



## **Xavier Omar Edwards**

**Associate Director of Strategic Planning Initiatives  
School District of Manatee County**

Xavier “Omar” Edwards is a native of Manatee County. He has been an educator for the past 23 years. During his 23-year career, he served the students and parents of Manatee County as a Counselor, Program Manager, middle and high school Principal, and Currently Assistant Director for Manatee Technical College.

Mr. Edwards was educated in the public schools of Manatee County, graduating from Southeast High School in 1993. Upon graduation, Mr. Edwards received a fully paid scholarship to play football for the Ole Miss Rebels at the University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi. While at the University of Mississippi, Mr. Edwards earned two bachelor’s Degrees - Bachelor of Public Administration (1997) and Bachelor of Social Work (1998) degrees from the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi. Additionally, he became a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, which began his commitment to public service through various projects of the fraternity in the local community in Oxford.

Mr. Edwards began his career in education as a Career Counselor and later as Program Manager for a program for high school students at Manatee Technical Institute. This opportunity inspired him to pursue a master’s degree in educational leadership from National Louis University in Tampa Florida.

Mr. Edwards is a member of Rogers Community United Methodist Church in Bradenton Florida. He is a member of several organizations; Manatee Branch of NAACP, Life Member Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.,(Immediate pass Polemarch of the Sarasota (FL) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Inc; Manatee Chamber of Commerce Workforce and Educational Committee, Boys and Girls Club Corporate Board Member, and the Immediate Past President of the Manasota Pan-Hellenic Council.

Mr. Edwards is truly a community servant, and his involvement is extensive and quite varied, including Motivational Speaker for community events; workshop presentations to youth on empowerment, college and career readiness and Dress to Impress; volunteer in annual toy collection and distribution, Community Easter Egg Hunt for children and prostrate screening fairs. Additionally, he has served on the Search Committee as the new CEO for the Boys and Girls Club, former volunteer football coach at Bayshore High School, Palmetto High School, Southeast High School, and College Football Clinic coach.

Mr. Edwards’ professional affiliations include the Association for Curriculum Development (ASCD) and Advanced Ed. Accreditation Committee, as a team member in the accreditation process for schools. He was also selected to serve as a member of the original Strategic Planning Team for the School District of Manatee County.

Mr. Edwards believes it was his upbringing that has gotten him to where he is in life. He was taught by his mother who was taught by her grandmother, that you treat people how you want to be treated; that you do what is right even though it may not be what is popular; and that you look to the hills from which your help comes - for your help comes from the Lord.