



Marsalis L. Hammons

Marsalis Hammons is a resilient leader, speaker, and artist. Hammons, being a first generation college student and having an upbringing in Elyria, Ohio, was inspired to start an organization that would lead others to make a positive change within their community. In 2018, Hammons founded Leaders of Today Inc., a registered 501-(c) 3 non-profit organization whose mission is to provide Elyria and Lorain high school students with tools and resources to promote positive leadership in the classroom, locker room, and community.

Hammons earned his bachelor's degree from Cleveland State University in August 2018, where he double majored in Marketing and Human Resources, and minored in Black Studies. In addition to Leaders of Today, Hammons has supported companies in the private and public sector. In August 2021, Hammons joined Nordson Corporation in Amherst, OH as a Global Talent Specialist. Within his role, he supports the company's strategic HR goals in attracting and retaining diverse talent in manufacturing and professional industry.

In his previous role, Hammons worked for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's HR Department as a Talent Management Partner. Hammons supported CMSD's central office hiring process and a district-wide employee resource group titled Men of Color Shaping Academics (MOCHA). Within his first month on the job, Hammons designed a marketing and engagement strategy for men of color educators in CMSD, which resulted in a \$28,000 grant received from the Ohio Department of Education.

Through his diverse work experiences, Hammons has built a skillset in brand design, program development, grant writing, and public speaking. Overall, his up-bringing in Elyria has inspired him to pursue a career in urban planning with a focus in community development. Hammons is committed to advancing the quality of life and equitable access for underserved populations in Lorain County.

Hammons is currently earning a Master's degree in Urban Planning and Development from Cleveland State University where he is expected to graduate in 2023. He currently serves on the United Way of Greater Lorain County's board of directors and the Emerging Leaders Advisory Council for the Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency (NOACA). Overall, Hammons is a devoted community servant who strives to live by the affirmation, **“be the change you wish to see in the world.”**