



# *Melody M. Hawkins*

[melodyhawkins.org](http://melodyhawkins.org)

**EDUCATOR  
INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER  
SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING ADVOCATE  
TEACHER DIVERSITY ADVOCATE  
TEACHER DEVELOPMENT COACH**

**Melody Hawkins** is an educator who is passionate about serving students from underrepresented populations and students located in under-resourced communities. As a former eighth-grade science teacher, Mrs. Hawkins provided culturally-relevant experiences infused with social-emotional learning to motivate and empower her students to always achieve success. As a current high school administrator, Mrs. Hawkins leads with a passion and belief that all students deserve high-quality, equitable education.

Melody, a Jackson, TN native earned a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Tennessee. Upon graduation, Melody served a one-year commitment in the AmeriCorps and dedicated her time at the American Red Cross New Orleans, LA chapter, a pivotal experience for Melody's trajectory. After her time in AmeriCorps, Melody immediately pursued a career in diagnostic laboratory science. While working in the laboratory science field, Melody quickly realized the disproportionate number of scientists of color in her field. She channeled this realization and decided she needed to be a part of the solution. Melody re-directed her science career to focus on science education, an area that would soon become her passion. She returned to school to receive a Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Carson-Newman University while beginning her teaching career at Vine Middle Magnet School in Knoxville, TN. In a small amount of time, Melody has become a teacher-leader in her school, district, and state, serving on district-level science curriculum teams, state-level assessment committees, teacher educator fellowships, assisting with school and district-level professional learning, and opening her classroom door as a model classroom for teachers across her district. Thanks to a Tennessee Department of Education Administrator Development Program, Melody recently earned her second master's degree in Educational Leadership from Austin-Peay State University and is currently using her leadership to support the academic and social-emotional development of students located in a high-opportunity Knoxville, TN community.

Melody is the recipient of the 2019 and 2021 building-level Teacher of the Year awards, the 2021 Knox County Schools Middle School Science Teacher of the Year, a 2020 Knox Biz.Journal 40 under 40 Most Influential People of Knoxville award, and most recently honored as the 2021 National University Teacher of the Year. Melody has been featured in several media outlets and publications and frequently lends her curriculum development and professional development expertise to nationally recognized educational organizations. Melody holds two Master Degrees in Education and is currently pursuing in Doctorate in Organizational Innovation.

Melody resides in Knoxville, TN with her husband, Jericho - a fellow University of Tennessee alum -and their two daughters, Madison and Miah.

# Melody M. Hawkins

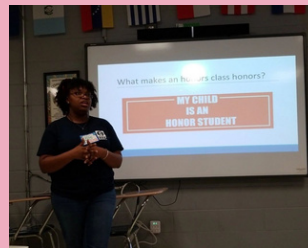
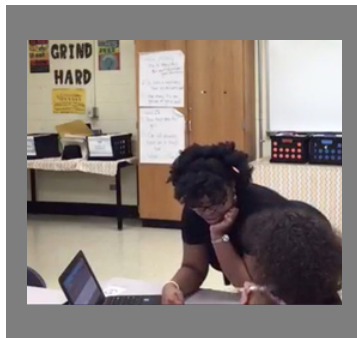
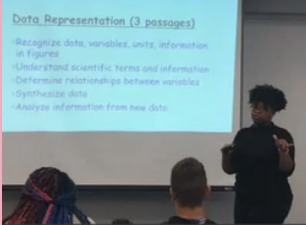


**Twitter:**  
**@mhawkinsedu**

**Website:**  
**[melodyhawkins.org](http://melodyhawkins.org)**

“  
By infusing high-quality curriculum with culturally responsive, social-emotional learning, our students will become positive contributors in a more culturally aware society.”

~ Melody Hawkins



**SPEAKER**  
**EDUCATOR**  
**INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER**  
**SEL ADVOCATE**  
**TEACHER DIVERSITY ADVOCATE**  
**TEACHER DEVELOPMENT COACH**

