March 24, 2020

New Visions for Public Schools mourns the passing of our friend and fellow educator, Principal Dez-Ann Romain, from complications due to COVID-19. The thoughts of New Visions for Public Schools staff are with her family and the staff and students at Brooklyn Democracy Academy.

“Dez-Ann was a force,” said Lucinda Mendez, Director of Transfer Schools at New Visions for Public Schools. “She was the perfect mixture of caring, loving, tough, innovative, and persistent: the personality it takes to lead an urban school community. Her passion and commitment made an impression on everyone she met. She loved the Brownsville community, her school, and most of all, she loved her students.”

While we mourn the loss, we also celebrate and remember Dez-Ann’s life. At a 2018 event reimagining postsecondary pathways for students, Principal Romain described the “job as a principal [as] not to think about a student as someone who needs to receive a diploma, [the] job is to educate a child so that their life can change after they receive the diploma.”

New York City has always needed the vision, passion, and dedication to others captured in her own words. The City needs them now more than ever. We will miss her deeply.