

PORTIA SELENE BONNER, BA, MS, Ph.D.

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CAREER OVERVIEW:

Over 26 years of educational experience as a teacher, administrator and consultant for pre-college grades with six years-experience at the Higher Education level. A strong background in curriculum and instruction, and working with diverse populations to impact learning.

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

2006 **Executive Leadership Program** – *University of Connecticut, Storrs*
2001 **Doctor of Philosophy, Curriculum & Instruction** - *University of Connecticut, Storrs*
1990 **Master of Science, Biology** - *Purdue University, West Lafayette*
1988 **Bachelor of Arts, Biology & Sociology** - *Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs*

CERTIFICATION & TRAINING:

Superintendent of Schools, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Maryland & Virginia
Professional Educator for Biology Grades 7-12, Connecticut
Intermediate Administrator's Certificate, Connecticut
TEAM (Teacher Educator & Mentor Program) Certification, Connecticut

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

2017- Present **Educational Consultant** - Personal business that establishes contracts with school districts.
Description: To assist school districts in the evaluation of academic programs.
Current Contractual agreement with Vernon Public Schools, Vernon, Connecticut
Description: Consultant for the science program serving one high school, one middle school, and three elementary schools.
Duties and responsibilities included:

- Facilitate the development of grades 4-5 lesson plans for unit bundles spanning several NGSS
- Conduct classroom observation at middle and high school level to improve implementation of NGSS
- Identify areas in need of improvement; suggest instructional strategies and curricular modifications to meet district goals.

2013-2017 **Superintendent of Schools** – East Haven Public Schools, East Haven, Connecticut
Description: Educational leader of seven elementary schools, one middle school, one comprehensive high school, and alternative programs for a student population of 3100 students.
Duties and responsibilities include:

- Implementation of five-year strategic plan
- Improvement of academic rigor for students
- Evaluation of principals and department heads
- Collaboration with leadership team
- Facilitation in the development and management of a fiscally-sound budget
- Engagement of parents, businesses, postsecondary institutions, and community organizations
- Construction of professional learning communities and hiring faculty that exhibits the diversity of the District
- Restructuring the leadership team and departments
- Collaboration with State for District improvement
- Development of a Master Facilities Plan for school consolidation and renovation
- Celebration of students

- 2011-2013 **Administrator** – Connecticut Technical High School System, Connecticut
Principal – Henry Abbott Technical High School, Danbury, Connecticut
Description: Serve as educational leader in a technical high school with a student population of 649 students.
Duties and Responsibilities included:
- Supervision & evaluation of assistant principals, teachers, and shop instructors
 - Facilitation of School's Data Team
 - Facilitation of the School Climate Team
 - Management of building and operations
 - Facilitation of the teacher evaluation system
 - Facilitation of professional development
- Assistant Principal** – Oliver Wolcott Technical High School, Torrington, Connecticut
Description: Assistant educational leader in a technical high school with a student population of 675 students.
Duties and Responsibilities included:
- Supervision & evaluation of teachers, shop instructors, special education department and support services
 - Facilitation of CAPT & NAEP testing and Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment
 - Facilitation of the School Climate Team
 - Supervision of students in grades nine through twelve
 - Facilitation of the teacher educator and mentor program for new teachers
 - Facilitation of professional development
- 2010-2011 **Educational Consultant** – Personal business that establishes contracts with school districts.
Contractual agreement with Wolcott Public Schools, Wolcott, Connecticut (2010-2011)
Description: Consultant for the science program serving one high school, one middle school, and three elementary schools.
Duties and responsibilities included:
- Assist data teams and analysis of data
 - Align curriculum program throughout the grades
 - Assist in unit identification and development for integrated approach at the middle school level
 - Assist with the continuous development of common formative assessment
 - Formalize procedures and protocols for laboratory report, technical writing and note taking
 - Collect evidence that department is meeting school, and district-wide goals
 - Conduct walkthroughs
 - Executive coaching to assistant superintendent
- 2008-2010 **Superintendent of Schools** – New Bedford Public Schools, New Bedford, Massachusetts
Description: Educational leader of 22 elementary schools, three middle schools, one comprehensive high school, and alternative programs for a student population of 12,650 students.
Duties and responsibilities included:
- Development and implementation of strategic plan
 - Improvement of academic rigor for students
 - Evaluation of principals and department heads
 - Collaboration with leadership team
 - Facilitation in the development and management of a fiscally-sound budget
 - Engagement of parents, businesses, postsecondary institutions, and community organizations

