



According to a report titled 'How Leadership Influences Student Learning,' by the Wallace Foundation, strong educational leadership is instrumental in empowering great schools and teachers to thrive and troubled schools to transform. As the report further states, it is the teacher who ranks highest in this equation though. It is a belief that quality professional development can help refine best practices and equip leaders with strategies for implementing standards. This is how Yolanda Evans, former district level school leader, views impacting teacher leaders and their facilitation of effective instruction.

Yolanda worked twenty years in the Houston Independent School District as a classroom teacher, campus district liaison, science department chairperson, campus science fair coordinator, youth club manager, and PTO member. Campus level activities provided years of forging life long professional contacts along with helping students become successful in science related activities and other contests. For the remainder of her career with the district, Yolanda served as a district level administrator for various STEM programs. At a time when technology and STEM practices were being introduced to students, many of the programs allowed Yolanda to serve as a professional development leader for teachers K-12, and their school administrators. Promoting technology and introducing STEM practices helped move the district's academic rating and empowered many teachers to become significant change agents on their campus.

Yolanda has held professional leadership roles with the National Science Teachers Association and the Science Teachers Association of Texas. Her educational background includes a Master of Education with Mid-Management Certification in Curriculum and Administration, Bachelor of Science in Biology with a minor in Chemistry, and Secondary Teacher Certification in Science, grades 6-12. She has earned numerous certificates in STEM based professional programs and continues to participate with the science and STEM community of professional leaders.