

I am excited to be a part of Baylor College of Medicine Academy at Ryan and its trend-setting programs for our students. I hail from the beautiful island of St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands where I was born and raised. I majored in Biology/PreMed at the University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas Campus then later transferred to St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida where I completed my Bachelors of Arts Degree in Biology with a minor in Environmental Studies. It was there I was awarded the S.A.F.E Scholarship (Study Abroad For the Earth) in 1995 to visit the Assisi Nature Council, in Assisi, Italy to learn about sustainability and ecology as part of its summer internship program for Bio majors. College for me was not only about studying, it was also about connecting with the children of the Opalocka, Miami Community, where I was later appointed the Lead Tutor position of the university's Community Outreach After-school Tutorial Program.

Upon the completion of my degree, I returned to the Virgin Islands and was offered a 7th Grade PreAP/General Science teaching position with the Virgin Islands Department of Education, and have been teaching Middle School since 1998. During the course of my teaching career, I have also chaired the Science Department for three consecutive years, organized the school's Annual Science Fair, coached the District STEM Fair and Solar Car Race participants, held the positions of Team Leader and Team Leader.

Most recently, from 2014 to Summer 2016 I have been heavily involved in a Teacher Action Research Program with (VI-EPSCoR) the Virgin Islands Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. This program promotes the development of the Science and Technology resources using multi-disciplinary research and educational program. One such program is the Virgin Island STEM Institute. In 2014, I started my school's very first Robotics Team- which ultimately made headliner in April of this year during Robotics Week. As Lead Author, under the directorship of Dr. Celil Ekici, the VI STEM Institute Director, my research team and I had the opportunity to share and have significant discussions with other researchers in the community. Our research is an "Interdisciplinary Teacher Collaboration to Engage Students in STEM Learning with the Use of Robotics."-with a special interest in minorities and females. In May of this year, my team and I submitted a proposal to (ISEA) International STEM Education Association which was accepted.

I am honored to have learned so much in my teaching career- and I consider myself blessed with rich experiences, connections and mentors. I do come from a family of educators, and I feel that teaching naturally is 'in my blood.' I readily connect with Middle Schoolers and enjoy their insight and value their contributions. Not only am I a teacher, I am also a proud mother of five children- one of whom attends BCMA. I am passionate about teaching science, interacting with families and student achievement. I look forward to an exciting year at BCMA as we learn together!

Respectfully,