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FEATURED

Francis returns to lead Promise Neighborhood

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Sh'Kur Francis

A familiar name is returning to Lancaster County to help with Lancaster's Promise Neighborhood.

Sh'Kur Francis has been named the new program director for the Promise Neighborhood.

He most recently served as public information officer for the Bamberg County government. He is also a former social studies teacher at A.R. Rucker Middle School, one of the schools in the Promise Neighborhood, and a pastor at Grace and Lynwood United Methodist churches.

“Providing cradle to career opportunities to Lancaster students and their families is essential to helping to ensure that a life of possibilities and prosperity is available to them,” Francis said. “As I begin my journey, I welcome the opportunity to learn more about existing efforts and discuss how, through collaboration, we can best meet the needs of children and families.”

In September 2021, the U.S. Department of Education awarded Partners For Youth a \$24.79 million grant over five years to serve the students at Clinton Elementary, A.R. Rucker and Lancaster High schools.

In addition to the grant money, another \$3.2 million was pledged in local funds for the project.

“The concept of a Promise Neighborhood is a ‘big idea’ — all children born in a neighborhood will thrive, succeed in school and become vital members in the community,” said Albert Blackmon, Promise Neighborhood advisory board chair. “We were impressed with his (Francis) skills and his vision, and we are very excited to see where he will lead Lancaster Promise Neighborhood.”

Francis is a Charleston native and earned a bachelor's degree from Winthrop University and a master's degree from Emory University. He also has advanced certifications from Howard University, Furman University and LSU in executive leadership and nonprofit management.

"We are committed to the success of the Lancaster Promise Neighborhood initiative and know that Sh'Kur Francis leading the team of agencies dedicated to the betterment of our area will be a key component in making sure that goal is obtained," said Steve Sherrill, Lancaster County Partners for Youth board chair.

"We are happy to welcome Sh'Kur Francis as the new program director of the Lancaster Promise Neighborhood," said Apostle Mamie Wilson, Promise Neighborhood advisory board member.

"We are pleased that he is willing, prepared and committed to lead in our effort to keep the promise to children and families in the Lancaster Promise Neighborhood and I am looking forward to working with him."

mbanks

Beachwaver S1 Rotating Curling Iron - Catwalk

