



# CREW PROFILE

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University Prep Schools provides a culturally responsive educational experience for our scholars that builds that academic competence, habits of work and scholarship, and self-actualization empowering them to successfully accomplish their post-secondary plans, as well as socially and civically engaged as change agents for themselves and their community.

## *Who or what inspired you to become a Kindergarten teacher?*

My father was an educator in a high school for thirty years, and we would often talk about education while I assisted him with grading papers. He inspired me to pursue a career in education. I originally wanted to be a high school teacher, but it was during these discussions that I discovered the importance of a strong educational foundation, and that these students had a need that wasn't being met at the elementary level. It was then I decided that my skills would best be utilized by providing that strong foundation to our kinder students.

## *What do you love most about teaching Kindergarten scholars?*

I love watching how scholars grow, especially how they make sense of the world. Their minds are like sponges that soak up every little thing, and it's amazing to see them latch on to your words and lessons, trying to emulate them the best way possible.

## *What advice do you have for parents who are seeking a school for their Kindergarten scholar?*

My advice to parents would be to find a school that presents itself as above the rest and teaches students that they are worthy and loved and capable of all they dream of. The school should also provide them with an excellent education to give them the foundation they need for life. My advice would be to enroll their scholars in a U Prep School.

## *How does U Prep's program prepare Kindergarten scholars for their educational journey?*

U Prep's Kindergarten program sets the foundation for learning; it all starts with Kinder! Our young Kinder scholars come to us at the tender ages of four and five years old, and we allow them time to play as well as time to learn and grow. As time goes on and scholars get used to being in school, they will learn how to interact with one another, how to behave in a school setting, and learn the basics of Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies. We teach scholars they have value, and that they are capable of doing great things if they work hard and believe in themselves, which sets them up for success on their educational journey.

## *Describe a memorable experience that you had with a Kindergarten scholar in your classroom?*

There have been so many memorable experiences with my scholars over the years, but one moment that sticks out to me was during my third year of teaching. A student was having trouble at the beginning of the year adjusting to and understanding the rules of the classroom. I reached out to her mother early on and discuss ways we could help her scholar adjust to school. The next day, I sat down with her and explained why it's important to follow the rules at school, and it turned out she had a slight misunderstanding that was cleared up simply by talking to her. That was a very important lesson for me, one that I still employ to this day.

## *What philosophical saying or belief do you live by?*

"Don't make excuses, make improvements." - Sometimes things don't go the way we want them to. Instead of focusing on what went wrong, or how you may have "failed," focus on what you can fix so you can do better in the future.