- Construction of professional learning communities and hiring faculty that exhibits the diversity of the district
 - Restructuring the leadership team
 - Collaboration with State for district improvement
 - Celebration of students
- Spring 2007 **Acting Superintendent of Schools** – Hamden Public Schools, Hamden, Connecticut
Description: Educational leader of eight elementary schools, one middle school, one comprehensive high school, and alternative programs for a student population of 7,000 students. Duties and responsibilities included the continuation of district leadership until interim superintendent was appointed.
- 2005-2008 **Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction** – Hamden Public Schools, Hamden, Connecticut
Description: Curriculum and instructional leader of the district. Duties and responsibilities included:
- Evaluation and supervision of the performance of academic directors and directors of special programs
 - Analysis and disaggregation of data pertaining to students' performance and propose district goals to the Superintendent
 - Composition and management of State, Federal, and competitive grants
 - Facilitation and development of improvement plans
 - Management of teacher evaluation plans
 - Development of curriculum and programs to improve students' academic performance
 - Professional Development
 - Grant writing, securing and monitoring
 - Collaboration with hiring process
- 2003-2005 **Supervisor of Science & Technology Education** - Waterbury Public Schools, Waterbury, Connecticut
Description: Curriculum and instructional leader for the departments of science and technology for grades K-12 in the school district comprised of 22 elementary schools, three middle schools, one comprehensive high school, and alternative programs for a student population of 12,650 students. Duties and responsibilities included:
- Development of curriculum and programs to improve students' academic performance recruitment, recommendation of hirers, and evaluation of staff
 - Professional development
 - Budget and management of Perkins grant for technology department
- 1999-2003 **Department Chair** - Science Department, Wilby High School, Waterbury, Connecticut
Description: curriculum and instructional leader for science department comprised of ten staff members. Duties and responsibilities included:
- Scheduling and assignment of classes
 - Managing departmental budget
 - Revision and implementation of curriculum
 - Initiated the Advanced Placement Biology Program
- 1994-2003 **Instructor** - Biological and General Sciences, Wilby High School, Waterbury, Connecticut
- 1991-1994 **Instructor** - Biological and Physical Sciences, Bullard Havens Regional Vocational Technical School, Bridgeport, Connecticut

HIGHER EDUCATION WORK EXPERIENCE:

- 1990-1994 **Adjunct Faculty** - Biological Sciences, Post University, Waterbury, Connecticut
General Biology I – Introduction and emphasis on molecular and cellular biology, evolution and basic biological and chemical principles.
- General Biology II – Continuation of introduction emphasis on animal and plant diversity, and environmental and ecological interrelationships of living and nonliving things in ecosystems.
- Nutrition – Principles of nutrition with application to physiological needs of individuals.
- 1990-1992 **Minority Outreach Coordinator and Academic Advisor** - Charter Oak College, Farmington, Connecticut. Recruited individuals from underrepresented groups. Developed, advised and navigated students through planned course of study. Assisted and proctored assessments, and guided students in creation of portfolio. Facilitated study groups and seminars in the social sciences and reviewed previous course work and work experience.
- 1988-1990 **Teaching Assistant** - Biological Sciences, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana
Laboratory assistant and study coordinator for undergraduate students for General Biology and Developmental Biology.
- Summer 1987 **Residential Counselor and Science Tutor** - Higher Education Opportunities Program, Summer Session, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York
Counseled and assisted incoming freshmen from underrepresented backgrounds transition into college and tutored in science.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- 2002-2003 **Adjunct Faculty** - Gospel Chorus, Post University, Waterbury, Connecticut
- 1991-1992 **Science Instructor** - Physical Science, Summer Sessions for Grades 1-5, Naugatuck Valley Continuing Education Program, Naugatuck, Connecticut

