

The Nystrand Center of Excellence in Education Presents

The Nystrand Speaker Series:

KDE and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



Thomas Woods-Tucker, Ph.D.
KDE Chief Diversity Officer and Deputy Commissioner

September 8, 2021, 4:00 -5:30 PM EST | [Register Here](#)

The Nystrand Center of Excellence in Education supports and facilitates education reform through its outstanding special programs and initiatives. Strong community partnerships are the heart of our success and serve as an inspiration for those who work so diligently to provide a better education for our children. It is our mission to continue with transformation through collaboration by leading the discussion on education reform, policy, research, and practice.



MODERATOR:

Dr. Geneva Stark
*Director of the Nystrand
Center of Excellence in
Education*

Born and raised in northeastern Arkansas, Dr. Thomas Woods-Tucker served 31 years in public school systems across the country. During that time, he held the positions of classroom teacher, assistant principal, principal, director of secondary curriculum, and superintendent. In July of 2018, Dr. Jason Glass, the newly appointed Commissioner of Education for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, selected Dr. Tucker as the agency's first Deputy Superintendent and Chief Equity Officer.

Dr. Tucker has been a trailblazer and mentor in the field of education. He was the first African-American upper level administrator in a major central Ohio district. In his first two superintendencies, he was the first African-American superintendent in the Worthington, OH City School District and the first in a multi-district county, Licking County, OH and the first African-American to lead the 68,000 student district of Douglas County. He also has mentored other educators, many of whom are women or ethnic-minorities and several of whom have become superintendents across the country. And always, Dr. Tucker has fought to provide properly for the underprivileged and those with special needs.

Dr. Tucker earned his Ph.D. and Master's from The Ohio State University and his Bachelor's degree from Philander Smith College (Little Rock, AR). He is an active member of many educational associations, civic organizations, and committees, including the Colorado Association of School Executives and the National Alliance of Black School Educators, and has served on the State of Ohio Grade Six Reading Content Advisory Committee and the Northwest Counseling Services Advisory Board. He has given numerous professional presentations across the country and internationally.

Dr. Tucker is actively involved in his church and enjoys spending time with his family, volunteering on the Princeton OH School District's Thomas S. Woods-Tucker Mobile Book Center, and debating at his favorite barber shop when he is in Columbus, OH.