

EPIC ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Myetie Hamilton takes the reins at Level 1+ Charter High School in South Chicago

Chicago, IL - EPIC Academy, a public charter high school on the far southeast side of Chicago, is thrilled to announce that Myetie Hamilton has joined the organization as Executive Director. In this role, Ms. Hamilton will lead organizational strategy and vision, fundraising and external relations, and board engagement.

“We could not have found a better person to lead our school community over the coming years,” said Josh Milberg, Chair of EPIC’s Board of Directors. “Myetie brings tremendous experience across operational, strategic and academic positions - and has shown a deep and sincere professional and personal commitment to serving the students of Chicago.”

Ms. Hamilton brings over 18 years of experience leading innovative change in K-12 education, and a deep personal and professional commitment to Chicago’s south side communities. She served most recently as Deputy Chief of Schools for Network 9 within CPS, managing transformation for 27 schools in Chicago’s Woodlawn, Bronzeville and Hyde Park communities.



“I believe deeply in supporting, mentoring and providing exposure to the youth of Chicago, allowing them the opportunity to establish and pursue their dreams,” said Myetie. “I am honored to join EPIC and look forward to building on its momentum, including impressive student growth, 100% college acceptance rate for students, and an expanding network of corporate partners and friends who open doors and pave the way for our students to realize their full potential.”

Matt King, EPIC’s founding Principal and Executive Director, will be stepping down from his role at the end of the 2016-2017 school year to relocate to Columbus, OH with his family. Moving forward, Ms. Hamilton will be the executive leader of the organization and a new principal will take on instructional leadership duties with the school. Hiring for that role is currently underway.

“Myetie shares a deep commitment to EPIC’s mission, along with experience building the capacity of school leaders and engaging stakeholders, that will help drive the vision for the future of EPIC,” said Matt King. “We are thrilled that she will be at the helm of EPIC.”

Ms. Hamilton holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management from Alabama A&M University, a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Illinois Institute of Technology and is a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow Class of 2016. She also serves as Board Chair for the Provident Foundation, which is a non-profit organization founded in 1994 by Edward Gardner and the late James Myles Jr.



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About EPIC

[EPIC Academy](#) is a public charter high school on the southeast side of Chicago that has been serving low-income students of color in grades 9-12 since 2009. The founding team saw from their years of experience in the public school system that current educational strategies were not reaching the students and neighborhoods most in need. The disconcerting reality in this nation is that less than 20% of students from low-income backgrounds will graduate from college by the age of 25. EPIC was founded in order to help change that statistic in its community. According to U.S. Census data, 84% of the adults in EPIC's zip code do not possess a bachelor's degree. EPIC's students, 94% of whom are low-income, matriculate to EPIC averaging four years behind their peers nationally in all academic areas. Additionally, when incoming freshmen are surveyed at the beginning of each year, an average of 50% report that they do not expect to go to college. In order to change students' vision about what is possible for their futures, EPIC combines unique belief-building programs with rigorous academic preparation. Students take three years of College and Career Skills class where they research career paths based on interests and strengths, determine the education they need to attain that career, and then apply to best-fit colleges, financial aid and scholarships with the guidance of their teacher. EPIC may also be the only school in Chicago that stops classes for a week in order to teach students about specific careers. Twice a year, during Intensives, students engage in projects that mimic career work with professionals in that field. EPIC's mission is to inspire and equip every student to build a path to college and career success and its long-term vision is to see its graduates return home with college degrees and career ambitions that will transform the local community.

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