



CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Sandra G. Edwards

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Degrees Earned:

- Ed.D. Deaf Studies/Deaf Education, 2012
Lamar University, Beaumont, TX
- M.S. School Administration, 2004
Jackson State University, Jackson, MS
- B.S. Deaf Education, 1987
University of Southern MS, Hattiesburg, MS
- A.A. General Studies, 1985
Hinds Junior College, Raymond, MS

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY:

Assistant Professor-University of Montevallo-August 2018-Present

As Assistant Professor and the program coordinator of the Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (EDHH) program at the University of Montevallo, I teach content courses for the completion of a degree in Deaf Education as well as supervise interns during practicum and internships in a variety of educational settings. In addition to teaching courses in the EDHH program, I am responsible for community service hours, committee participation, formal and informal presentations, research studies, and publications regarding Deaf Education.

Superintendent-Mississippi School for the Deaf—July 2009-July 2018

As the superintendent of a state school for the deaf, I am responsible for the supervision of approximately 100 staff members (academic and residential) and 240 statewide homebound, commuter and residential students. I am responsible to lead an administrative team of principals, directors, and counselors regarding universal design of learning and implementation of standards-based college and career educational programming pre-school through twelfth grade. In addition, I lead the directors who work with students on transition to college and/or career. Another major responsibility is the monitoring of budgets for four distinct areas.

- Academic
 - Personnel, materials, technology, equipment
- Residential
 - Personnel, materials, technology, equipment
- IDEA-Individuals with Disability Act
 - Personnel, materials, technology, equipment, ESY-Extended School Year Services

- Operations
 - Personnel
 - Contractual Services (transportation, security and food services)
 - Buildings (maintenance and building projects)
 - Grounds
 - Nursing/Clinic Services
 - Utilities
 - Consumables, technology, equipment

Lastly, I am responsible for working Academics and the Office of Special Education regarding the educational programming for students PreK-12. As well there is a need to collaborate with local school districts regarding the educational matriculation of deaf and hard of hearing students who are mainstreamed.

K-12 Principal-Mississippi School for the Deaf—December 2006-present

As the K-12 principal at the Mississippi School for the Deaf, I was responsible to lead all educational programming Pre-K through twelfth grade. I provided instructional leadership to 34 teachers, 12 teacher assistants, two secretaries, a guidance counselor and an educational specialist.

My leadership provided;

- Support to teachers in instructional delivery in all academic and vocational
- Support to teachers and school personnel in classroom management
- Support in Curriculum development and implementation
- Support in Professional development sessions
- Coordination with the Residence Education Director for the extended day programming in the areas of sports, tutoring as well as all extra-curricular activities

Responsibilities of my principalship included;

- Assisting teachers with the development of strategies designed to meet the needs of the visual linguistic system and the unique learning styles of deaf students
- Instructional support to teachers in the pre-school to secondary levels for students ages 3-21 in the implementation of state standards-based goals and objectives
- Monitoring weekly lesson plans, team teaching, development of class groupings and master schedules
- Mentoring sessions with academic staff
- Coordination of IEP development with teachers and the special education director
- Keeping abreast of advances in the field of deaf education
- Completed the annual personnel reviews
- Implementation of the state testing programs
- I worked closely with the superintendent on monitoring and expenditures of state funds and budgets regarding the academic programming

Elementary Principal-Mississippi School for the Deaf—October 2005-December 2006

As the building principal of the elementary department, I provided instructional leadership for 16 teachers, 10 teacher assistants, a secretary and the Early Intervention Coordinator.

The major responsibilities and opportunities included;

- Assisting teachers with strategies designed to meet the needs of the visual linguistic system and the unique learning styles of deaf students
- Instructional leadership to teachers and students ages 3-13 in the area of academics, discipline and guidance
- Monitoring weekly lesson plans, team teaching, development of class groupings and master schedules
- Ensuring the implementation of the Mississippi Curriculum
- Coordination of IEP development with teachers and Special Education Director
- Keeping abreast of advances in the field of deaf education
- Completed the annual personnel reviews and scores for all positions listed above
- Responsible for overseeing the implementation of the state testing programs

Director Of Instruction-Mississippi School for the Deaf—August 2003-October 2005

As Director of Instruction I served in the capacity of assistant principal and worked specifically with teachers Pre-K through twelfth grades.

This leadership opportunity provided experience in providing the following;

- I provided classroom teachers with strategies and training on programs designed to meet the needs of the visual linguistic system and the unique learning styles of deaf students
- I assisted teachers in the planning of lessons that increased learner outcomes
- I researched cutting edge strategies being used across the country
 - Fairview Reading program for deaf students, which I co-developed.
 - VL2-Visual Language, Visual Learning
- I served as district test coordinator which led to the following areas of leadership
 - Collaborated with teachers on accommodations allowable for deaf and hard of hearing students
 - Development of test security plans
 - Development of training materials for test security
 - Training for personnel on the test administration and proctoring of the state testing program
 - Maintaining test security and integrity
- Supervision of the parent/infant program coordinator and the delivery of services to young deaf children and their parents
- Supervised the staff interpreter/communication coordinator
- Duties for this division included the implementation of a communication improvement plan for the staff as well as coordination of the interpreting services needed

Bilingual Reading Consultant-Fairview Learning Corporation— August 2003

As a bilingual reading specialists, I co-authored an innovative reading program designed specifically to meet the unique reading and grammar needs of deaf and hard of hearing students. I

co-developed teaching materials designed to assist deaf students in their acquisition of reading and writing skills. This program has currently spread to all 50 states and several foreign countries.

