leadership Council (CELC) Education Working Group, Governor Roy Cooper's task force for the recruitment and retention of diverse educators (DRIVE), WGU North Carolina, Education NC, Junior League, and North Carolina Central University's College of Arts, Sciences and Humanities. She also serves as a private company director on the board for the Circle In App.

Dr. Perry-Graves completed her undergraduate studies at North Carolina Central University. After that, she earned a masters in strategic communication and leadership from Seton Hall University, and completed her doctorate at the University of Florida. She is an Aspen Institute Presidential Fellow, Inroads alum, a proud mom of an adult son, and pandemic bride.