

Taunya Jaco, Ed.D

Taunya Jaco, Ed.D., has been a lifelong advocate for justice. She is a middle school teacher and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the California Teachers Association (CTA), representing nearly 300,000 educators throughout the state. Dr. Jaco has been a champion for public and education and working class families at the local, state, and national level. She has served as the At-large and Equity Chair for CTA Santa Clara County Service Center Council, Chair of the Civil Rights in Education Committee for CTA's State Council (*statewide policymaking body*), and as a member of the National Education Association (NEA) Board of Directors.

Dr. Jaco is a defender of equity, inclusion, and justice in education. She conducted an exploratory documentary film study entitled *Fidelity At The Forefront: The Fight For Ethnic Studies*. The documentary illuminates the plight of Ethnic Studies practitioners and scholars as the state of California sought to develop the K-12 Ethnic Studies model curriculum, which is the first of its kind in the nation. The film is used, in part, to support the promotion, development, and implementation of Ethnic Studies programs in K-12 districts throughout the state. Dr. Jaco is a former student of the Oak Grove School District, and it is also where she began her career in teaching. She earned a Doctorate in Education Leadership from San Jose State University, a Masters of Arts in Journalism from Regent University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from San Diego State University.