

ERIN JONES

Erin Jones was born in the US, and adopted by a couple in northern Minnesota, who decided to take jobs as teachers at the American School of The Hague in the Netherlands. Influenced by that background, she speaks 4 languages - English, Dutch, French and Spanish. She returned to the United States for College, where she became a Christian and discovered her calling - to serve children. Erin has been involved in church leadership and ministry off and on for the last 25 years, beginning her first year of marriage to husband, James in 1993. They served as youth pastors in two different churches - one in South Bend, IN, and Trinity Church in Tacoma. Erin concurrently worked as a classroom teacher and administrator in public schools, which she has always seen as her mission field.

Erin taught in a variety of environments, from predominantly Black to predominantly White to some of the most diverse communities in the nation. Erin received an award as the Most Innovative Foreign Language Teacher in 2007 and was the Washington State Milken Educator of the Year in 2008. She received recognition at the White House in March of 2013 as a "Champion of Change" and was Washington State PTA's "Outstanding Educator" in 2015.

After serving as a teacher, school district and state administrator, Erin left her job to run as a candidate for State Superintendent and was the first Black woman to run for any state office in Washington state, a race she lost by a mere 1%.

She and her husband have a daughter who recently graduated from Central Washington University, a son who is a senior at Harvey Mudd College and one starting a welding program in the fall. Her husband, James, is a high school teacher in North Thurston School District. They continue to be involved in ministry at their church - James on the worship team and Erin in youth ministry. Both also preach on occasion. Erin now travels the country helping churches and schools and non-profits learn how to better communicate with and serve people from diverse backgrounds.