

Tovah Sheldon

Class of 2000

- Tovah was born and raised in Jackson, Mich., as part of a family of educators and philanthropists (parents, Jim & Lisa Scott; siblings, Sorah (Scott) Barnes, Joshua Scott).
- She graduated from Lumen Christi High School in 1998. She attended Jackson Community College from 1998-2000 to earn her associate degree and fast-forward her track to becoming a teacher. She audited many classes before and after those years to explore the wealth of options JCC offered. The College was also close to home, and she valued the support of her family.
- Tovah transferred to Grand Valley State University to complete her bachelor's degree in education with a concentration in math and sciences. She returned to Jackson to find a teaching position, be near family and give back to a community that she loved.
- Tovah's first job was working as a fifth-grade teacher at Parma Elementary in Western School District.
- After years in the Western School District, she became an educational consultant for Jackson County Intermediate School District and provided training to schools and others on curriculum, assessment, data and instruction. This service supported teachers and administrators to provide better education in Jackson County. During this time, Tovah also completed her master's degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from Eastern Michigan University. She received the University's high honor, the "Award of Excellence."
- To continue her education and work on her doctorate, Tovah took a position as a professor at Spring Arbor University, School of Education. During this time, she taught introductory, methods, and capstone courses for pre-service teachers and began her doctoral work at the Michigan State University College of Education in the Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education (CITE) Program. It was a joy to see the education cycle full circle and provided a valuable perspective on Jackson County's, the state's and the nation's education system.
- Near the completion of her doctorate, Tovah returned to Jackson County ISD to become the Director of Learning Services and Instruction, where she currently works and oversees the professional learning opportunities of Jackson County administrators, teachers and other educational staff. Beyond professional learning, she supports local school districts to ensure they can meet state and federal mandates as well as partners with community organizations to meet the needs of all students.
- She also serves as a part of multiple service groups such as Cradle to Career and the Jackson Community Foundation.
- Tovah credits family and a variety of mentors throughout her life with helping her achieve success, starting with her parents, a hand full of amazing teachers across her years in school, and her husband, whom she met while attending Jackson College in 1999.
- Tovah is married to husband, Nicholas Sheldon. She has two children, Wilson (age 10) and Amari (age 6). They reside in Jackson County and are committed to serving and bettering the community of Jackson for life.