

VERA WALKER HAWKINS
Interim Chair & Associate Professor of Communication
Texas Southern University • School of Communication
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**Transmedia Storytelling • Educational Gaming • Media Literacy • Children's Culture
Digital Media & Diversity**

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Media Influence & Child Development
- Digital Technologies & Learning
- Cross Platform Media Production & Storytelling
- Culture, Race & Gender Studies
- Journalism Education & Program Assessment

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA. 2002-2005

Post-doctorate, Department of Comparative Media Studies

Research focuses on transmedia storytelling and the use of communication technology to educate urban youth. Emphasis on developing games that teach and creating culturally relevant programming across media platforms. Investigated children's attitudes, motivation, and multiple literacies as related to technology and reading comprehension.

Research Sponsor: American Educational Research Association (AERA)

Research Mentor: Professor Henry Jenkins

University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX. May 2001

Ph.D. in Journalism

Dissertation: Traditional Versus New Media: Storytelling as Pedagogy for African American Children

Dissertation Director: Professor Wayne Danielson

The University of Ohio, Athens, OH. August 1990

M.A. in Telecommunications Management

Fellow, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Educational Telecommunications Administration

Graduate Research by Invitation, TV Ontario, in Toronto, Canada

New York University, New York, NY. August 1989

Filmmaking Certificate Program, Tisch School of the Arts

Introduced to all aspects of filmmaking including shooting, writing, directing, cinematography, editing, and producing.

Tufts University, Medford, MA, May 1983

B.A. in Theater, Minor in Political Science

Honors Studies in France, Switzerland and Washington, D.C.

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Sage Publishing, Thousand Oaks, CA. Participate in virtual focus-group research to provide feedback on college-level communication textbook, course materials and e-learning platforms. 2019.

Interaction-Design Foundation, Houston, New York and Toronto Chapters. Professional organization engaged in raising global design education to an Ivy League standard at sustainable rates to those interested in media design. Currently working on certification in Gamification, Human-Computer Interaction and Emotional Design. 2016-Present.

Children’s Media Association, New York Chapter. Professional organization committed to creating and distributing thoughtful, entertaining media to children and young adults. Active participant in workshops and meetings. 2014-Present.

Women in Animation, New York and LA Chapters. Professional organization dedicated to advancing women in the field of animation through creation, production and knowledge of the industry, Actively engaging with diverse women and men to help move the culture of animation forward. 2014-Present.

Little Airplane Production Preschool Academy. New York, NY. Intensive training on “How to Make a Great Preschool Series” held by Emmy award-winning creators of children’s programming, Little Airplane Productions. Led by Josh Selig and featuring industry leaders in character design, script writing, children’s media research, pitch bibles and business models. Fall 2013.

NATPE Faculty Fellow, Digital Kids Division, WGBH Educational Foundation, Boston, MA. Recipient of a National Association of Television Program Executives (NATPE) grant to shadow the Director of the WGBH Interactive Kids Division, Bill Shribman. Observed the programming team conduct formative research, collaborate to create new episodes of award-winning children’s shows and interview staff on job responsibilities and production goals. Participant-observer in the creation of mobile and IPAD application for STEM learning. Summer 2013.

Office of Educational Services, TV Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Graduate Intern (by special invitation.)PBS Graduate Fellow from The Ohio University assigned to the Director of Educational Services. Shadowed the direction and creation of episodes of Polkaroo and other children’s media. Summer 1990.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Interim Chair & Associate Professor of Journalism (with full tenure), The School of Communication, Texas Southern University, Houston, TX. TEACHING FOCUS: Public relations, social media and integrated marketing communications. *Currently serving my second term as Interim Departmental Chair.*
August 2005–Present

Courses Taught:

- Undergraduate
 - SC 135 Business Professional Communication
 - CM 200 Intermediate Writing
 - TC 230 Media Studies
 - JOUR 232 Introduction to Advertising
 - JOUR 234 Introduction to Public Relations
 - JOUR 235 Online Journalism
 - JOUR 335 Computer Assisted Reporting
 - JOUR 356 Advertising PR Campaigns
 - RTF 375 Media Performance
 - JOUR 430 Independent Study
 - JOUR 431 Community News Operations
 - JOUR 443 Advanced Broadcast News
- Master’s Level
 - CM 634 Advanced Communication Research Methods

