

**MISSISSIPPI TEACHER CORPS  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2003-2004**

**Presented to Dr. Andy Mullins and Mr. Germain McConnell on  
Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004 by Mr. Ben Guest.**

**Special thanks to Dr. Whitney Webb and Mr. Matt Ginn for  
their help in preparing this report.**

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## Description and History

**Description:**

The Mississippi Teacher Corps is a two-year program that recruits college graduates to teach in the Mississippi Delta. The program is designed for non-education majors and offers a host of benefits, including teacher training and certification, a full scholarship for a master's degree in education, job placement that includes full pay and benefits and, most importantly, the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of students in one of the poorest areas of the country.

**History:**

The Mississippi Teacher Corps was created in 1989 by Dr. Andy Mullins and Amy Gutman. At the time Dr. Mullins was in the State Department of Education and Amy was a reporter for the Greenwood Commonwealth. In brainstorming ideas of how to fill the impending teacher shortage in the Mississippi Delta Amy and Dr. Mullins came up with the Mississippi Teacher Corps, a program that would be founded on the ideals of the Peace Corps in which recent college graduates from all over the United States would come to Mississippi to teach.

Initially the Mississippi Teacher Corps was a one-year program funded by several foundations in Mississippi. In 1993 the program was altered substantially and became a two-year program with a full scholarship and training from the University of Mississippi. In 1994 the program became fully funded by the Mississippi Legislature.

Since 1989 more than 300 participants, reaching an estimated 4,500 students, have taught in critical-needs school districts as part of the Mississippi Teacher Corps.

## Objectives

**Objectives:**

The Mississippi Teacher Corps has three objectives:

- 1) To provide dedicated, talented teachers for Mississippi school districts where an inadequate supply of teachers exists.
- 2) To afford a structured entry into the teaching profession for outstanding liberal arts graduates who have never taught before.
- 3) To identify and nurture educational leaders in the 21st century.

## Coursework

## **Master of Arts Degree in Curriculum and Instruction Program**

### **➤ Initial Summer Component (9 hours)**

#### **EDSE 500. FOUNDATIONS OF SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Concepts of teaching/learning, student motivation, classroom management, measurement, evaluation, instructional technology, and aspects of school structures. (3)

#### **EDSE 501. CLASSROOM PRACTICES**

Current practices in content teaching strategies, learning styles, behavior management, classroom climate, student assessment, instructional technology, and school managerial procedures. (3)

#### **EDSE 502. MULTICULTURAL FIELD EXPERIENCES**

Application of instructional techniques in a variety of multicultural educational settings; designed for application of pedagogy from EDSE 500 and EDSE 501. (3)

### **➤ Fall Semester (6 hours)**

#### **EDSE 600. EFFECTIVE TEACHING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Application of effective teaching skills (MTAI), instructional technology, and youth community service project. (3)

*\*\* Students take one of the advanced methods courses which corresponds to their certification area.*

EDSE 642. ADVANCED METHODS OF TEACHING ENGLISH

Materials, methods, and organization of English in the secondary school. (3)

EDCI 643. ADVANCED METHODS OF TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Materials, methods, and organization of foreign languages in the secondary school. (3)

EDSE 645. ADVANCED METHODS OF TEACHING MATHEMATICS

Materials, methods, and organization of mathematics in the secondary school. (3)

EDSE 646. ADVANCED METHODS OF TEACHING SCIENCE

Materials, methods, and organization of science in the secondary school. (3)

EDSE 647. ADVANCED METHODS OF TEACHING SOCIAL STUDIES

Materials, methods, and organization of social studies in the secondary school. (3)

➤ **Spring Semester (6 hours)**

**EDCI 557. COMPUTER CONCEPTS AND APPLICATIONS FOR EDUCATORS**

This course looks at professional studies in educational computing and technology. Specific focus is placed on computer/technology skills, concepts, and applications for teachers inside and outside the classroom. Emphasis will also be placed on utilization of the computer technology to enhance current K-12 teaching and learning experiences inside as well as outside the classroom. (3)

**EDSE 610. INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION**

Exploration of educational innovations in school structures, assessment, technology, curriculum, and teacher development. (3)

➤ **Summer Session (6 hours)**

**EDRS 605. EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH I**

An overview of research methods used to investigate educational and psychological phenomena. (3)

**\*\* Required by MDE and AA certification\*\***

**EDLD 641. THE LEGAL CONTEXT OF EDUCATION**

State and federal decisions affecting public and private education; emphasis on constitutional considerations. (3)

➤ **Fall Semester (3 hours)**

EDLD 501. THE EFFECTIVE PRINCIPAL

The principal as an instructional leader and unit manager. (3)

➤ **Spring Semester**

EDSE 651 Advanced Individual Study

For a final project, each participant is required to submit a program portfolio. The guidelines are given on the next page. (3)

**TOTAL: 31 HOURS**

## **Review of the Past Year**

**Administrative Changes:**

There have been several significant changes in the administration of the MTC in the past year:

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003 Ben Guest assumed the position of Program Coordinator.

