

Janiru Herath is a first-generation American working to address the educational inequities in the Twin Cities. Ethnically Sri Lankan and born and raised in Japan, Janiru brings perspectives rooted in multiculturalism, advocacy, and cultural fluency. Having worked in various capacities within the educational, public health, and social justice spheres, Janiru currently works as a special education math teacher at Hiawatha College Prep in Minneapolis, Minnesota, having the privilege of teaching some of the most inquisitive, curious, and passionate young future change-makers in the Twin Cities.

Janiru graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and a Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Minnesota, and completed his initial teaching experience through Teach for America. Finding nexus points in politics, protest, advocacy, and justice work, Janiru is involved progressive organizations and working in the fields of environmental activism, racial equity, and advocating for democratic socialist candidates for elected office. His areas of advocacy include racial equity work, destigmatizing mental health supports within the AANHPI communities, bridging public health access gaps, union organizing, and recruiting, training, and supporting fellow educators of color. Janiru serves as the chair of The Collective, a Teach for America alumni of color association, and also serves as a founding member and campus organizer for the Hiawatha Academies Workers Union.