JOUR 531 Seminars in Mass Communication
 JOUR 539 International Communications
 JOUR 542 Newsroom Procedures and Practicum
 JOUR 550 Journalism Seminars
 JOUR 571 Literature of Journalism

- Courses I revised and /or redesigned

CM 200 Intro to Media Research
 JOUR 431 Community News Operations
 JOUR 450 Problems in Journalism
 JOUR 542 Newsroom Procedures and Practicum
 JOUR 550 Journalism Seminar

Accomplishments include:

Founding Member, Advisory Board, The Teaching and Learning Excellence Center (TLEC),
 January 2012-2014

- Instrumental in the conceptualization and creation of this newly formed center designed to enhance the teaching and learning environment at Texas Southern.
- Provided advice, guidance and leadership support to the TLEC 's Interim Director and its staff to develop workshops and ongoing programming for the University community.

Interim Director, Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) and Topic Committee Chair, 2008-2011

- Facilitated and oversaw the topic selection and major development of the university's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)
- Manage and apply all information generated during the QEP topic selection and development process; shared pertinent information with appropriate faculty, staff, and administrators
- Serve as liaison between Instruction, Student Development, and Institutional Effectiveness in order to create and facilitate an integrated, on-going process of enhancement, assessment, and planning as described in the proposed QEP (This entailed regularly reporting to the Academic Cabinet, Institutional Effectiveness Committee, and various related SACS Committees
- Worked with Vice President for Advancement on campus and community activities to "market" the QEP to students, faculty, administrators, staff and community (Includes an awareness "Kick-Off" week, winter 2011; presenting the QEP at various student and faculty venues, etc.)
- Lead the presentation of the proposed QEP Topic before the SACS Reaffirmation Onsite Team Visit
- Advise on human and fiscal resources for developing and implementing the QEP.
- Built QEP Selection Teams: Group of faculty with a passionate interest in a proposed QEP topic as a research area in their own classrooms
- Facilitate cooperation and communication between all areas involved in developing and implementing the QEP.
- Communicate vital information about the QEP, including important dates, accomplishments, and findings to the college community.
- Stay current on best practices in post-secondary education enhancement and assessment.

Interim Chair, Journalism Department, August 2006-August 2010

- Expanded the number of students enrolled in the journalism program and increased resources available to undergraduates such as access to computers, software and learning opportunities to join professional student organizations such as the Houston Association of Black Journalist and the Houston Public Relations Society of America.

- Created internships and service-learning opportunity within the field of communication leading to jobs and graduate school placement for journalism students.
- Led program reviews, accreditations and handle budget-related tasks for the journalism area
- Spearheaded the initiative to develop an Assessment Plan for School of Communication Including Journalism, Speech Communication, Radio, Television and Film, Entertainment and Recording Management and the Graduate Program.
- Created assessment templates used to assess undergraduate and graduate courses in School of Communication, particularly Journalism Department.
 - Created rubrics to evaluate news stories
 - Spearheaded the Journalism Department effort to revise curriculum for majors in public relations, print and broadcast
 - Served on the School of Communication Curriculum Committee and helped to revise core Communication courses
 - Created special topics courses for undergraduate and graduate journalism students
 - Investigated the curricula of other HBCU's and Top 10 Journalism Schools in the country as part of an effort to identify best practices in course offerings.
 - Prepared class schedules and proposed curricular changes for Dean's review
 - Hired, mentored and evaluated teaching staff
 - Planned/lead monthly faculty meetings
 - Taught/advised undergraduate and graduate students.
 - Responded to student concerns/appeals
 - Supported recruitment and achievement of new faculty/ students (grad and undergraduate)
 - Represented department on various committees, at conferences, workshops and various functions
- Promoted and supported departmental growth and welling being through various programs and activities

- Created new departmental student organizations, The Ida B. Wells Society for Women in Journalism and the Ed Bradley Society of Minority Men in the Media and supported existing student organizations such as the TSU Chapter of the Association of Black Journalists

Associate Graduate Faculty Professor, Master's Program, And The School of Communication

- Kharine Mundley, Thesis Advisor
HIV/AIDS: The Rise Among Black College Women
December 2011
- Timothy Dickson, Reviewer
Coming to the Stage: Can Contemporary African-American Theater Bridge the Socio-Economic Gap Among African-Americans
May 2010
- Ashley Rhodes, Reviewer
The Effects of Prime-Time Television on African American Elderly
May 2008

