

Helen V. Griffith, Ed.D.

Executive Director



Helen V. Griffith, Ed.D. is the inaugural executive director of The Preuss School UC San Diego. Most recently Griffith was the founding executive director and CEO of e3 Civic High, a public charter high school located in the San Diego Central Public Library, a role she held since 2012. Griffith has over 25 years of experience as an educator and principal, specializing in leadership development, school transformation and creating equitable educational experiences for all scholars.

Prior to opening e3 Civic High, Griffith served as dean of students at Crawford High School, vice principal at Lincoln High School and founding principal of Millennial Tech Middle School. In recognition of her transformational work, Griffith has received numerous professional honors, including Outstanding Woman of the 39th Senate District in 2020, from President Pro Tem Toni Atkins,; Outstanding Woman Leader in the field of Education, 79th District, by the California State Assembly member, Dr. Shirley Weber in 2018; and Educator of the Year from the California League of Middle Schools in 2010. In addition, she was invited by Congresswoman Susan Davis to Washington, D.C. to participate in the National Summit on Teacher Diversity sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education in 2016.

She was recently selected as a UC San Diego LEAD Fellow (Leaders for Equity Advancement and Diversity), a group tasked with advancing the university's Strategic Plan to create a more diverse and inclusive community where all members are welcomed, respected, valued and celebrated.

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Griffith earned a bachelor's degree in Communication from UC San Diego, as well as a master's degree in Educational Technology and a doctorate degree in Educational Leadership from San Diego State University. She is the only educator to have opened three new schools in the County of San Diego.