

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATION PRESENTS

DR. LAKEISHA COOK

Equity Transformation Specialist

Dr. LaKeisha Cook has over 20 years of experience working in non-profits, education, and the African American church. As a faith-based practitioner and racial equity leader, she uses her platform to educate and empower people on social justice and racial inequities, and she is passionate about justice reform. During her tenure in community-based programming, she has worked in various nonprofit organizations focused on substance abuse prevention, justice reform and school based mental health services. She also served as a program administrator for the Kyrene School District in Tempe, Arizona, where she coordinated, implemented, and ensured the quality of intervention and prevention programs and equity/diversity activities outlined in the eight million dollars Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant.



Through her work in criminal justice reform, LaKeisha provided leadership in community organizing and advocacy for the abolition of the death penalty in state of Virginia. Drawing from her experience in racial equity, she centered race in the advocacy campaign that highlighted the connection between Virginia's history of lynching and racial oppression. Her work resulted in Virginia becoming the first state in the south to end capital punishment.

She currently serves on the executive board of Virginia Interfaith Power in Light, a non-profit organization that focuses on eradicating environmental and social injustices through political advocacy and grassroots organizing. She also serves on the board of Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. She has received numerous awards for her political advocacy and community-based work.

Dr. Cook is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a minor concentration in Religious Studies and a Master's of Divinity. She also earned a Master's in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University. In the fall of 2012, she completed her studies at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, where she earned her Doctorate of Ministry degree as a Gardner C. Taylor fellow. She currently resides in Richmond, Virginia with her family.