

Coi Morefield

Founder & CEO, The Lab School of Memphis

An award-winning school founder, learning designer, and devoted mother of four, Coi Morefield has built her work around an unwavering commitment to student-centered learning environments that prioritize equity and future-focused outcomes. With over 18 years of experience in both public and private sectors, her journey is a reflection of a life dedicated to the holistic support and empowerment of children, families, and educators.

Coi began her professional journey in various roles within public schools, establishing a solid foundation for her significant expertise in educational theory and pedagogy. Motivated by a desire to amplify her impact, Coi pursued an MBA in Leadership & Change Management, followed by a seamless transition into the private sector. Here, she excelled in business development, training, and organizational learning design within Fortune 500 companies.

Recognizing the urgent need for adaptive learning solutions following the onset of a global pandemic, Coi spearheaded the ambitious redesign of remote training and onboarding programs. This blend of experiences demonstrates Coi's unique ability to bridge educational best practices with business acumen, significantly influencing her path as an education entrepreneur.

In 2020, motivated by a desire to leverage her skillset to support K-12 learning, while also championing diversity and challenging young people to think critically, Coi created The Black Inquiry Project. With the introduction of the BlackIQ curriculum, she unveiled an inquiry-based curriculum designed to center and amplify Black voices and narratives within the study of civics, social studies, and language arts.

It was Coi's clear vision of what impactful curriculum and learning should look like that influenced her founding of The Lab School of Memphis in 2021. Created out of a personal search for an inclusive and empowering learning environment for her twin boys, under Coi's leadership The Lab School has become a model of innovative education offering customized learning pathways and community-based experiences that prepare young people for success in all areas of life. In 2022, The Lab School was honored with the prestigious Yass Prize STOP Award for Education in the amount of \$200,000, acknowledging its commitment to ensuring transformational and permissionless education is accessible to all young people.

Currently serving as The Lab School's Board Chair, Coi remains vocal in support of an open-walled approach to learning as the vehicle to develop the most relevant skills for future success. Coi champions the idea of education as a cornerstone of economic development, emphasizing the critical role of career exploration and skill building to break the cycles of poverty seen in historically marginalized communities. Ever the supporter of meaningful, lifelong

learning, Coi offers program development, onboarding, training, and continuing education for microschoools and forward-thinking educators through the Educator Expand eLearning platform.

Coi Morefield embodies the spirit of transformational education, her life's work serving as a powerful reflection of the impact of combining passion, innovation, and leadership to inspire and drive progress.