Committees

- Texas Southern University Research Committee, Houston, TX. 2006-Present.
- Program Assessment Committee, Member, 2007-2011
- Educational Majors Committee, Member, 2006-2011
- Quality Enhancement Plan Committee, Topic Selection Director, 2007-2011
- SACS Education Committee, Member, 2006-2011

Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA. August 1998-December 2002

Courses taught: Intro to Public Relations, Public Relations Campaigns, Writing for Public Relations, Fundamentals of Public Speaking, and History of American Film.

Accomplishments include:

- Demonstrated excellent classroom management skills and a passion for teaching.
- Successfully integrated online curriculum into public speaking and media history courses.
- Public Relations Sequence Head responsible for teaching, advising, and developing courses and students in the public relations track within the department.
- Created new curriculum in the area of Mass Communications to include a course on Integrated Public Relations. This expanded the public relations sequence to four courses.
- Advised students on course of study, applying for graduate schools and scholarships, career planning and professional development.
- Utilized computer network system to teach techniques in electronic information gathering.

GRAD-STAR Representative, Communication Department (1999-2002)

- Prepared undergraduate scholars for graduate programs by providing enrichment activities and academic experiences beyond the regular classroom, 1999-2002
- Identified students with graduate school potential and nurtured through the process of preparing and applying for graduate school
- Relayed current information from GRAD-STAR office to the faculty and students in communication department
- Met with GRAD-STAR Committee to initiate and facilitate programming in the line with the mission of Xavier to prepare scholars who can achieve in graduate programs
- Participated in Graduate School Recruitment Day and represented the Graduate Outreach Program at The University of Texas at Austin
- Successfully mentored approximately 8 students into Master's and Ph.D. programs

Co-curricular Advisor (1998-2002)

- National Association of Black Journalist (NABJ), Xavier University of Louisiana Student Chapter. Encouraged student involvement in this professional communication organization. Sponsored trips to regional NABJ events, help secure internships and mentoring experiences for students with media professionals in the New Orleans area, 1998-2000, Co-advisor, 1998-1999
- Pure Genius Society, an interdisciplinary student organization aimed at communicating urban culture by sponsoring "poetry slams" and other urban literary events, 2001-2002; Co-advisor, 2000-2001

Departmental Service (1999-2002)

- Faculty Search Committee Member, Communication Department, Fall 2002 and Spring 2001
- Recording Secretary, Communication Department's Faculty Meeting, 2000-2001
- Host Committee Member, American Language Associations National Conference, organized by Xavier University's Department of Languages, New Orleans, LA. Spring 2001
- Speech Competency Evaluator for University-wide SACS Assessment

Service-Learning Faculty

- Integrated service and community-based activities into curriculum of Public Relations Writing Course in conjunction with Office of Service Learning, Xavier University of Louisiana, 2002
 - Students participated as media volunteers at the 2002 Super Bowl in New Orleans
 - Student organized a public relations conference in association with the New Orleans Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA)
 - Students were invited to the National Headquarters of the National Football League during the National Association of Black Journalists Conference in New York
 - Students received numerous offers for internships and summer employment as a result of their participation

Visiting Professor, School of Journalism, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. Summer 1998

Course Taught: Race, Gender and Media

Accomplishments include:

- Minority Faculty Teaching Fellowship Recipient
- Researched issues pertaining to portrayal of racial minorities in the media.
- Examined the roles of women in advertising, film, and television.
- Considered social and cultural depictions of various interests groups in the news.
- Attended workshops for journalism educators sponsored by IU-School of Journalism.
- Conducted informational interviews throughout the IU academic community to identify new research areas pertaining to children, multimedia technology and educational programming.

Teaching Assistant, Journalism Department, The University of Texas at Austin, Fall 1992- Spring 1998

Courses assisted: Broadcast News Production, Radio News Production, and Writing for Television.

Accomplishments include:

- Assisted in preparing students to produce weekly TV and radio news programming.
- Approved story ideas for student reporters to investigate.
- Edited student copy and suggested revisions for news and featured stories.
- Advised on all aspects of TV and radio production.
- Recruited undergraduates, graduates, and transfer students for B.A. and higher degrees.

