

Valerie Thomas

QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

Dynamic Educator • Enhancing Change • Inspiring Lives- Broad background of implementing special programs for racially and ethnically diverse populations. Effective leader with excellent communication, planning, organizational and negotiation strengths. These strengths also include the ability to establish goals and attain results. Extensive background in developing students and educators.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Adjunct English Professor, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA **January 2008- Present**

Introduction to African American Literature (2180)

English 1101 Sections - (035, 033, LCB, 131, 128, 38, 023, 018,138,134, 144, 136,137)

English 1102 Sections- (LCB, 021, 0116, 0117, 23, 128, 129, 13, 08, 09)

- Design and implement a curriculum aimed at fostering a balanced syllabus.
- Manage grading system and online tools for ease in communicating with students.

Consultant, Georgia Department of Education, Atlanta, GA **Summer 2015**

- Interpreted standards for GSECC and guidance documents.
- Reconciled documents for teachers in state; documents used when teaching curriculum.

Consultant, Georgia Department of Education, Atlanta, GA **Summer 2014**

- Designed workshop, illustrating effective strategies for Common Core instruction.
- Presented successful instruction models aimed at increasing student achievement.

Early Intervention Program Educator, Kilpatrick Elementary, Jonesboro, GA **August 2014 – Present**

Elementary Education Educator, Kilpatrick Elementary, Jonesboro, GA **August 2006 - 2014**

- Founding member of “Striving Reader’s Grant Team” for Race to Top.
- Developed School Literacy Plan, 2012-2013.
- Former Partner in Education Liaison.
- Common Core State Standards Redelivery Team.
- Former Leadership Team member, Grade Chair, SST Chair.
- Supervised classified staff.

Instructor, Project GRAD/ Atlanta Public Schools, Atlanta, GA **Summer 2011-2014**

- Taught rising 10th and 11th graders in English/Language Arts.
- Used differentiated instruction and varied styles of teaching to help students develop their writing skills.
- Designed High School English curriculum for summer program based on aspects of Common Core State Standards.
- Partnered with University of West Georgia’s Center for Diversity Inclusion.

Mentor Teacher, Breakthrough Atlanta/ The Lovett School, Atlanta, GA **May 2008-August 2010**

- Served as direct supervisor for novice teachers.
- Developed curriculum for summer program.
- Created tools for efficiency in the classroom.
- Designed and facilitated discipline specific workshops related to education and pedagogy.
- Collaborated with program director to organize and implement trainings.
- Observed student teachers.

Advantage Program Director, Score Educational Center, Atlanta, GA **March 2005- January 2008**

- Managed a membership of over 200 students.
- Assisted in managing the financial results of the center.
- Supervised, trained and developed part-time employees.
- Developed part-time staff scheduling.
- Cultivated community partnerships.

Retention Specialist, Covenant House, NY, NY

June 2004- March 2005

- Studied and tracked retention and recidivism rates for students entering the work force from the RISE program.
- Created database for tracking retention of students.
- Earmarked system used to locate and train students for employment.
- Taught workshops preparing students for workforce.
- Developed contacts for student job database after completion of program.

RESEARCH

Research Assistant, Columbia University, NY, NY

September 2002 – May 2004

- Coordinated the Institute for Research in African American Studies 10th Anniversary Conference.
- Co-ordinated the Africana Criminal Justice Conference.
- Constructed panels for the two-day event, managing logistics.
- Managed budget for event.
- Designed brochures, pamphlets and all other communication for event.
- Navigated university infrastructure to develop event.

EDUCATION

MA. African American Studies. Columbia University. New York, NY.

BA. English. Howard University. Washington, DC.

HONORS, AFFILIATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

- Georgia Department of Education Consultant
- *Teacher of the Year*, 2013-2014
- Finalist, District Level *Teacher of the Year*
- Clear, Renewable Teaching Certificate, Georgia Professional Standards Committee
- National Dean's List Recipient, Columbia University
- Liberal Arts Scholarship, Howard University
- 21st Century Leader Alumni
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

- Georgia Department of Education Series- "Teachers: Classroom Change Agents"
- Managing Behavior –"Book Talk Series"
- Common Core Delivery- "Performance Based Assessments-Literacy"
- Common Core Delivery- "Digging into the Writing Standards"
- Common Core Delivery- "Foundations of Literacy"
- Common Core Delivery- "Foundations of Common Core in Math"
- Centers and Learning Stations- "Literacy Stations"
- Textbook Adoption Redelivery- Reading Street Series