As a consultant for Fairview Learning, I provided training sessions for staff members in public schools serving deaf and hard of hearing students and state schools for the deaf in 46 states. These training sessions included theory and strategies around this methodology.

Training Sessions included;

- Assistance to deaf educators in the implementation of the 5 components of reading program
- Data Collection on all 5 program components
- Analyses of data collected on all 5 program components
- Individual Mentorship for teachers implementing and collecting data for the Fairview Program

Adjunct Instructor-Millsaps College—1997-Present

As an adjunct instructor in the Education Department of Millsaps College, I have taught the following courses.

- Deaf Culture/American Sign Language to undergraduate students for 21 years
 - American Sign Language Grammar and Syntax
 - Cultural aspects associated with this language and the Deaf community
- Special Populations
 - Special Education Course regarding trends in Special Education as well as laws that protect students with disabilities (IDEA)

Nationally Certified Interpreter: National Association of the Deaf Level Five-1988- 2012

As a National Association of the Deaf Level 5 certified interpreter I have vast experience in interpreting national conferences as well as a variety of settings at the local level. These interpreting assignments include experience in a variety of settings to include medical, academic, religious, theatrical, and platform interpreting. I have delivered voice to sign as well as sign to voice interpreting in all of these settings. I possess excellent American Sign Language skills as reflected in this level five rating by the National Association of the Deaf.

Classroom Teacher-Mississippi School for the Deaf—1988 -1994

As a classroom teacher I taught a variety of students at a variety of age levels. I had to develop lesson plans for a variety of subject areas. I was responsible for the development and implementation of Individual Education Plans (IEPs). I was responsible for curriculum alignment and implementation. I also served as an interpreter for school activities and in-service training. I served on state testing review boards. I was a class sponsor as well as the school pageant coordinator.

Teaching experience included:

- Academic subjects at each grade level in the elementary department pre-school through sixth grade
- Reading, English, and Literature to seventh through twelfth grade

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:

- Deaf Education, ASL/English Bilingual Education, Literacy Development for Deaf Bilinguals, Instructional Strategies, American Sign Language, Diversity, Social Justice

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS:

- Mississippi Standard Certificate, K-12 Deaf Education, School Administration, K-12 Reading Specialty

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

- Conference of Educational Administrators of schools and programs for the Deaf (CEASD)
 - President Elect 2014-2016
 - President 2016-2018
- Counsel of the Education of the Deaf (CED)
- National Association of the Deaf (NAD)

COLLEGE TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS:

University of Montevallo

- American Sign Language/Deaf Culture
- Deaf Education Content Coursework

Millsaps College, Jackson, MS

- American Sign Language/Deaf Culture
- Special Populations

Hinds Community College, Raymond MS:

- American Sign Language 1, 2, 3
- Introduction to Interpreting

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES:

Publications:

Journal of Theories and Practice in Language Studies

Utilizing Fairview as a Bilingual Response to Intervention

American Annals of the Deaf

Reading Late the Understand, Pah! [Got It]

American Annals of the Deaf

Reading and Deaf Students

Odysee

Fairview Reading Program

Presentations:

- New York State School for the Deaf Professional Development (September 2018)
- CEASD-Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools & Programs for the Deaf National Conference (2014, 2016, 2018)
- EHDI-Early Hearing Detection and Intervention State Conference (2014)
- Dissertation Defense Edwards, S. (2012). Sociolinguistic impact of instability of educational philosophy on reading comprehension scores of students who are deaf and hard of hearing.
- Unpublished doctoral dissertation. Lamar University.
- International Reading Association \
- Annual Deaf/Blind Conference
- National Association of the Deaf Conference
- CAID-Council of American Instructors of the Deaf
- Annual ISSI Conference-7 State Literacy Conference
- Texas Biennial Conference on Literacy
- Gallaudet University Staff Development Program
- Arkansas Statewide Conference for Public School Teachers
- SERID-Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness-Alabama
- Utah Statewide Teacher Conference
- University of Southern Mississippi Literacy Conference
- Mississippi Department of Education Reading Conference
- Pennsylvania State Literacy Conference
- Gallaudet Literacy Conference
- SERID- Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness-Louisiana
- Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing/MDE-Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students-Mississippi
- University of Southern Mississippi-What does it take adequately serve Deaf and H.H. students?
- Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing-Sign Language Interpretation of Poetry and Songs-Mississippi

*Abbreviated list of conferences and training sessions, complete list available upon request.