



OUR TEAM

EBONY PAYNO, M.A.

Lead Professional Learning Specialist



BIOGRAPHY

"In her novel, A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of 'A Course in Miracles', Marianne Williamson wrote, "And, as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others". As I am fortunate to continue to expand my knowledge and expertise in the field of school counseling, it is my purpose and responsibility to not only share it with others, but to also empower them with it."

Ebony has been instrumental in assisting families throughout Georgia with their educational, professional, and personal endeavors since 2003. She is originally from San Diego, California, and relocated to Georgia to earn her Master of Arts degree in School Counseling from Clark Atlanta University. Prior to joining the Hatching Results team, Ebony served as a high school counselor and counseling department chair for the past 16 years with both Fulton County Schools and Cobb County School District. She is also a proud member of ASCA, GSCA, CSCA, NACAC, and founder of Succeed with DRIVE, LLC., a college and career readiness program. She has served as the Peer Helper Committee Chair and Mentoring Committee Co-Chair for GSCA and the Membership Chair and HS Work-setting Chair for CSCA.

Ebony is the author of two publications, *Not Your Average Educator Resource Book: A Simple Holistic Guide to Program Planning and Execution for the School Counselor and Student Support Staff* and *Not Your Average Scholarship Workbook: Leading Students to Success from Start to Finish*. She is the recipient of the 2019 Cobb School Counselor Association and Georgia School Counselor Association Writer of the Year awards. Ebony brings her vast experience, passion, and high energy into the communities in which she serves, striving to assist school counselors along their journey to become intentional and empowering change agents for students.

PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- 2019 Cobb School Counselor Association Writer of the Year
- 2019 Georgia School Counselor Association Writer of the Year
- 2016-2018 National Dropout Prevention Specialist
- Presenter at various state and national conferences
- Author of *Not Your Average Educator Resource Book: A Simple Holistic Guide to Program Planning and Execution for the School Counselor and Student Support Staff*
- Author of *Not Your Average Scholarship Workbook: Leading Students to Success from Start to Finish*

TESTIMONIALS

"Ebony equipped my students with the information they need to reach their fullest potential in high school and beyond. Her infectious and magnetic personality engages students to want to know more! A true gem that shines!"

-Sharon Caldwell, Fulton County School District, Sandy Springs, GA

"Ebony Payno is a young, enthusiastic, caring, creative, conscientious professional. I have watched her grow from a newly minted counselor to an administrator dedicated to making a difference in the lives of her students."

-Phyllis Wyatt Watson, Retired TRIO Director, Atlanta, GA

FUN FACTS

- Ebony is the parent of the sweetest dog, Butter, with her amazing husband who believes laughter is the best medicine.
- Ebony is a dedicated Chargers fan (even after they moved to LA).
- Ebony's favorite thing to do is spend hours on a beautiful beach eating good food and snorkeling with her husband.



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