Adjunct Professor, Communication Department, Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, TX. Spring 1997

Courses taught: Minorities and the Media

Accomplishments include:

- Initiated and negotiated the donation of computers to create a journalism and English writing lab.
- Mentored students majoring in communication.

Instructor, Communication Department, Alcorn State University, Lorman, MS. 1990-1992

Courses taught: TV Production I and II, Video-Making, Documentary Genre

Accomplishments include:

- Supervised the use of TV studio facilities and equipment for university closed circuit cable system.
- Maintained Communication Department's media office, directed work-study students, monitored TV satellite programming, and issued video and camera equipment to university faculty and students.
- Evaluated and coordinated the used of distance learning programs for university audience.
- Coordinated videoconferences for academic community.

Director of Public Relations and Publications, LeMoyne-Owen College, Memphis, TN, 1987-1989

- Managed the public relations program for historically black college, worked directly with the President, faculty, students, alumni and community leaders
- Responsible for the publishing for the Official University Directory and the various newsletters for college community
- Wrote speeches for the President of LeMoyne-Owen College
- Supervised the production for (4) radio-thons and a telethon as a college fund-raiser
- Directed and programmed live segments of radio and TV broadcasts, coached TV hosts and briefed radio interviewees, taped numerous public service announcements that featured students, alumni, business and community leaders to air prior to, during and after events
- Supervised set design and assembly
- Oversaw the developed for (4) TV mini documentaries for academic institution dealing with the role of the Black college in the community

Public Schools, Substitute Teacher

1996-1998, Austin Independent School District, Austin, TX

1985-1986, Memphis City Schools, Memphis, TN

Courses taught: Elementary through high school classes.

Accomplishments include:

- Maintained a structured, monitored environment, including adhering to mandated minutes per subject requirements, while setting and achieving daily student goals in the absence of regularly assigned teacher.
- Created indoor and outdoor lesson plans for children's activities.
- Integrated multiple subjects and provided students with hands-on projects, creating an atmosphere of learning and fun.

Conferences, Workshops and Meeting Attended

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication 106th Annual Conference, August 7-10, 2023,

Panelist, Degruyter Handbook "Media Entertainment and Communication," August 8, 2023

National Communication Association's 108th Annual Convention, November 17-20, 2022 in New Orleans, LA. ,

Panel Co-Organizer, "Race, Representation, and Impact: Honoring Children's PLACE in Media" Presentation, *Doc McStuffins: The Transformative Power of Representation in Children's Programming*, Nov. 18, 2023.

Dow Jones Newspaper Fund and Borderzine.com., Multi-media Workshop, El Paso, TX 2023

Kidscreen, New York, NY & Miami, FL, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2023

Ontario Alliance of Black School Educators Inaugural Annual Conference, Planning Committee, Toronto, 2015-2022

National Association of Television Program Executives Market & Conference, Miami Beach, FL, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

Mipcom Junior, Cannes, Fr, World's showcase for children's programming, 2015

International Design for Children Conference, New York, NY, 2013

Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) and TSU's Student Academic Enhancement Services Workshop, Texas southern University, February 2012

Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) and TSU's Student Academic Enhancement Services Workshop, Texas southern University, March 2012

American Association of Colleges and Universities General Education Assessment, New Orleans, LA, February 2012

American Educational Research Association Annual Conferences, 2002-2005.

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Conferences, 2005, 2008, 2010, 2013-2023

Dow Jones Newspaper Fund, 2012 Digital Workshop for HBCU Faculty, Bowling Green, Kentucky, Summer 2012

Houston Association of Black Journalists Summer Workshop, Houston, TX. 2007-2009.

International Intercultural Communication Conference, Texas Southern University, Houston, TX. 2006-2011.

National Communication Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 2010

Southwestern Business Administration Teaching Conference (SWBATC). Texas southern University School of Business, October 2010

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX. December 2008.

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA. December 2009.

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA. December 2010.

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Summer Institute, Houston, TX. 2009.

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Summer Institute, Tampa, FL. 2010.

Texas Southern University Research Week Conference, Houston, TX. 2006-2011.

