

Anaya Moody



Anaya Moody is a current student at the Summer Principals Academy. She serves as the Curriculum Coordinator for Humanities at Growing Up Green II (GUG II), where she dedicates her work to liberatory education. Her professional trajectory has been rooted in collective transformative pedagogy aimed at fostering an inclusive and equitable learning environment.

Beginnings in Education

Anaya's journey in leadership began in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn, as a first-year teacher in seventh-grade English Language Arts.

"From the beginning, I was deeply invested in how people learn best," she recalled. This curiosity led her to focus on instructional practices and eventually take on roles that allowed her to support other educators in their development. "The more I explored how learning happens—especially for adults—the more I leaned into leadership."

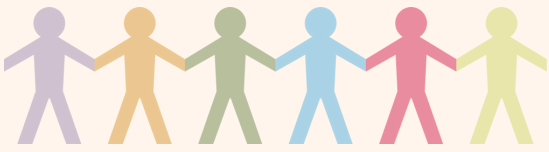
Anaya emphasized the value of working within a supportive school network, which enabled her to develop a skill set that integrated data-driven practices to improve outcomes. She transitioned into roles as an instructional coach and curriculum coordinator, where she was able to both teach and learn beyond the boundaries of a single classroom. "These roles gave me technical expertise," she noted, "but I realized I wanted to build confidence and capacity in leading people."

Leadership at SPA

Reflecting on her motivations to pursue a master's program at SPA, Anaya highlighted SPA's emphasis on reflective leadership and a broader understanding of educational systems. "I had built a strong foundation in data and instruction through my teaching and coaching work," she explained, "but I knew that leading people required a different kind of growth."

At the core of her leadership philosophy is people—a vision she has acquired during her time at SPA.





"It's not just about setting a vision—it is about capacitating others to bring that vision to life. My view of leadership became less about control and more about collaboration and trust." Time management is another great asset that she has developed at SPA. "I now approach decision-making more thoughtfully, taking the time to consider both the intended and unintended consequences, and resisting the urge to rush," she added.

Anaya said that the most valuable skills she has taken from SPA are social-emotional learning and emotional regulation.

"Leading through change, working across different teams, and navigating the corporate education space all require steady emotional presence and the ability to stay grounded while supporting others."

Leading Innovation

As Director of Curriculum and Assessment, Anaya is applying the insights she has learned from SPA to lead beyond traditional educational roles. She is currently engaged in consulting across organizations and contributing to learning and development initiatives in the corporate sector. Reflecting on SPA's role in this transition, she shared, "the tools and mindsets I gained in SPA gave me the confidence to step beyond the traditional school building and apply my leadership in new ways."

When asked about the meaning of educational leadership beyond traditional principalship, Anaya didn't hesitate:

"Educational leadership means leading innovation in how we think about teaching, learning, and development."

For Anaya, being a leader involves being both a systems thinker and a catalyst for learning in any environment—whether within a school, a district, or an entirely different sector.

Looking Ahead

Anaya Moody's professional trajectory illustrates her commitment to dismantling systems that fail to serve all students and her dedication to amplifying the voices of those left unheard. Her impact transcends the school building to reimagine education from the ground up.

As she prepares to finish her degree at SPA, Anaya offers a word of advice to the growing SPA network:

"Soak in all the knowledge available to you. Question everything. Use the program as a space to actively practice leadership—not just in title or task, but in how you make decisions and engage with others. Your growth starts with how you show up now."

