

Brian A. Hartsell



Brian A. Hartsell is a native of Knoxville who learned, along with his eight siblings, to value achievement and success after applying hard work, practice and sacrifice. These were among the values instilled in Brian Hartsell by his parents, Ernest and Stella Hartsell, who also nurtured and guided his athletic skills. Brian Hartsell is a graduate of Austin-East High School where he was a standout basketball player helping lead the Roadrunners to State Basketball Championships in 1985 and 1987.

Following graduation, Brian decided his professional interest was public education and earned a B. S. degree in Recreation, Health & Physical Education from Carson Newman University in 1992. Further, he earned a Master's Degree in Education Administration & Supervision from Lincoln Memorial University in 1998. For the past 29 years Brian Hartsell has worked professionally. He has worked in the Knox County School System for 29 years where he served as a teacher/coach and former principal at numerous schools. He currently serves as the Director of Enrollment and the Disciplinary Hearing Authority for Knox County Schools. Brian Hartsell has been married to Leslye Hartsell for 27 years and is the father of two great children: Mekayla (22) and Bryson (19). Also, he is a member of Freedom Fellowship Christian Church, where he serves on the Finance Team and Co-Chair of the Couple's Ministry.

Brian Hartsell has an extensive community service resume, including Zoo Knoxville Board Member; Treasurer for the International Association for Truancy and Drop Prevention (IATDP); Leadership Knoxville Class of 2006; Board of Directors for Big Brothers and Sisters of East Tennessee; Board of Directors, ProjectGRAD Knoxville and the 100 Black Men of Knoxville. Although he is delighted to have a professional position that allows him the opportunity to assist and mentor students in the Knox County School System, Brian Hartsell is absolutely ecstatic that his community engagement affords him greater opportunities to have a positive impact on the lives of the youth in our community. For example, for the past six years Brian has served as Director of the Mentor Program for the 100 Black Men of Greater Knoxville, Inc. The objective of the Mentoring Program is to plan curriculum activities around the following principles: Academic Excellence; Career Exposure; Financial & Social Awareness; Work Ethic; Moral Character and Personal Responsibility. Even though the COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years has presented numerous challenges, Mr. Hartsell continues to plan, prepare and implement a monthly curriculum of activities for approximately 31 students from several inner-city elementary, junior and high schools. An important curriculum requirement is that students (mentees) must contractually commit to participation in at least 70 percent of the annual planned activities during each calendar year. Another important curriculum requirement is the mentees must avail themselves to the educational tutoring services offered by the 100 Black Men in English, Science, Math, Social Studies, College Search/Preparation and ACT Exam Preparation when needed, and must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 to remain in the program. Some of the other after school curriculum activities planned by Mr. Hartsell for the mentees include: lessons from local law enforcement on Police Engagement and Avoiding Gangs; how to start your own business from successful Local Minority Entrepreneurs; increase their knowledge of the history of Knoxville through visits to the Beck Cultural Center and lectures from their staff; mentees participate in other planned social activities such as: the annual Martin Luther King, Jr.

parade; annual Health Fair; distribution of school supplies during the Knoxville Area Urban League's Shoes for School program; and working with the Salvation Army to distribute Christmas gifts, clothes and food to needed families during Christmas. Additionally, in his professional with the Knox County School Administration, he has the opportunity to mentor and support students who may have taken a wrong path or made a poor choice in their school environment. He strives to help students develop their plans to successfully graduate from high school. Because of his extensive community service, particularly with the 100 Black Men of Greater Knoxville which serves as a catalyst to help inner-city African-American men and other minority youth reach the highest potential, the Beta Theta Boule' is honored to award the **"Fatherhood Excellence Award for 2021"** to Brian A. Hartsell.