



SUSAN BUNCH

Susan Bunch, program director of Teaching and Learning at Mississippi Center for Education Innovation (MSCEI), has over 30 years of expertise in education. She began her career as a kindergarten teacher at Bargerton Elementary School in the Henderson County School System (TN) in 1974. In 1986, Bunch was named Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction and continued in that position until 2003 when she became the first female Superintendent for the Henderson County School System. In 2002, she was named Tennessee's *Supervisor of the Year* by the Tennessee Department of Education.

In 1993-94, Bunch took a leave of absence from the Henderson County School District to serve as the "Teacher-in-Residence" at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This was the beginning of her adjunct teaching career that continued until 2008. In the years 1994 to 2008, Bunch taught and supervised student teachers at UT Martin, the University of Memphis, Jackson State Community College and Union University. Her wealth of experience and expertise in curriculum and instruction provided the background for the teaching of many methods courses at the graduate and undergraduate level as well as the doctoral course, *Educational Finance*, for Union University educators pursuing their Ed.S or Ed.D.

Previous to her appointment as program director of Teaching and Learning at MSCEI, she served as Assistant Commissioner of Education in the Division of Teaching and Learning at the Tennessee Department of Education from 2006-2008. During her tenure at the TDE, Bunch was co-chair of the *Tennessee Diploma Project* which became the impetus for sweeping change in state standards and graduation requirements. Ms. Bunch spent numerous hours traveling the state of Tennessee speaking to civic, parent, political, and educational groups regarding the *Tennessee Diploma Project* on behalf of the TDOE and the Governor's office. In addition to the *Tennessee Diploma Project*, Bunch worked with the Tennessee Board of Regents and State Board of Education in the preliminary planning of the *Redesign of Teacher Preparation* and was a committee member in the *Teacher Quality Initiative (TQI)* working on *Mentoring: Policy and Guidelines*. While serving as Assistant Commissioner, Ms. Bunch was a guest panelist in Washington, DC in a live webcast produced by Edvantia on June 26, 2008 entitled: *Highly Effective Teachers: More than Highly Qualified*. Before leaving the Tennessee Department of Education in June of 2008, Bunch lead the planning and beginning work for the *TN Electronic*

Learning Center with the TDOE continuing the process and opening the ELC in December 2009.

Bunch has obtained numerous notable recognitions and achievements throughout her career in for her leadership in improving education. Prior to leaving the state of Tennessee in 2008 for her new role at the Mississippi Center for Education Innovation, Bunch was awarded the *Colonial Aide de Camp* designation by Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen.

At the Mississippi Center for Education Innovation, Bunch is the program direction for Teaching and Learning which encompasses both work in Teacher Quality and Student Achievement. In February 2009, AT&T funded Bunch's proposal for a technology based student-to-student tutorial program in ten Mississippi Delta high schools as well as two colleges of teacher education at Delta State University and Mississippi Valley State University. The funding amount for the "*Early Educators*" project totals \$475,000.00. Ms. Bunch works closely with the Mississippi Department of Education and Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning and in collaboration with other not-for-profit organizations in improvement efforts on behalf of Mississippi students and teachers. In addition to education initiatives, Bunch serves as the facilitator and ex-officio member of the Mississippi P-16 Council.

Bunch holds a Bachelor's degree in elementary education (early childhood education concentration) from University for Tennessee at Knoxville, Master's degree in elementary education (early childhood education concentration) from University of Memphis, and 45 hours of post graduate hours in education administration and supervision and science education from University of Memphis and University of Tennessee at Martin.