

Kyliegh Curran

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Interviewer- Kyliegh Curran

Interviewee- Traciliegh Curran

KYLIEGH:

Educators have consistently been overlooked as leaders, especially over the past two decades. However, they are the hands that mold our future generations and guide them to change our world. Hello, I’m Kyliegh Curran, and welcome to: “The Eyes of Education”! A space where you can hear the voices behind the Georgia education system. For our December episode, I have invited one of the essential sculptors of the future to talk about her experience as an educator in both the Georgia public and private school systems. Please welcome my wonderful mother, Traciliegh Curran. Hi mom!

TRACILIEGH:

Hi, hi, I’m happy to be here!

KYLIEGH:

Thank you for gracing us with your presence!

TRACILIEGH:

Sure, absolutely.

KYLIEGH:

To get us started, would you mind telling me how you got involved with educating and what the whole concept of education means to you?

TRACILIEGH:

Sure! Well, when I graduated from college, I didn't really know what I wanted to do. I knew that I had always been interested in education. I come from a family of educators, and I, you know, it was sort of like a natural progression, because it was a field that was highly prevalent in my

family. So I just tested the waters. My first job in teaching was as an ESOL teacher of adults, and that's where it all started.

KYLIEGH:

Since you've been in this industry for so long, I was wondering over the past couple decades, what evolution and progress or lack thereof, have you witnessed in the Georgia public education system?

TRACILIEGH:

Well, there definitely has been an evolution of technology integration. When I first started teaching in the 90s, we were using technology, but we weren't leveraging it in a way to really enhance and enrich learning experiences the way that we are doing today: 21st century learning. So I think one of the greatest transformations and evolutions in education has been just... Tech integration, using technology, leveraging technology to create richer learning experiences for learners.

KYLIEGH:

Since you've seen the integration of technology. There's a lot of complications that come with that. Have you seen any, like, conflict of ethics or morals in the use of technology in education?

TRACILIEGH:

I definitely have seen some conflicts with ethics, because we have students now using technology on a daily basis in our classrooms. And then we also have individuals out there in the you know, private sector that are poised to profit from that, you know, mining data of students. So I think just making sure that we... We just maintain the integrity within our classrooms of how we implement technology and protecting the privacy of students is very important, because there are some ethical concerns there. Putting out, you know, putting out there in the environment very private information on minors is a huge issue. And I think if we can just continue to enrich our classrooms with technology while protecting the privacy of students and protecting their private information, I think we can really take advantage of all those benefits that we're seeing now with using technology in many different ways. Yeah.

KYLIEGH:

For you personally, what are some changes that you would like to see implemented in Georgia's education in the future?

TRACILIEGH:

I think I would definitely like to see more of an open mind when it comes to learning environments.

KYLIEGH:

Yeah.

TRACILIEGH:

So, not just the traditional formats of teaching, where you have lecture based teaching—

KYLIEGH:

Yeah...

TRACILIEGH:

But integrating lots of different methods, like project based learning and problem based learning, and having that be enough and be accessible, you know, as methods of delivering instructional content. And then also just leveraging technology a little bit more. Not having the majority of our instructional content be restricted to the classroom but giving students access to that information, whether they're in the classroom or not. So, really using those robust learning management systems to their full potential so students are able to learn and grow when they can't be in place in the classroom.

KYLIEGH:

Wonderful. Thank you so much for your time. Your perspective is really, really enlightening. And thank you, listeners for sticking with us. I hope through our conversation you were educated on education. This has been Kyliegh Curran for “The Eyes of Education” with our special guest of December: Traciliegh Curran. I look forward to speaking with you again soon. Until then, keep your eyes and mind open!