



In January 2022, Candice Fernandes will join Knights Education Group (Pty) Ltd as CEO, reporting directly to the Director and Owner, Warren Swart. Candice graduated from WITS in 2002 and was part of the Knights family for many years before branching out into the broader education sector to gain experience and developing academic rigor within other brands. She has held several key executive positions, with the most recent being: Academic Development Advisor at ADvTECH's leading brand Crawford Schools, currently overseeing 19 school campuses who deliver progressive and quality education in the education arena.

Candice is an innovative educator and heart-felt academic leader who has had more than 20 years of developed expertise in various levels of education, from teaching to transforming educational institutions, systems and curricula both on a local and global scale. She is passionate about developing a positive school culture that students, staff and community members embrace, rather than finding ways to escape. She believes in building relationships with stakeholders, discovering and playing to the strengths of staff and school community members, as well as building leadership capacity by empowering students and educators to cultivate a growth mindset; and to lead by doing.

Candice's heart is for Authentic Christian School Education, offering the promise to deliver to its customers, academic excellence, through inspiring students to become confident influencers who are fully rooted in their identity in Christ. She believes that through a real and genuine connection and relationship with their Father and Maker, students will discover their inner potential which will ultimately result in them boldly living out their purpose. Candice believes that the strategic keys to academic success are opening a world of opportunity for students to become locally and globally relevant, embedding future-focused skills, designing a personalised learning journey for each unique and individual student, as well as empowering student agency which is voice and choice in all that they do. Collectively, all these offer students an education beyond expectation.

Candice has much to offer Knights Education Group (Pty) Ltd, in pursuing the organisation's vision, philosophy and key core values, being abreast the new and current trends in education with the goal is to see the Knights Education group grow, thrive and discover the endless possibilities and opportunities that lie within. Education is a lifelong learning journey, where we are constantly changing pedagogy to create environments which are both innovative and challenge students in their thinking to become global game changers who will indeed impact the world in which they live.

Candice is also a mother to two incredible girls, Morgan and Caitlin who she absolutely adores. She loves the Lord with all her heart and is happiest in the presence of her Father. Outside of school she involved in a ministry where she serves God whole-heartedly and takes time to minister the gospel and sow into the lives of others. Personally, she relishes in the opportunity of spending time with family and friends and considers herself an outgoing individual, who is most content when in the company of others. She also loves to plan, organise and execute new and exciting projects that fulfil purpose and meaning in her life and in the lives of others.

She is thrilled to be joining Knights in 2022 and looks forward to her own personal learning journey and adding value to the organisation, as she waits expectantly for God to move!