



Tinishia Bass brings over two decades of child advocacy and dedicated service to the Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools®, where she has held a wide range of roles including Servant Leader Intern, Site Coordinator, Project Director, Ella Baker Trainer (EBT), Consultant, and Site Testing Manager. She has also demonstrated leadership within CDF’s Youth Advocate Leadership Training (YALT) program, serving as a YALT Trainer, Curriculum Writer, and Facilitator. A proud U.S. Army Veteran with a background as an Ammunition Specialist,

Tinishia also has more than seven years of experience as an educator in the Freehold Regional High School District. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Affairs and Community Development, with a research emphasis on educational disparities in urban communities and their impact on the Black Peer Pressure Group. She is a Senior Program Administrator within the Division of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement at Rutgers-Camden where she oversees a \$2.5 million federal grant funded through the NJDOE that serves over 250 3rd-8th grade students during out of school time.



Shanequa Evans is a passionate public servant specializing in leadership and organizational development for youth-centered programs within underserved communities. She serves as Program Manager for Rutgers Future Scholars within the Center for PreCollege Programs at Rutgers University-Newark. In her role, Shanequa oversees the transformational experience that provides access to higher education for promising first-generation youth in Newark. A proud native of Paterson, NJ, Shanequa has nearly ten years of experience managing educational programs in the out-of-school time (OST) field. She is a two-time Rutgers alum,

having earned a Bachelor of Science in Public Health and a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Leadership of Public Organizations. Shanequa joined the Children’s Defense Fund (CDDF) Freedom Schools® family in 2019, serving as the Site Coordinator and Project Director for the NewArk CDF Freedom Schools site. Currently, she is a third-year Ella Baker Trainer and one of the National Afterschool Association’s (NAA) 2024 Next Generation of Afterschool Leaders Honorees. Through her work, Shanequa creates pathways for youth to thrive.



Jasmine Ross is the Executive Director of Cross Community, Inc, a non-profit that provides opportunities for advancement, access to resources, and collaboration throughout the greater Trenton, NJ area. This year marks her 17th year of service with the Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools®. Over the years, Jasmine served as a Servant Leader Intern, Site Coordinator, Project Director, and Executive Director between the Shiloh Community Development Corporation’s (CDC’s) sponsored sites in Trenton, NJ, the Wise Freedom School

Partners’ sites in Los Angeles, CA, and Cross Community, Inc’s sites in Ewing, NJ. She also served CDF Freedom Schools nationally as a member of the Ella Baker Training and Consultant Teams. Jasmine began working with the program while attending New York University, where she earned a B.S. in Childhood and Special Education. She also received a certificate in Pastry Arts from the International Culinary Center in 2017. The proprietor of *Baked by Jazz* since 2020, Jasmine hopes to open a bakery in Trenton and to use it as a platform to serve the city’s most vulnerable populations.