

THE ACADEMY GROUP®

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HALLEEMAH NASH NAMED CHIEF PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER AT THE ACADEMY GROUP

The Chicago-Based Organization with investors Earvin “Magic” Johnson and Mark Walter Launches Partnership Effort to Open Doors to Students in Underserved Communities

CHICAGO, January 16, 2018 - The Academy Group, a unique and innovative enterprise established to realize the long-term potential of young people from underserved communities in Chicago and nationwide, today announced that Halleemah Nash has been named Chief Partnerships Officer. In her role, Nash will develop and execute a partnership and external relations strategy for the organization and will also support the organization’s expansion.

“Halleemah has extraordinary experience establishing and growing social impact organizations, and we are very excited that she’s bringing her talent and vision to The Academy Group,” said Timothy Knowles, Managing Partner of The Academy Group. “Her commitment will help The Academy Group ensure that all participating students have academic and internship opportunities that propel them to successful careers.”

Nash previously served as Executive Director of iMentor, launching the Chicago site which scaled from 207 students to more than 1,000 students in just three years. She also managed charitable programs for the Chicago Bulls, developed partnership strategies in service of more than 9,000 public housing youth at Chicago Housing Authority and served as Executive Director for NFL veteran Israel Idonije’s Foundation.

“I am thrilled to help guide The Academy Group as it grows its impact throughout Chicago and beyond,” Nash said. “The organization’s mission is focused on creating a new class of resilient leaders, prepared to own, operate, and incubate highly successful companies. I’m eager to create partnerships with profitable businesses looking to build fair-opportunity cultures so we can work together to provide young people the access they need to launch and sustain deeply rewarding, successful careers.”

The Academy Group provides unparalleled academic and college supports, professional internships and leadership development to students from the age of 8 through college. The Academy guarantees a pathway to professional employment in companies across multiple sectors to all of its students who fulfill requirements and successfully graduate from college. In 2017, 63 Chicago students participated in the Academy Group pilot program and that number will grow to 1,000 students by 2020.

“This is an exciting time of growth for The Academy Group, and Halleemah’s expertise will help us achieve our goals to tap into the deep wells of talent that exist nationwide,” said Shayne Evans, Managing Partner. “Halleemah understands that with the right support, immersive career training and leadership development focused on justice, we can open up doors for young people in underserved communities.”

Nash is originally from Compton, California, and is a first-generation college graduate. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Howard University and a Master of Divinity and Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Duke University.

About The Academy Group

The Academy Group is a unique and innovative enterprise established to realize the long-term potential of young people from underserved communities across the United States. It was founded to identify and invest in exceptional young people, support their academic journey from elementary school, through high school and college, and into their careers.

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