

CREW PROFILE



**GIOVANNIE "MR. GEE"
THOMAS**

**UNIVERSITY PREP ART
& DESIGN MIDDLE AND
HIGH SCHOOL**

**HIRE DATE:
SEPTEMBER OF
2018**

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.

Please share a little about the career experience that prepared you for your current position of School Operations Manager.

I have over 18 years of experience in Education. I've spent 2 years with the University of Phoenix as an Admission's Counselor, 11 years at the International Academy of Design & Technology (IADT) in various roles such as Admissions Representative, Retention Coordinator, and Student Services Manager, 3 years with The Art Institute of Michigan (Ai) in Academic Affairs/Advising, before joining the Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies, which is now University Prep Art & Design

What do you love most about working at U Prep Schools?

I love working at a company that values the voices of all stakeholders who make up our community.

What advice would you give a new student who enrolled in a U Prep School?.

- You can do this!
- Change is never easy but it's most definitely necessary to grow.
- Believe in yourself.
- Use your VOICE!
- Challenge yourself
- Settle for nothing less than your very best.
- You GOT THIS!

What advice would you give a prospective teacher who is considering joining the U Prep crew?

The advice that I would give to a new teacher is to empathize with your students. Get to know them and let them get to know you. Feel their challenges, their sacrifices, their joys, their hurts, and allow their voices to be heard.

What mantra or belief do you live by?

"If not me, then who?"