**This I believe**

**Name:** Sussan Oladipo

Bio: I am Sussan Oladipo, an Administrator with Chicago Public Schools with 15 years of service with Chicago Public Schools and 10 years service with overseas in two African countries. As a teacher I taught chemistry and freshman math as well as environmental and earth space science.

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My favorite quote related to teaching/learning: He who learns the most leads the most -Anonymous

Recommend a book for a fellow STEM educator: I will recommend Leverage Leadership by Bambrick Santoyo. I value this book because it provides a guide to effective school leadership. It spells out some details of what the day-to-day structure and system of a school should look like. It has been very helpful for me as an administrator.

**Looking back**

My high school principal and teachers inspired me. The cared about us so much about our education and us and showed us the best way to get along with others. I grew and developed from their nurture and teaching/principles that I thought then that teaching must be one of the most important professions there are. I have always been a shy and quiet person. When I knew that I would be a teacher, I had to face my worst nightmare, which was public speaking, and how to navigate the challenges is overcoming the fear of speaking. At the same time, I knew that I was meant to serve in urban education so had to find ways to overcome my challenges.

I value self-discipline, integrity, respect and hard work. I believe in being kind to others including one’s “enemies”. I see all people as one and believe all people can dwell together. With reference to schools, I believe that diversity is extremely important in schools and that schools should not have to be segregated.

**Where I am now**

This past year as an  MSUrbanSTEM fellow and as an educator brought new experiences to me. I came into it with the idea of diving deeper into the content areas of the STEM. I have learned much more than I thought.

Although I do not have students that I teach, my experience through the STEM program has had effect in my work role as an administrator. My technology usage has improved quite a bit. I have used various technology applications including Google-Drive applications in my work. Videotaping and photos have new meaning for me in terms of work. Also in terms of ability to lead, when the principal I worked with transitioned to another position, I developed the boldness to lead. Amidst the challenges that I faced, I persevered to mobilise others to accomplish the task before us. When an administrator in charge was brought in after one month, I built up the partnership that helped us work together till the end of the school year. My ability to unify people and work with others was very evident.

**Looking forward**

This program has given me a me a new way of thinking and seeing the world. My mindset which has been that of a

Growth mentality has developed to one that thinks inclusively. By this I mean that STEM may not just be limited to science, technology, Engineering and Mathematics but includes the humanities, aesthetics and others. I aspire to be more independent, to lead an independent cause for unheard urban students, for unheard minorities like myself. I will write, I will put experiences out there to enlighten, to motivate, to guide. I bring broad varieties of experiences that need to benefit a wider diverse audience.

**Summing up**

This I believe, that everyone matters, all people are one, that urban schools are meant to be very diverse in population, inclusive and integrated in content areas, that leaders should bridge the gap between the different constituents that make up school.

I believe that all students can learn at very high level if the systems and structures that promote learning are in place.

I believe that I need to develop leaders and empower others to do good work for students

I believe that the globe is a school and all students are capable of using the power of the net to access peers abroad for networking and learning opportunities.