



Biography

Kristen Acquah is an education and youth-program leader with more than 15 years of experience supporting military-connected children, youth, and families across the Department of War. She currently serves as a Headquarters School Liaison Program Specialist with the United States Marine Corps, where she provides strategic guidance on policy, program development, resource management, compliance, and professional development supporting School Liaison Programs across 16 Marine Corps installations.

In her current role, Kristen advises Marine and Family leadership on policy and program direction, manages annual resources and Program Objective Memorandum development, and leads professional development for more than 20 School Liaison professionals. She conducts higher-headquarters program assessments, analyzes trends and resource requirements, develops enterprise-wide training, and builds partnerships with national education and military-connected organizations to strengthen educational opportunities for military families. Her work includes initiatives focused on PreK–12 education, teen programming, youth sponsorship, prevention services, and equitable access to educational opportunities.

Prior to joining Headquarters Marine Corps, Kristen served as an Installation School Liaison Specialist and Child & Youth Services Assistant Director at Fort Belvoir. As a CYS Assistant Director, she led more than 70 personnel and managed a \$1 million APF/NAF budget supporting youth programs. Her career also includes Training and Program Specialist positions at Fort Lee and Joint Base Andrews, where she led professional development, youth programming, compliance efforts, and partnerships with organizations including Boys & Girls Clubs of America and 4-H.

Kristen began her career as an exceptional education teacher with Henrico County Public Schools, where she taught U.S. and Virginia history and special education. Through data-driven instruction and targeted interventions, she helped advance student academic achievement and improve assessment outcomes. Her foundation in education continues to shape her approach to policy, program evaluation, and advocacy for military-connected students.

Kristen holds a Master's degree in Education Leadership, Curriculum and Instruction from Liberty University and a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies from Old Dominion University. She has presented

nationally on equitable educational opportunities and access for military-connected youth and has contributed to webinars and professional development focused on military-connected students and families.

Throughout her career, Kristen has remained committed to strengthening programs, developing people, and creating meaningful opportunities for military-connected children and youth. Her leadership philosophy centers on collaboration, strategic stewardship of resources, and ensuring military families receive the support they need to thrive. Outside of work, Kristen is a proud mom of four girls and happily married to her high school sweetheart. She enjoys good food, traveling with her family, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.