

Tawnya D. Smith is currently a doctoral student in Music Education at the University of Illinois. She is also a horn, brass, and piano instructor at the Immanuel Bible Foundation where she has an active private studio and facilitates expressive group activities in music and art. She received a bachelor's degree in Music Education from Bowling Green State University, and a master's degree in Horn Performance from Illinois State University where she was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student Award.

Tawnya has eighteen years of private teaching experience in both private and group instruction as well as five years of public school teaching experience as a band, chorus, and general music teacher. Tawnya's private students have participated at All-District and All-State, performed in local honor bands, orchestras, and musical productions, and have successfully performed at solo and ensemble contests. She also has led community and church choruses, teaches an adult music skills class, and continues to perform in the community both as a soloist and freelance musician.

In terms of teaching philosophy, Tawnya strongly believes that the goals of the student and their parents should guide instruction rather than imposing her goals upon students. She is eager to work with students whose goal is to major in music at the university and with students whose goal is to become a recreational musician. She considers both goals admirable and equally important and tailors learning to each individual towards their own vision of success.