

Karen O'Neal Graffius

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Professional Summary

Over 30 years experience teaching elementary, middle and high school chorus and general music. A member of the board of the Georgia chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. Approved Georgia Music Educators Association Choral Adjudicator. Currently serving as the Director of Choirs at the University of West Georgia.

Education

Ph.D.: Music Education, 1988

Louisiana State University - Baton Rouge, LA

Master of Music Education: Vocal Music Education, 1984

Louisiana State University - Baton Rouge, LA

Bachelor of Music: Vocal Music Education, 1981

Louisiana College - Pineville, LA

Work History

Assistant Professor of Music, 08/2019 to present **The University of West Georgia** - Carrollton, GA

Choral Director, 08/2002 to 5/2019 **Liberty Middle School** – Cumming, GA

Music Teacher, 08/1998 to 01/2001 **Rock Springs Elementary School** – La Vergne, TN

Music Teacher, 08/1995 to 06/1998 **LaVergne Primary School** – La Vergne, TN

Music Teacher, 08/1994 to 06/1995 **Lawrenceburg Public Elementary School** – Lawrenceburg, TN

Music Teacher, 08/1991 to 06/1992 **Christ Episcopal School** – Covington, LA

Choral Director, 08/1985 to 06/1991 **McKinley High School** – Baton Rouge, LA

Leadership Experience

Student and Activities Chair, Georgia chapter of the American Choral Directors Association
2023-2024

Middle School Repertoire and Resources Chair, Georgia chapter of the American Choral Directors Association, 2021 - 2023

Chair of the Undergraduate Program Committee, University of West Georgia, 2021-2022

Forsyth County Fine Arts Advisory Team, 2016 - 2019

Leadership Team at Liberty Middle School, 2014 - 2017

Chairman of the Connections team at Liberty Middle School, 2014-2017

Organizing Chair for the Forsyth County Honor Chorus, 2013-2017

Organizing Chair for the Louisiana Music Educators Association District IV Solo and Ensemble Festival, 1991

Chairman for the LMEA District IV Vocal Music Teacher's Organization, 1987-1990

Honors and Awards

Paulding County High School Honor Chorus Conductor, March 2023

GMEA District VII Middle School Honor Chorus Conductor, October 2022

Carroll County Middle School Honor Chorus, Conductor March 2021

Cherokee County Middle School Honor Chorus Conductor, October 2019

GMEA District 9 Middle School Honor Chorus Conductor, November 2016 and November, 2012

Forsyth County Sixth Grade Honor Chorus Conductor, February 2014

Forsyth County Seventh and Eighth Grade Honor Chorus Conductor, February 2009

Teacher of the Year Finalist, Liberty Middle School, 2003

Rock Springs Elementary School Teacher of the Year, 1998-1999

East Baton Rouge Parish Middle School Honor Chorus Conductor, February 1990

East Baton Rouge Parish Choral Director of the Year, 1989

Invited Choral Performances

The 2024 Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference, Athens, GA
The University of West Georgia Chamber Singers, *Celebrating the Human Experience*

The 2022 Georgia American Choral Directors Association Conference, Rome GA
The University of West Georgia Chamber Singers, *How Can I Keep From Singing?*

The 2019 Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference, Athens, GA
The Liberty Middle School Eighth Grade Chorus, *Sing With the Lark*

The 2015 Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference, Savannah, GA
The Liberty Middle School Eighth Grade Chorus, *Music Through the Ages*

Presentations

Conducting Masterclass Organizer, GA ACDA Conference, Berry College, October 2023

The Dynamic Rehearsal Plan, Carroll County, GA Choral Directors Workshop, Carrollton, GA, July 2023

Developing Tone in Your Adolescent Choir, GA All-State Chorus Directors, Athens, GA February 2023

Middle School Chorus Reading Session, GA ACDA Conference, Berry College, Oct. 2021 and Oct. 2022

Cultivating Tone With Your Middle School Singers, GMEA In-Service Conference (virtual), Jan. 2021

GA All-State Chorus Middle School Reading Session, Athens GA, February 2020

Voice Classification and Repertoire Guidelines for Middle School Chorus, GMEA In-Service Conference, 2020

Publications

Nurturing the African American Folk Song Legacy Juba: A Recorder Based Activity Lesson

Teaching Music, expected publication, Fall 2024