HONORS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Lillian Lodge Kopenhagen Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication at Florida International University, Fellowship Recipient, Toronto, Ontario, 2019-2020 Cohort **Institute for Diverse Leadership in Journalism and Mass Communication, Fellowship Recipient**, Awarded by the Association for Educators in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC), Washington, D.C., 2018-2019 Cohort. **National Association of Television Program Executives (NATPE) Faculty Fellow, Miami, Florida, 2012-2013. Texas Southern University—** Faculty Seed Grant Recipient, Fall 2010

American Educational Research Association (AERA)—Institute for Education Sciences (IES) Postdoctoral Fellow, 2002-2005

Xavier University of Louisiana—Faculty Research Grants Recipient, 1999-2002

Indiana University at Bloomington—Minority Faculty Fellow, School of Journalism, Summer 1998

The University of Texas at Austin—Graduate Outreach Fellow, 1996-1997

The University of Texas at Austin—Jesse H. Jones Fellow, College of Communication, 1994-1995

The Freedom Forum—Graduate Fellow, Arlington, VA, 1993-1995

Office of Educational Services Toronto—ITV Ontario, Graduate Intern (by special invitation), Canada, Summer 1990

The Ohio University, Athens, OH—Corporation for Public Broadcasting Fellow, School of Telecommunications, 1989-1990

Tufts University—Travelli Scholar, Medford, MA, 1980-1983.

Tufts University—MacJanet European Scholar, Talloires, France Student International Organizations in France and Switzerland, Summer 1982

PUBLICATIONS OR EQUIVALENCIES

- Creator, *The Curious Cubs Club*, a preschool animated series about 4 bear-cub detectives who use teamwork and science know how to rescue friends in trouble. Work-in-progress.
- Invited Panelist on “Ideological Conflict: the Black Press,” at the 36st Intercultural Communication Conference at Texas Southern University, Houston, TX. April 2016
- Hawkins, Vera. *New Media Storytelling as Pedagogy for African-American Children: Using Technology to Motivate and Facilitate Learning in the Digital Age*, Lambert Academic Publishing, January 2010.
- Invited Panelist on “Yes We Can!: Media, Rhetoric and Style in Obama’s Presidential Campaign,” at the 31st Intercultural Communication Conference at Texas Southern University, Houston, TX. April 2010
- Hawkins, V. (April 2010). *New Media Storytelling as Pedagogy for African-American Students: Using Technology to Motivate and Facilitate Learning in the Digital Age*. Oral presentation of author’s new book release at the Texas Southern University Research Week 2010 Conference, Houston, TX.
- Invited Panelist on “Women Who Write: Negotiating a Book Contract and the Business of Publishing in the Academy” at the Texas Southern University Research Week 2010 Conference, Houston, TX. April 2010
- Invited Panelist/Moderator for the Annual Texas Southern University Research Week Conference, Houston, TX. April 2006-2009.
- Invited Panelist/Moderator for the Annual Intercultural Communication Conference at Texas Southern University, Houston, TX. April 2006-2009.
- Invited Panelist on "Post-Doctorates and Mentors" at the AERA-IES Annual Postdoctoral Retreat at the Chauncey Center, Princeton, NJ. August 2003.
- Invited Panelist on “Special Learning at Historically Black Institutes” at the National Communications Associations Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA. October 2002.
- Walker, V. (March 2001). *Learning Styles, Electronic Environments and Minorities: Teaching Public Speaking on Ecollege.com*. An online paper presented in conjunction with “Teaching and Learning with WEB Management Systems”, a case study of Xavier University of LA. 2000-2001.
- Invited Panelist on “We Wired the Classroom, Now What? At the MIT Media-in-Transition Program Conference, Cambridge, MA. February, 2001.
- Moderator on “Issues in Education” at the national Association for African American Studies, Houston, TX. February 2000.

- Walker, V. (February 2000). *Interactive Technologies in Educational Environments: The Need for Research on Minority Elementary School Children*. Paper presented at the joint national conference of National Association for African American Studies/ National Association of Hispanics and Latino Studies and the International Association of Asian Studies, Houston, TX. February 2000.
- Walker, V. (December 2000). *Storytelling, Learning Styles and Technology Usage Among African-American Children*. Paper presented at the Harvard University WEB Dubois Society's Future of African-American Studies Graduate Student Conference, Cambridge, MA.

