

## **DeSoto ECHS Leadership Team**

### **Angela Batiste ECHS Principal**

In July of 2015, Angela Batiste was appointed principal of Early College High School in DeSoto Independent School District in DeSoto, Texas. Batiste serves students identified as the target population of the Early College High School blueprint as well as students in the Collegiate Magnet Program.

Before Batiste came to DeSoto ISD, she was a high school Lead Counselor with Fort Worth Independent School District and Mansfield Independent School District – one of the fastest growing school districts in Texas. While Lead Counselor, Batiste served thousands of students by leading the Guidance and Counseling program, pushed for instructional technology enhancements in college and career readiness and oversaw all counseling department activities and initiatives. She also supervised and coached counselors in ways to effectively evaluate student achievement as it relates to high school graduation plan matriculation, school completion, scholarships and college and career readiness. Batiste is an educational leader who seeks to ensure each child receives a quality education which prepares them for post-secondary readiness regardless of race, socioeconomic status, or gender. Additionally, she believes all students can achieve any goal they set forth with adequate support which is vital to the success of a child as well as having a strong culture of learning led by highly competent administrators and effective teachers.

Batiste is a proud graduate of one of best historical black colleges and universities, Prairie View A & M University where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, a Masters of Arts degree in Counseling, which lead to certifications in Secondary Biology, K-12 Counseling, and K-12 Principal. Batiste began her career in education in 1999 as a science teacher in Houston, Texas. She relocated to Fort Worth, Texas where she was recruited by Fort Worth ISD to teach science. In 2003, she was selected to serve as a high school counselor at Southwest High School in Fort Worth, and worked in that role for two years before becoming the high school's Lead Counselor. Batiste went to serve as Lead Counselor at Timberview High School in Mansfield ISD and later returning to Fort Worth ISD at Western Hills High School. In 2013, Batiste joined DeSoto Independent School District as a counselor and was later selected for her first administrative role as the Coordinator for the district's Collegiate Magnet Program

that same year. In 2015, Batiste was also named Principal of Early College High School where she re-engineered both programs, initiated and oversaw effective and efficient operations leading students to high school completion earning up to 60 college credit hours and/or an Associates Degree.

While serving as principal of the Early College High School, Batiste has implemented the following educational initiatives: 1) increased the district's dual credit enrollment and completion rate; 2) pushed for the district to become a TSI testing site; 3) increased the district's TSI passing rate by expanding the TSI tutorial program to include staff training; 4) increased the graduation rates of students graduating high school with an Associate Degree, exponentially each year; 5) increased departmental staff by implementing the role and position of the Classroom Facilitator; 6) implemented highly successful School Culture & Mentoring initiatives; 7) successfully managed the Industry Cluster Innovative Academy Grant's activities, objectives and milestones.

Batiste and her husband, Tony, are proud parents of a seamlessly blended family of four successful children. Kris is a Corporate Attorney in Georgia, Dorian is a student at Southern University, Jordan is a student at Prairie View A&M University and Tiara is a high school student in Georgia.

**Schmeka Salgado**  
**DeSoto ECHS Dean**

Schmeka Salgado has a passion for helping students. She believes in cultivating relationships with the community and all stakeholders. Schmeka Salgado was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She grew up in Waco, Texas where she graduated from Waco High School. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Arlington and her Master's in School Counseling and Professional Counseling from Amberton University.

Schmeka has served as an educator for nineteen years. She was a first grade teacher for eight years in Arlington ISD. After eight years of teaching, Schmeka became a junior high counselor. She has also served as a high school counselor for four years in Arlington ISD. Schmeka was a lead counselor in Mansfield ISD for six years, as well. This year Schmeka joined the DeSoto High School team where she serves as a Dean of Instruction. Professionally, she divides her time at Cedar Valley College and DeSoto High School.

Schmeka and her husband Richard have two children. They enjoy family time, cook outs, going to the park, and going to the beach for vacations. Schmeka truly enjoys being an educator and would ultimately love to change and assist the hearts and minds of all children. Her goals is for all students to believe and succeed!

**Folade Burles**  
**DeSoto ECHS Counselor**  
**(Last names L - Z)**

Folade Burles received her undergraduate degree from THE Southern University A&M College in Baton Rouge, LA. She received her master's degree from Tarleton State University. Ms. Burles has served in education for over fifteen years. She is excited to begin her 10th year as a school counselor in DeSoto ISD!

**Portia Smith**  
**DeSoto ECHS Counselor**  
**(Last names A - K)**

Portia has worked in DeSoto ISD as a school counselor since the summer of 2006. First serving at DeSoto High School counseling center for four years before moving to West Middle School, where she served 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for seven years. Portia has worked as a counselor at all levels of education and has discovered her true passion is seeing high school students transition to the next stage of their lives, and has especially enjoyed working in the Collegiate Academies with students who are already on their college journey. Smith grew up in Texarkana, TX. Holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Texas at Arlington, and a Master's degree in Counseling from the University of North Texas. She and her husband, Allanda, have been married thirty-two years and have a soon to be married daughter, who also works as an Athletic Trainer at DeSoto High.