**Ricky Smith**

Ricky Smith is a native of Omaha, Neb., is a proud graduate of South High School (1993) and earned a degree in sociology with a concentration in counseling and a coaching endorsement from Midland University (1998). He has worked in youth services and education for 22 years.

He is passionate about educating students and is a strong advocate for youth in our city. Currently, he serves as the chairperson of the African-American Achievement Council and is a motivational speaker, collegiate lecturer, and coach.

Smith ran for a seat on the Omaha Public Schools’ Board of Education to have a greater impact on education and lead students in our community in the right direction. As a member of the school board, he hopes to help the district increase the number of students who graduate college ready and enroll in four-year institutions, improve ACT scores and develop a comprehensive plan for test preparation. He believes by raising expectations in education, you increase students’ potential for long-term success.

Smith has two sons: Darrick, a senior at South High Magnet and Damari, a sixth-grader at Dundee Elementary.