

Dr. Rosalyn Thomas



Rosalyn E. Campbell-Thomas moved to Springfield, Missouri in 1973. Her hometown of Oxford, Mississippi was very different from her new residence in Springfield. After graduating from high school, she attended Northwest Mississippi Junior College where she completed an Associate of Arts degree. Moving on to the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi where she continued her studies in Elementary Education. Her final year of study for the Bachelor of Arts degree was completed at Drury University.

Her first teaching job was at the Springfield Public Schools System as one of the first Learning Disabilities Itinerant Teachers. She traveled between three elementary schools serving children with learning disabilities. After 3 years, she was working in one building as a Resource Teacher. While working as a new teacher, Rosalyn started work on her Master's Degree and completed this in 1978. A Specialist in Educational Administration was completed at Southwest Missouri State University, now Missouri State University.

During this time, the district initiated a new program, Minority Liaison Program. Rosalyn was the first Minority Liaison appointed by the district. This job entailed home visits with families of color along with mentoring and starting the first diversity training program for the district. Diversity Training was offered on a yearly basis to faculty, staff and administrators. Rosalyn was certified as a Diversity Trainer from the REACH Center in Seattle, Washington. While in the position of Minority Liaison, the district was making an effort to attract a work force that reflected the population of the district. The Minority Teacher Program was started with Rosalyn as the coordinator. This program was in partnership with Missouri State University, Drury University and Evangel University. Teachers hired under this program are still within the district working in different departments of leadership.

After serving for thirty three years, Rosalyn retired from the school district. She later went to work on a part-time basis for Drury University as the Coordinator in the Office of Diversity under Student Support Services; she was in this position for six years. She presently works as an Associate Dean for Diversity at Drury University.

In 2018, Rosalyn received her Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership from Saint Louis University. She and her husband remain in Springfield with their son, a daughter who resides in Tampa, Florida and grandson, who attends Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi.