In her five years of principalship, Lori Joiner has received multiple recognitions for her effective educational leadership. In addition to being named a Distinguished Principal, Joiner has received honors from the Georgia Association of Middle School Principals (GAMSP) on three occasions—in 2014 for leading an Effective Middle School Program, in 2012 for Exemplary Leadership, and in 2011 as an Outstanding Assistant Principal. Considering the successes that have occurred under her leadership of Risley Middle School, this recognition comes as no surprise. Joiner opened Risley as a first-time principal in 2012, managing all elements of establishing a new learning community—from construction, to hiring teachers and staff, to cultivating relationships in order to build a school culture reflective of the families it serves. With Joiner’s guidance, Risley has been named a National School to Watch and a Georgia Lighthouse School, a distinction that has facilitated a two-year, school-wide process of professional growth focused on adolescent child development. Leading Risley in this process reflects Joiner’s holistic approach to serving student needs, which she practices through rigorous, multi-dimensional data analysis, daily classroom involvement, and a heartfelt commitment to community. She holds an Ed.D. in Teaching and Learning and an M.Ed. in Middle Grades Education, both from Georgia Southern University, as well as a B.S. from Armstrong Atlantic University.