

Chelsea Kirk teaches English and serves as an instructional Coach at the Maya Angelou Academy at New Beginnings, the long-term secure care facility in Washington, DC. In addition to her instructional duties, Ms. Kirk has served as the school's basketball coach, and the school's site director of the Children's Defense Fund's Freedom School that Maya Angelou runs over the summer at the site. Ms. Kirk is known for her unbending enthusiasm, her commitment to helping each of her students succeed, and for her ongoing support for Maya Angelou Academy students once they are released and transition back to the community. Chelsea is also the winner of the 2014 CEEAS Lighting the Fire Teacher of the year award.