

Biography

Ayanna Hill-Gill

ahillgill@advis.org

Linked in: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ayannahillgill/>

Ayanna Hill-Gill—known to many as Yanni—a trailblazer in education and a passionate advocate for equity and excellence. Yanni is a dynamic and visionary leader in education, bringing a wealth of decades of experience as an accomplished educator and leader in independent schools. With a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry from Dickinson College and an Masters in Education in Organizational Leadership from Teachers College, Columbia University, her academic background is as diverse as it is impressive, with a career spanning decades of dedicated service in independent schools.

Yanni's passion for education is matched by her commitment to fostering inclusive and diverse communities. As Head of School at Purnell School in New Jersey and Atlanta Girls' School in Georgia, she made remarkable strides in integrating anti-bias work into school culture and curriculum, building strong academic programs, and ensuring that diversity, equity, and inclusion were not just ideals but lived experiences.

In her current role as President of ADVIS, Yanni brings her expertise to bear on governance and best practices, working with boards of schools to build stronger educational communities, coaching aspiring and current administrators to create a strong pipeline for future leaders, and creating programs and services to support best the mission of the 130-schools in ADVIS' membership. Her influence extends nationally and internationally, having served on the boards of the International Coalition of Girls' Schools, The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS), and Emory University's Visiting Board of Trustees. She is also a proud member of the International Women's Forum and an active member of Kiwanis International.

But there is more to Yanni than her professional accomplishments. Recently becoming an empty nester, she just moved her daughter to Boston University earlier this month. Her son is a Junior soccer player at Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, where she proudly cheers him on from the sidelines. When not supporting her children, Yanni can be found attending concerts, plays, and musicals, savoring moments by the beach with clear blue waters, or curled up by a fire with a good book in the winter. She enjoys jigsaw puzzles and is already planning which games she will attend at the World Cup in 2026. Yanni's commitment to service and community is unwavering. She is actively involved in her church and dedicates her free time to building programs that foster financial literacy, STEM, and leadership for underserved communities.