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Top Skills

Teaching
Public Speaking
Literacy

Languages

Spanish

Honors-Awards

30 K-12 IT Influencers Worth a
Follow in 2020

Publications

How a Hashtag Catalyzed PK-12
Open Educational Resources:
Reflections and Recommendations
Creating Systems of Sustainability:
Four Focus Areas for the Future of
PK-12 Open Educational Resources
#GoOpen District Launch Packet
Pandemic Planning for Distance
Learning: Scenarios and
Considerations for PreK-12
Education Leaders

Kristina Ishmael

Deputy Director, Office of Ed Tech
Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Summary

Kristina Ishmael is an educator, learner, advocate, and agent of change. As the leader of the Office of Ed Tech, she executes the office's mission of developing national edtech policy that enables everywhere, all-the-time learning and supports digital equity and opportunity.

In her nearly two-decade education career, Ishmael has worked at the federal, state, and school level, allowing her to develop a unique perspective on policy and practice and a vast network from whom she continues to learn and share. Most recently, she worked as an educational consultant and Sr. Research Fellow on New America's Teaching, Learning, & Tech team, where she advised on the inclusive technology portfolio at the intersection of open education, digital equity, and culturally responsive and sustaining education.

Ishmael's impressive career in education also includes her work as the Digital Learning Specialist for the Nebraska Department of Education, where she led professional learning, developed policy, and advocated for school librarians. This experience granted her a unique perspective on leveraging educational technology in urban, suburban, and rural school systems. Before her state leadership role, Kristina started as an early childhood and elementary teacher of emerging bilingual students in Omaha, Nebraska.

Kristina Ishmael has become a respected voice in the world of education and edtech and is a fierce advocate for equity and access to quality education for all learners.

Experience

U.S. Department of Education
Deputy Director, Office of Ed Tech
October 2021 - Present (1 year 11 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

New America

4 years 6 months

Senior Research Fellow

June 2020 - October 2021 (1 year 5 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Advised and supported the stream of work at the intersection of digital equity, culturally-responsive teaching, inclusive and representative instructional materials.

Senior Project Manager; Teaching, Learning, & Tech

January 2019 - June 2020 (1 year 6 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Supported states, districts, and educators in rethinking the role of instructional materials to be inclusive and representative, as well as created deeper learning opportunities for students by designing, planning, and executing dynamic professional learning on instructional materials, OER, copyright and licensing, and open pedagogy. Consulted on various projects across the education policy program to provide practitioner perspective on professional learning to better serve culturally and linguistically diverse students.

Public Interest Technology & Education Policy Fellow

May 2017 - December 2018 (1 year 8 months)

Washington, District Of Columbia

Collaborated with two teams to incubate and develop sustainable support structures for school districts as they transitioned to OER; coordinated a coalition of state and district leaders, nonprofits, researchers, and foundations to build capacity in PreK-12 OER professional learning; documented best practices and district stories through the development of an in-depth project site and two publications co-authored with the International Society of Technology in Education (ISTE).

Ishmael Consulting, LLC

Educational Consultant

August 2017 - October 2021 (4 years 3 months)

Tacoma, Washington, United States

Supported fellow educators, school systems, nonprofits, civil rights organizations, and other entities as they navigated today's learning environments. Designed, planned, and executed engaging professional learning for organizations, system-level leaders, and educators leveraging

strong facilitation skills, experience leading a national initiative, and passion for providing equitable access and opportunities for students and teachers. Facilitated big picture thinking for systems-level changes.

Open Education Global

Director of Primary & Secondary Education

June 2020 - February 2021 (9 months)

United States

Led the advancement of open education programs and services for K-12 members; facilitated a variety of professional learning, developed a strategy for recruiting primary and secondary educators through an individual membership model, and served as OEG's lead for all diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) internal efforts.

Biden-Harris Transition Team

Technology Strategy & Delivery Liaison, Department of Education

Agency Review Team

November 2020 - January 2021 (3 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

U.S. Department of Education

K-12 Open Education Fellow

April 2016 - April 2017 (1 year 1 month)

Washington, District Of Columbia

Led a national initiative to support states and K-12 districts using Open Educational Resources (OER) to transform teaching and learning; coordinated and supported 100+ districts and 20 states in their commitment to #GoOpen through professional learning opportunities; and strategically planned the sustainability of the initiative with committed organizations.

Nebraska Department of Education

Digital Learning Specialist

June 2013 - April 2017 (3 years 11 months)

Developed an instructional improvement system that leveraged educational technology to provide equitable access and opportunities in urban, suburban, and rural school districts, curated digital learning resources and opportunities, collaborated with 245 public school districts and 17 Educational Service Units, advocated for school librarians, and provided professional learning opportunities in the department and across the state.

Ralston Public Schools

ELL Teacher

July 2011 - May 2013 (1 year 11 months)

Created authentic language learning opportunities for students to develop reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills, provided second tier intervention to high-risk ELL students in small group setting, monitored and documented student progress through frequent formative assessments, and collaborated with general education teachers to utilize ELL strategies in mainstream curriculum.

Omaha Public Schools

Kindergarten and 2nd Grade Teacher

August 2007 - May 2011 (3 years 10 months)

Maintained responsibility for the organization, teaching, and projects of an ESL: English Language Learner immersion kindergarten and second grade classroom, created and implemented innovative learning centers for math, science, social studies, writing and technology to complement student-led, inquiry-based curriculum that was then evaluated through formative assessments to monitor student progress.

Education

Pepperdine University Graduate School of Education and Psychology

Masters of Arts in Learning Technologies, Educational/Instructional Technology · (2012 - 2013)

Concordia University-Seward

Master of Education, Reading and ESL · (2009 - 2011)

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Endorsement, Bilingual Education · (2008 - 2009)

Peru State College

Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education · (2006 - 2007)

Arizona State University

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Business and Mass Communications · (2001 - 2004)