

## Latoya



## Walden, EDUCATOR.

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For over 15 years, Ms. Walden has been passionately teaching and mentoring youth. After graduating from Georgia State University in 2009, Ms. Walden relocated to Washington D.C to work with Dance Place, Inc., a thriving not-for-profit in Northeast D.C. There she piloted an afterschool program teaching life skills and African dance to elementary school scholars. It was then she realized the need for scholars to know and be connected to something greater than themselves.

Upon returning to Georgia, Ms. Walden began working with Fulton County Office of Children and Youth as Program Coordinator of Priceless University. Priceless University was a program that provided young girls in Fulton County with tutoring services, summer camp, and other weekly programming that taught life skills as well as performing arts to participants. Ms. Walden's work with Priceless University gave her a different perspective on the traditional education system in America.

In 2015 she began working with Teach for America as the Operations Associate, helping to fight for equity in education. Her work helped keep Teach for America's Metro Atlanta office thriving. During her tenure, she realized an enormous need for outstanding, culturally competent teachers in the classroom. Ms. Walden answered the call and enrolled in Mercer University's graduate program in 2016, where she earned a Master of Art degree in Teaching.

Currently Ms. Walden is a teacher, teaching middle grades English Language Arts and Social Studies. For the past five years, she has also worked as a tutor with Educationally Speaking, Inc. Tutoring with Educationally Speaking allows Ms. Walden to create individualized curriculums to meet the needs of each scholar. This role has pushed Ms. Walden to create her own educational company, The Teacher's Lounge Atlanta.

The Teacher's Lounge Atlanta seeks to transform traditional education by providing what scholars and teachers need to thrive. Teachers have a lot of competition when it comes to capturing the attention of scholars. As a result, Ms. Walden heavily uses technology during instruction and encourages scholars to use critical thinking skills to solve real-world problems. This approach leads scholars to become global learners. Ms. Walden is passionate about student achievement, particularly in reading, writing, and history. In the classroom, her main objectives are to promote equity in learning *(EVERYONE can learn.)*, foster a love for learning, and help scholars realize their potential to prosper using their innate gifts and talents. If ever there is a need, Ms. Walden seeks to fill it- not only with commitment, but with patient love.