

The Team

Marie Norman, Ed.D.

Board Member

UACM Field Supervisor at Georgia State University

Doctor of Education, Educational Leadership, Argosy University

Georgia State University, Instructional Supervision

Georgia State University, Master of Education (M.Ed.), Elementary Reading Instruction

Georgia State University, Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.), Elementary and Special Education

Dr. Marie Norman is a long term educator who is currently the literacy coordinator for a number of school districts in Georgia. She is the eldest of 13 children, and was raised by Black sharecroppers in a 2-room house in Georgia. She and all of her siblings are educated, with all but 1 obtaining a formal college degree. She has seen students struggling with math and literacy due to difficult family circumstances and socioeconomic status. Dr. Norman knows that more needs to be done to encourage students, inspire them, and expose them to possibilities beyond what they experience in the classrooms. The policy-imposed limitations on a teacher's ability to infuse the curriculum with fun and engaging elements that would capture student attention impedes their ability to meet and cater to the needs of students, which also contributes to the consistently poor outcomes she has witnessed.

Terence Norman

Board Member

Co-Founder, Chief Administrative Officer, Airborne Gymnastics Club

BA Industrial Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology

Terence Norman is the eldest of Dr. Norman's three sons. Dr. Marie wanted her children to have everything she never had. Sports camps, afterschool programs, exposure and trips; she has made sure that her children, and grandchildren, have the access and opportunity to explore the furthest reaches of their potential. Despite limited financial resources, he grew up playing sports and attending well-resourced schools due to his mother's persistence. Instead of allowing her son to go to the neighborhood school, Dr. Marie put him in the M2M, majority to minority, busing program in DeKalb County. This desegregation program bused students from areas where they were in the majority, with often under-resourced schools, to areas where they were in the minority, with a larger and wealthier white population. A close friend who Terence grew up with who stayed in the neighborhood middle school and high school, ended up joining a gang and losing 5 years of his life to incarceration. Terence believes that the opportunity to attend a better school set him up on a pathway for success. Terence was also able to attend an engineering camp between his sophomore and junior year of high school. He credits this experience with giving him the focus and vision to combine his love for business and math to become an industrial engineer. The \$3k payment for the camp was a stretch for his family; and he remembers the conversation he had with his mother when she made it possible for him to attend. He believes education, entrepreneurship, and partnership are the keys to success.

Kamilah Norman

Board Member

Co-Founder, Lead Teacher, Airborne Gymnastics Club

BA Business Administration and Marketing, Georgia State University

Kamilah Norman co-founded Airborne Gymnastics Club with her husband in 2018. An avid and competitive gymnast since she was 3-years old. Kamilah benefited from the commitment her parents made to keeping her in the sport despite financial challenges and housing instability. Kamilah credits the experience of gymnastics to her success. Being exposed to a sport that centers movement, visualization, memory; having strong mentors and coaches; and finding a reason for focus and persistence was grounding and uplifting. Her experiences make her particularly keen on exposing children facing poverty, particularly with incarcerated parents, to gymnastics.