**Biography**

LeRoyna Edwards is a community mother, holistic educator, youth activist, yoga instructor, nonprofit leader and master joyologist. LeRoyna has always had a love for learning and she began teaching children at the tender age of 14. In 2000, she graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelors of Science in Natural Resources. She continued her teaching career by joining Teach For America, where she worked as a young enthusiastic teachers to ensure that, one day, all children in this nation will receive an excellent education. During her service as a teacher, she helped write and win a million dollar family literacy grant for Atlanta Public Schools in 2001.

She has worked in the past 20 years as a tutor, teacher, health educator, and youth advocate to ensure that in her lifetime the achievement gap will be eliminated. With a passion for service and progress, as well as a love for learning, her life purpose is rooted in the healthy development and holistic education of children and young adults. She is strongly committed to the pursuit and dissemination of **right** knowledge and furthermore, the expansion of pedagogy so that it encourages the growth of the whole child- mind, body, and spirit.  The focus of her work these days is to incorporate wellness education to her students.

In the year 2011 she completed her Master’s Degree in Culturally Responsive Education from Ashford University. She also traveled to Brazil and Jamaica to study the art and science of using raw foods as medicine. She has successfully completed 400 hours of Yoga Teacher Training which focused on a therapeutic approach to yoga, Ayurveda, meditation, and ancient Kemetic yoga poses. She currently teaches yoga to children, elders and young adults in institution all throughout Columbus, OH including Reynoldsburg City Schools, Columbus City Schools, Good Hands Adult Habilitation Center, Milo Grogan Recreation Center and more. She intends to assist her community in attaining optimum wellness by offering Holistic Stress Management classes and workshops which introduces practical principles and techniques for successful, joyful living through self-empowerment.

She is the founder of The Children Shall Lead Them Production, an Ohio nonprofit **501c3. This culturally responsive holistic** youth development program cultivates excellence in youth by offering exciting performing arts education integrated with liberation education which incorporate health & wellness, life skills, culture, self-empowerment and academic achievement through artistic creative expression.

LeRoyna Edwards was featured in the Columbus Alive, *People to Watch due to her commitment to food justice. She is*  the initiator of the Near East Side Coop This native of Columbus, Ohio is currently working towards opening another community owned health food cooperative to increase the accessibility of fresh, healthful food to greater Columbus, Ohio. Currently she serves as the project manager for Reynoldsburg Edible Schoolyard project, a USDA funded project that connects gardening education to farmers to classrooms to cafeterias for the purpose of decreasing obesity and It is her ultimate goal to establish a learning center/ wellness center that educates underserved communities on sustainable living, growing food, preventative and holistic health and lifestyles. Please feel free to contact LeRoyna for corporate or private wellness workshops, and professional development training.