

BRIEF BIO

Rajni Shankar-Brown, Ph.D., is a Professor and the Jessie Ball duPont Endowed Chair of Social Justice Education at Stetson University, as well as the recipient of Stetson's most prestigious awards -- the McEniry Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Hand Award for Distinguished Faculty Achievement. She is the Vice-President and serves on the Executive Board of Directors for the National Coalition for the Homeless and is the Co-Chair of Equity and Justice for the International Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education. She is also the Founder and Director for the Poverty and Homelessness Conference, HU Scholars, and the Acts of Kindness and Justice Movement, as well as the Faculty Advisor for the Student Homeless Coalition. She began her career as a public-school teacher and has worked in a variety of cultural and linguistic equity leadership roles with communities, organizations, government agencies, corporations, and schools in urban, rural, and suburban areas across the United States and around the world. She specializes in diversity and inclusion, human rights, educational equity, and healing centered engagement.

As a civically engaged educational leader who is deeply committed to advancing intersectional equity, Dr. Shankar-Brown actively works to confront systemic oppression, build inclusive learning spaces, and advance educational excellence for diverse communities. She has presented and facilitated professional learning workshops around the globe, as well as published in leading peer-reviewed journals and books. Her current series with Information Age Publishing includes two edited books, *Bending the Arc Towards Justice: Equity-Focused Practices for Educational Leaders* and *Re-Envisioning Education: Affirming Diversity and Advancing Social Justice*. In addition, her recently published collection of poetry *Tuluminous* (2020) has been praised as "a marvelous and meaningful testimony of the power of language to heal and transform" by the Presidential Inaugural Poet, Richard Blanco, and she is described as the "Poet Laureate of the just society" by NYU's Moral Courage Project Founder and Oprah's Chutzpah Award recipient, Irshad Manji.

Dr. Shankar-Brown has received international, national, state, and local recognition for her scholarly and creative activities and transformative leadership including being selected as a Faculty-Scholar-in-Residence by the National Humanities Center, the Florida PDK International Educator of the Year, and a recipient of the Engaged Scholarship Faculty Award by the Florida Campus Compact. In addition to being a passionate educator-scholar, Dr. Shankar-Brown is a devoted mother, artist, and human rights activist.