

# Tanish Springer

K-12 INSTRUCTIONAL  
TECHNOLOGY  
SPECIALIST, DOUGLAS  
COUNTY SCHOOLS

**T**anish Springer said kindergarten has always been a “springboard” for her.

When she was a kindergartener at Sand Hill Elementary, she remembers her teacher, Mrs. Holt, handing out certificates during the end-of-year awards ceremony. As her teacher called her classmates up, she remembers the stack continuing to get smaller and smaller. Her mom was getting worried that her name wouldn’t be called.

“The very last award to be called that day was ‘Best All Around’ and it was mine,” she said.

Years later, she was in her first year as an educator, teaching kindergarten, and earned her master’s degree in early childhood education in four semesters.

“I feel that these two strong experiences with kindergarten have had an impact on who I am today,” said Springer, who is now K-12 Instructional Technology Specialist for Douglas County Schools.

Springer initially started college as a nursing major but discovered her passion for education while working at a daycare, noting that she likes to think, “education chose me.”

Springer said she has been “blessed” to have supervisors during her career that have allowed her the freedom to be innovative and caring enough to nurture her talents and gifts.

Realizing her dream career was nearly sidelined before it got started. As a senior in high school, Springer was a point shy on her ACT score from getting into the college she wanted to attend. She remembers her guidance counselor telling her she wasn’t “college material.”

“My disappointment quickly turned to anger



and I embraced the motto, ‘Prove them wrong,’ ” Springer said.

She did just that, attending a two-year school for her first year and then a four-year university for her final three years. She graduated with honors and has since earned two post-graduate degrees and several certifications and endorsements.

“As an educator I want to emphasize that a person can be equally, if not more, successful without a degree from a four-year col-

lege,” she said. “This was the desired plan for me. Fortunately, early in life I decided that I would not let no’s, disappointments, or disapprovals determine my future.”

Springer gives back to the community by working with parents of underserved students of color, English Language Learners, students with disabilities and students living in poverty. She also contributes to local clothing drives and is a member at Shiloh Baptist Church in Carrollton.