

Xavier Blackwell is a dynamic educator, Division Director, motivational speaker, and visionary entrepreneur committed to cultivating leadership, cultural competence, and global excellence in the next generation. As the founder and CEO of Newstead Global, Xavier has led transformative leadership trainings and cross-cultural workshops across the country, with a focus on empowering international students to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially while pursuing their education abroad.

Since launching Newstead Global in 2017, Xavier has remained fiercely committed to the belief that every student, especially those from historically underserved backgrounds, deserves access to high-impact, life-changing global opportunities. His research and professional work intersect at the core of this mission, examining how study abroad experiences shape identity, confidence, and success in students of color.

Xavier currently serves as Leadership Education faculty at St. John Vianney High School and is also proudly serving as Division Director for Toastmasters District 8, where he leads with a commitment to communication excellence, personal growth, and transformative mentorship.

A proud St. Louis native and former higher education leader at Eastern Illinois University and the University of Pittsburgh, Xavier has spent nearly two decades in education, student development, and global leadership. He is currently completing his PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, where his research continues to center the voices and experiences of BIPOC students in global education.

At his core, Xavier is a servant-leader whose mission is to inspire, uplift, and build legacy—one rooted in faith, purpose, and the belief that we rise by lifting others.