

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Many people struggle wondering what their destiny in life is. I believe that we all were created for a reason and should be inspired to help others using our gifts and talents. We all have something that is exclusive and valuable. Steven Pavlina once said, “Not believing that you have a purpose won’t prevent you from discovering it, just as a lack of belief in gravity won’t prevent you from tripping”. I often ask myself, “Who am I?” “What am I supposed to do in this world?” Am I a young woman in search for life’s treasures trying to fulfill my ancestor’s dreams? As I journey through life, I realize that I am a bee searching for honeycomb. Just like a honey bee, its life purpose is to pollinate plants collecting nectar to make honey—keeping life on earth going. My purpose is to add value to the lives of others, helping to improve the quality of life in our youth and communities. I plan to achieve this goal through my passion for adolescent advancement as an educator and within the realms of Servant Leadership.

It’s been said that discovering your purpose is the easy part. The hard part is keeping up with your dream. I dream; yet I am awake. I am aware of the world around me and understand there are different needs and desires. I dream of place that fosters its people. I dream of a world that cultivates its people to be valued members of society. I ask myself, how many people share the same dream? How will I stand out? I have always had a gift to inspire—whether inspiring myself, family, peers, or even strangers. I discovered this gift at a very young age through the arts. I was born and artist. I’ve

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curated many things and developed art of all mediums and from all walks of life. Of all forms of art that I have involved myself in, none have been as rewarding as the art of teaching. Many question the profession of teaching. Teaching is a calling. As I transitioned into my career as an educator, I realized teaching in itself is a form of art. Being an educator allows me to share my blessing. It's like a performance. I am privileged to stand in front, alongside, and with the best audience (my scholars) as I perform (teach) every day. It allows me to be a vessel for the youth; who are not only the future, but the present as well. Working with youth has taken my passion to new levels. The most rewarding thing for me has been the experience.

The act of teaching is an art form! It takes a special person to wear the many hats of an educator, especially in special education. There is something unique and rewarding about inspiring a scholar to look beyond current circumstances and dream big. The ability to see a child, meet them where they are, and encourage them to still rise to something new is art in itself. Being a teacher is my dream—it is my purpose. I am able to be an artist. I am passionate about uplifting our youth. When looking at teaching as an art form, the question stands: Are we ever *just* teachers? The answer is no. We are teachers, lawyers, doctors, counselors, judges, mothers, fathers, friends, punching bags, confidants, warriors, dictators, mediators, motivators, helping hands and listening ears. We are the first line of defense. The one who believes when others don't. We are the ones who wake early and work late. Not for the pay; but for the passion. We are the dream-builders, seed planters, mind-builders. We are the North Star for those who are lost and the maps to help them find a way. We are the bucket to catch tears and the tissue to wipe them away. We

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are wrapping arms for those who need a hug and feel as though no one is on their side. We are the voice of reasoning the human resources to let our children know they have voices that matter. We are the ones who keeps hope through action and education even when a child has given up hope themselves. We are the family for those who are without. We are vessels that foster the talents and gifts of our youth and expose them to things they can be and so much more!

This is my purpose. As I embark on this journey to become the version of myself, I realize I am a composition of all that I encounter. It is said that teachers help mold the minds and lives of our children. Although I agree, I further believe it is our children that help mold the minds and lives of educators. I merely facilitate and redirect, but our youth drives us forward. Far too often are the voices of our youth silenced. I seek to serve our youth and provide a platform for their voices to be heard.

There are days when I ask myself, “Am I doing enough? Too much?” Then I realize this work is necessary and global. I’ve worked in many different communities, but one thing has been constant regardless of my location—the children. They all have the same wants, needs, interest and circumstances. They all want a safe place with open arms to listen and care for their needs. As an educator, I can provide that space for each scholar to feel loved, important, and safe. Knowing I impact at least one child’s life gives my passion, my life, true purpose. I am looking forward to transforming my dreams into a reality. I once sat back and wonder, “When is someone going to do something about *that?*” Then I realized I am someone.