SUPPLEMENTAL EXPERIENCE:

- Social Service Coordinator - Mt. Olive Towers, Waterbury, Connecticut
- Intern - Neighborhood Housing of Waterbury, Inc.
- Church Musician and Minister of Music – Mt. Olive AMEZ Church, Waterbury, Connecticut

PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED:

- Workshop Presenter on the Importance of Music Ministry in Worship, Cross Street AME Zion Church, Middletown, Connecticut, December 2015
- Guest Speaker honoring African American Teachers of Waterbury Public Schools by Goodwill Lodge #1325 and Clock City Temple 895, Waterbury, Connecticut, October 2015
- Guest Speaker for Magnifying the Power of Merchants of Hope, Internet Talk Show on the Voice of America Variety Channel, March 2010
- Guest Speaker for YWCA's week without violence, *Eliminating Racism and Hate Crime*, Breakfast, New Bedford, Massachusetts, October 2009

- Panelist for Harvard Graduate School of Education discussion on *What Works in Leading Districts and Schools*, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Spring 2009
- Guest Speaker for City of New Bedford Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration , Massachusetts, January 2009
- Guest Speaker for Ninth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Breakfast, Bristol Community College, Fall River, Massachusetts, January 2009
- Guest Speaker for Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board, Inc., Good Morning Southcoast Series, Massachusetts, October 2008
- Data Driven Decision Making in the Science Classroom, Waterbury School District, Connecticut, March 2005
- Data Driven Decision Making for Administrators, Waterbury School District, Connecticut, March 2005
- High School Graduation Exit Criteria for Science, Waterbury School District, Connecticut, November 2001

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

Dissertation: The Influence of Secondary Science Teachers' Pedagogical Knowledge, Educational Beliefs, and Perceptions of the Curriculum on Implementation and Science Reform, 2001

Undergraduate Thesis in Biology: Effects of Circadian Rhythms Disruption on OH Consumption in Mice, 1988

Undergraduate Thesis in Sociology: The Work Ethic and Professionalization of the Genetic Counselor. Paper presented at National Society of Genetic Counselors Annual Meeting, New Orleans, 1988

HONORS & AWARDS:

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| 2015 | Legendary Women Honoree, The Perfect Blend an organization committed to fostering leadership in young women through mentorship |
| 2011 | Appointed by the Governor of the State of Connecticut to serve on the Educational Cost Sharing Task Force with the charge of reviewing how the State funds local school districts |
| 2003 | Professional Award - National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., the Waterbury Chapter |
| 2001 | Fellow - Education Policy Fellowship Program for the State of Connecticut |
| 1998 | Science Teacher Award - Olin Corporation |
| 1997 | Grant Recipient - Ed-Tech Center training on utilizing computer technology as instructional tools in the classroom |
| 1995 | Apprenticeship - Using Biotechnology in the Classroom, University of Connecticut |
| 1994 | Fellow - Research concerning the effects of exercise on the luteal phase of the menstrual cycle, University of Connecticut Health Center |

- 1988 Jo C. Hebard Memorial Prize, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York
- 1984-1988 Katherine Perkins Scholarship, First Congregational Church, Waterbury, Connecticut
- 1984 Links Scholarship of Waterbury, Connecticut

AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS:

Boys & Girls Village, Connecticut, Board of Directors
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
National Association of School Boards
American Association of School Administrators
Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents
Former member of South Central Area Superintendents' Association
Former member of Southern Connecticut State University Consortium
Former member of the Charlton College of Business Advisory Board, University of Massachusetts
Former member of the Collaborative Alliance Network Board, Brown University