



## Dr. Nicol Russell

Dr. Nicol Russell currently serves as Director of Head Start Research & Support for Teaching Strategies, LLC. In this role, Nicol supports Head Start and Early Head Start clients for Teaching Strategies. Previously, she served as the deputy associate superintendent for early childhood at the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and the Director of the Arizona Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO). In those roles, she provided oversight for Arizona's administration of the Preschool Development Grant, implementation of IDEA Part B, Section 619 (Early Childhood Special Education), and execution of the HSSCO grant.

Nicol began her career in education as a librarian's assistant at her local Boys & Girls Club in Wai'anae, Hawai'i. Since then, she has worked as a classroom assistant, teacher (general and special education), center director of a private child care, education program specialist, and the state's 619 coordinator. She has also served as the treasurer for the National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education (NAECS-SDE). In addition to championing high quality early learning for all children in all settings, Nicol enjoys time with her family and considers being mom to her 3-year-old, Makena Hokule'a, as her greatest role.

Nicol has a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership, a Master of Education degree in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education.



### Conference Sessions

Friday, April 26

8:30-10:00 AM

When That Cat Named Pat Sat by a Big Black Bat:  
Embracing the Science of Reading in Early Childhood  
Classrooms

1:00-2:30 PM

Young, Gifted and Black: Centering Joy & Belonging in  
Black Children