SELECTED RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Digital Media Consultant, Houston, TX, Cambridge, MA and New Orleans, LA, 1999- Present

- Currently providing media and technology research, advice and services to educators. Clients include the Sage Publishing, Orleans Parish School District, Louisiana Technical University, Xavier University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Instructed pre-service and in-service elementary teachers on ways to integrate technology into the curriculum
- Developed workshops for communication faculty using online teaching platforms such as BlackBoard and eCollege
- Taught workshops that surveyed the latest educational software and authorizing tools
- Conducted web-based research seminars

MIT Department of Comparative Media Studies, Cambridge, MA

Postdoctoral Mentor: Professor Henry Jenkins

2002-2005

- Investigation suggests that children learn more through oral stories, but are motivated to read by engaging with technology
- Researching the relationship between children's attitudes toward communication technologies and their preferences for learning
- Currently developing a multimedia literacy software program to enhance the reading and writing skills of elementary children
- Developing multicultural web-based, interactive curriculum to support reading and writing in science, math, literature, and social studies, particularly among underrepresented minorities
- Conducting quantitative and qualitative research in Cambridge Public Schools to identify children's attitudes towards technology, reading and writing
- Conducting formative and summative research evaluations on children's uses and gratifications of educational technology
- Researching the literature on instructional technology theories and practices and multimedia and game design

Speech Communication Consultant, New Orleans Recreational Department (NORD) Teen Camps, New Orleans, LA.

- Conducted over 40 public speaking workshops in 8 public schools for teenagers participating in NORD's enrichment summer program; Compiled text on Black dialect that was distributed by NORD to over 2000 students, Summer 2000

UT- Austin Department of Journalism, Austin TX

Dissertation Director: Professor Wayne Danielson

Comprehensive Examination Director: Professor Stephen Reese

Advocate: Professor Marilyn Schultz

1992-2001

- Researched the development and design of multicultural, multimedia children's programming
- Created reading comprehensive and story re-telling tests to measure children's understanding of message content received via various modes of communication
- Performed tests to discern children's learning-style and technology preferences

- Conducted observational studies on children using computer technology in various settings including computer camps, community centers, public libraries, and schools
- Conducted observational studies on children receiving multicultural stories during library story times
- Research the literature on instructional technology theories and practices

The Ohio University School of Telecommunications, Athens, OH

M.A. Program Director: Professor Clifton Peterson

1989-1990

- Corporation for Public Broadcasting Telecommunications Management Fellow in Educational Telecommunications
- Graduate Assistant responsible to the Director of the Telecommunications Center.
- Assisted in all aspects of a project: story development, budgeting, hiring talent, and securing services
- Researched and created proposals for educational children's television programming
- Investigated international co-productions taking place among public broadcasters
- Attended numerous workshops, training sessions and field trips for leadership in telecommunications industry

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- American Educational Research Association
Member, 2002-2005
- Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication
Co-Chair of the Professional Freedom and Responsibility Committee Minorities and Communication (MAC) Division, 2005-2007
- American Association of University of Women
Member, 2002-2005
- American Association for University Professors
Member, 2002-2005
- National Communication Association
Member, 2003-2005, 2010-2011
- National Association of Black Journalists, Houston Chapter
Executive Board Member/Education Officer, 2008-p2010
Member, 2003-present
- Society for Research in Child Development
Member, 2003-2005
- Phi Kappa Phi, National Honor Society
Inductee, 1996

Community Service

- **Chair**, Public Relations Committee, St. Paul AME Church, Cambridge, MA. Directing the public and community relations outreach for Rev. Dr. Leroy Attles during his bid for the international office of Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2003-2004
- **Donor**, *United Way Charity*, 1998-2002
- **Invited Presenter**, Black History Month, Frontier High School, Orleans Parish Public Schools; Topic, "The Use of Dialect and Black English Among African-American Students, February 2001
- **Saturday Church School Superintendent**, Phillips Memorial United Methodist Church, New Orleans, LA. Located in an impoverished community, Phillips Memorial's Church School reaches out to neighborhood children and nurtured them with food and a variety of academic and recreational experiences, 2000-2001
- **Chair**, Coats for the Needy Campaign at Phillips Memorial United Methodist Church, New Orleans, LA. Approached local television station and community agency to receive coats that were then redistributed to needy women and children, Fall/Winter 2000-2001