

**Willie Patterson**  
**Director of Engagement**

“It begins when you listen to and respect community members, allowing their voice to be the tool that shapes the work of a community.”

Willie Patterson, Director of Engagement at LINC Up, brings close to a decade of expertise and vision to the team. Patterson, self-described as having a servant’s heart, has worked with community members in areas of civic organization, education, leadership, and in workforce development opportunities. In his work with the Believe 2 Become initiative, Patterson worked hand-in-hand with one of the greatest resources found in communities – parents. He worked on establishing a bridge of communication; sharing the opportunities found within the schools and through community partners.

“I come from a family of community servants, engaging community and helping people in any way possible is not only a personal goal, it is also a life mission. I believe our community needs to be part of the vision and decision making happening every day. “As part of LINC UP, I am able to reach out and bring individuals into the fold where they may not necessarily feel like they have a voice. We will navigate the process together, and it can only be successfully accomplished if it is led with the wisdom of the community.”