

The public is deceived twice: Connecting the dots around the Indianapolis Shaheed sister's realm of the world educational reform movement empire

Mr. Tariq Al-Nasir deceives The Mind Trust

An April 23, 2021 *Chalkbeat* story, "["Deceived': Indianapolis charter school pitch left out lawsuits"](#) covered local educator Mr. Tariq Al-Nasir. The write-up went in-depth starting with the fact The Mind Trust gave him a 2-year \$800,000 fellowship last summer to further develop his STEMNASIUM—a school that would infuses computer science learning into all subjects. Note that Al-Nasir also received a [\\$50,000 prize in 2016](#) for this excellent STEM concept.

This led to Tariq pitching the idea as a middle school charter. During the process however, according to *Chalkbeat*, questions arose regarding some of his education background and financial dealings that had previously "...escaped notice by city charter officials and The Mind Trust." As a result, Al-Nasir withdrew his proposal. Because of his deceptive tactics, The Mind Trust ended his fellowship.

Chalkbeat deceives readers

What was also "deceptive" was the fact that the *Chalkbeat* story did not mention that Mr. Al-Nasir is Mariama Shaheed's husband.

Yes, Tariq Al-Nasir is married into the Shaheed sister's Indianapolis realm of the [world educational reform movement](#) empire emphasizing neo-liberalism, standardization, testing, and corporate management approaches such as the use of the portfolio model to run school districts.

Mariama is CEO of Global Preparatory Academy. Occupying former IPS #44, Global Prep is located in the historically Black Riverside neighborhood currently being colonized by the professional class of mainly white urban settlers. Riverside is north of the big money [16 Tech complex](#). A soon to be gentrified Riverside is also the home of Vision Academy and the [Riverside "Master Narrative" High School](#).

From the perspective of this analysis and commentary, one would think that this husband and wife relationship, and more importantly Tariq's marriage into the Shaheed family, was relevant to this level of investigative journalism.

In addition, this particular dramatic episode involving Mr. Al-Nasir is just another part of the ongoing Indianapolis debate around The Mind Trust and charter schools. Don't forget, Mariama was also a Mind Trust fellow receiving a [2-year \\$250,000 fellowship](#). She is now a national star of The Mind Trust enabled clique of Indianapolis school "innovators."

Although Mariama still goes by her maiden name, the general public knew of the marriage as early as October of 2020 in a startupgrind.com story, [Mariama Shaheed: CEO of Global Prep](#): "When Mariama is not in school, she enjoys traveling, hiking, outdoors sports and activities with her husband Tariq, dogs, and her daughter."

Here's the video where she talks about forming Global Prep. It's a must watch to understand how she got her corporate school reform politics: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UALC0jkzLSQ&t=3s>.

All of this brings up concerns

As stated above, *Chalkbeat's* investigation found "lawsuits, financial troubles, questionable academic credentials--that escaped notice by city charter officials and The Mind Trust."

To the extent The Mind Trust's Brandon Brown wanted to give Mr. Al-Nasir "a second chance" but could not after *Chalkbeat's* expose' to that same extent critically conscious citizens must ask:

- How many years has Mind Trust been vetting its fellows?
- What is it in their vetting processes that allowed this level of deception to slip through?
- To whom or what is The Mind Trust accountable?

What can we expect from The Mind Trust fox who's guarding the charter henhouse? We need an oversight entity

What is suggested here is that both The Mind Trust and the Hogsett's Office of Education Innovation need a fully independent Marion County oversight entity--free from mayoral politics and free from the [big big money controlling The Mind Trust](#).

Also, remember charters are public schools; they need public oversight!

Finally, if Mariana did not know about her husband's past, then that's a problem. Also, if Mariama knew of his past and said nothing, that's a problem.

Connecting the dots

Mariama's two sisters, Kameelah Shaheed-Diallo and Jasmine Shaheed Young ¹ are also in the corporate school reform game. Because of the [big money](#) behind this game, they receive lots of it. Add what Mr. Al-Nasir might have brought in, places lots of money and thus power and influence over Indy's education scene in this one family. The names and social networks of these women and their spouses are used to sway others to support a certain education agenda. This level of gravitas must be both respected and critiqued.

Mariama's past and present have been reviewed above. So, let's unpack the privatization, of all things, our local public schools and see what's going on in Indianapolis through the activities of these two women:

- [Kameelah Shaheed-Diallo and the City Fund](#)
- [Jasmine Saheed-Young and RISE Indy](#)

John Harris Loflin
Researcher
Parent Power—Indianapolis
Education-Community Action Team
05.05.2021
johnharrisloflin@yahoo.com

1. The three Shaheed sisters are the daughters of The Honorable David Shaheed. Judge Shaheed is a distinguished and well-known local freedom fighter and civil rights figure. Back in 1996, Judge Shaheed and lawyer John Moss were able to win the civil case against the City of Indianapolis involving the 1987 murder of 16-year old Michael Taylor. IMPD said Taylor shot himself in the head while he was handcuffed in the back of a patrol car with a 32 pistol that the police said was hidden in his sneaker. Here's the DJ Kyle Long WFYI radio Cultural Manifesto show [interview with John Harris Loflin: Who killed Michael Taylor?](#)