

DEMETRIUS LANCASTER

Joy Education Foundation

2024 Global Fellow



BIG BOLD IDEA

Increase access to affordable, evidence-based literacy support for children in under-resourced communities in the U.S. by organizing virtual reading clinics that help students overcome reading difficulty.

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Joy Education exists to help students — especially those with language-based disabilities — become confident readers. Joy Education’s virtual and mobile reading clinic helps students overcome reading difficulties and build confidence by providing a digital diagnostic tool, digital curriculum, and one-on-one online tutoring in reading, comprehension, and spelling. Joy Education provides its digital literacy tools to families through school, out-of-school time, and summer programs. Through its technology platform and custom training, Joy Education builds the capacity of communities to address unmet reading needs and create a world where every student is able to read, write, and become a lifelong learner.

PERSONAL BIO

Demetrius Lancaster is the founder and executive director of Joy Education, a nonprofit that harnesses the power of technology and human relationships to help students become confident readers. As an early reader, Demetrius benefited immensely from a community reading program that fundamentally changed the trajectory of his life and instilled in him a lifelong dedication to literacy. His journey led him to become a reading teacher, coach, and founding leader of a school serving low-income communities. As a learning experience designer, Demetrius collaborates with educators nationwide to redesign systems for better learning outcomes for students, especially those who are culturally and linguistically diverse and neurodiverse. He offers his experience as a community leader, school leader, and technologist to help communities expand their capacity to address unmet reading needs. Demetrius received his master’s degree in education from Columbia University and his master’s degree in public administration from James Madison University.

Organization/Fellow Location

Tulsa, United States

Impact Location

United States

Organization Structure

Nonprofit

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