

VOICE for Children

2025 VOICE for Children Award Recipient

Lesely Crawford

Executive Director/Educator, ABK Learning & Development Center

Lesely Crawford is an entrepreneur, educator, and counselor, living and working in Pittsburgh, PA. At Duquesne University she studied elementary, special education and counseling. She holds a master's degree in counseling, a bachelor's degree in elementary and special education. She went on to study principal administration at Point Park University and recently achieved an associate's degree in early childhood and a Directors Credential Certificate from Community College of Allegheny County.

Lesely worked for the Pittsburgh Public School District for eighteen years. Four years of that time, she worked as the school's Family and Community Engagement Coordinator and promoted student achievement by collaborating with school staff, parents and family members, and community organizations to provide a network of support for students. She holds a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Certificate in Elementary Education K – 6, Special Education N-12, Elementary and Secondary Counseling, and Principal K-12.



Lesely's love for children and her desire to educate them led her to open her own early learning center. She was concerned with the struggles of her students and felt that she could do more for them if she caught them earlier. Not wanting to leave any children behind ABK Learning & Development Center was born. As she organized and structured the program, she felt compelled to focus on families that lacked sufficient care during nontraditional hours. ABK Learning & Development Center would be open 24 hours, 7 days a week to accommodate parents. Through the partnership with the housing Authority the City of Pittsburgh, she opened her second facility, Bedford Hope Center.