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004 Dr. Jim Chambless stepped down as Co-Director of MTC.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 Germain McConnell assumed the position of Co-Director of MTC.

**Accomplishments:**

- 1) 120 applications
  - Increase of 100% over previous two years
- 2) New website
  - Most comprehensive of any teaching-service program except Peace Corps
- 3) Annual Evaluation Report
  - increases in almost all categories from previous year
- 4) MTC Film
  - "Making The Difference: A Year in the Mississippi Teacher Corps"
- 5) Additional Summer Workshops
  - All were highly rated
  - Highest rated was Delta Students
- 6) Highest satisfaction rate possible, 5.0 out of 5, for outgoing Class of 2002
- 7) Revised applications/brochures/website
- 8) Created Teacher Evaluation Form
- 9) Streamlined evaluation process
- 10) Updated Alumni contacts
- 11) Created Alumni Directory
- 12) Created Alumni Information Sessions for recruiting
- 13) Program Manager visited every teacher
- 14) Program Manager evaluated every teacher during the summer
- 15) Created Press Releases for all first-years
- 16) T-shirts for all first and second years
- 17) Redesigned second year to include more feedback on teaching
- 18) Created first Summer Internship position
- 19) Annual Report

**Success Stories:**

Here are several of the "Success Stories" from the past year.

*Adam Dawson, Class of 2003, Raymond High School, Math Teacher:*

Students improved from 49% passing on the state test to 85% passing.

*Ryan DeFour, Class of 2003, Lockerd Elementary, Math Teacher:*

Students improved from 43% passing on the state test to 85% passing.

*Clint Blacker, Class of 2003, North Delta Alternative School, Math Teacher:*

Chosen as school's "Teacher of the Year"

*Sarah Alford, Class of 2003, Humphrey County High School, English Teacher:*

Chosen as school's "Teacher of the Year"

**Suggestions For Next Year:**

- 1) TMI and MTC should be split
- 2) Community dinners together at site  
(Greenville/Jackson/Oxford)
- 3) Summer observation should be in-person and video
- 4) Second-year observation should be in-person, not by video
- 5) Third application deadline: November 15<sup>th</sup>
- 6) T-shirts for first years
- 7) Interview Principals/Administrators on the performance of MTC teachers

**Goals For Next Year:**

- 1) Successful Reunion
- 2) 200 Applications
- 3) Monthly update to MTC Website
- 4) Standard Application Assessment Form
- 5) Laptops
- 6) Start a database for Teacher Observations

## **Recruitment and Retention**

**Recruitment:**

The following table illustrates the number of applications received.

Applications Received	
Mississippi Teacher Corps	
Year:	Number Received:
1991	140
1992	200
1993	100
1994	100
1995	130
1996	120
1997	100
1998	?
1999	?
2000	?
2001	?
2002	64
2003	62
2004	120

**Retention:**

The Class of 2003 lost 7 members. In the Spring of 2003 three TMI teachers were added to the class.

## Placement and Profile

### Placement and Profile:

Class of 2003		
Name:	Initial Placement:	Current Placement:
Alford, Sarah	Humphrey County High School	Same
Alred, Matt	Coffeeville Middle/High School	Burnsville
Blacker, Clint	North Delta Alternative School	Gentry High School
Campbell, Richard	Holly Springs Middle School	Same
Chapman, Deslin	Simmons High School	Same
Dawson, Adam	Raymond High School	Same
Defour, Ryan	Lockerd Elementary School	Same
DePriest, Lan		Tupelo Middle School
Glas, Lauren	Simmons High School	Same
Hegwood, Les	Raymond High School	Same
Hohrath, Todd	Humphrey County High School	Same
Hood, Ashly	Southaven	Southaven

Landingham, Guy	Holly Springs Middle School	Same
Taylor, Randy	South Panola High School	Same
Tucker, Jon	Clarksdale High School	Same

<b>Class of 2004</b>	
Name:	Initial Placement:
Baacke, Michael	Jim Hill High School
Bauers, Dan	Gentry High School
Bauers, Matt	Gentry High School
Carr, Isla	Eastwood Middle School
Chapman, Tom	Simmons High School
Cox, Yolanda	North Panola High School
Dagostino, Jay	Humphrey County High School
Edwards, Sheref	Coffeeville High School
Govan, Monica	Holly Springs High School
Harris, Joel	Southhaven High School
Hayden, Brad	Water Valley High School
Jones, Carmen	Gentry High School
Manion, Laura	Humphrey County Middle School
Matte, Eric	Merritt Middle School
Moton, Darrell	Clarksdale High School
Phillips, Juan	Raymond High

	School
Spanogle, Jeff	Yazoo City High School
Sweeney, Joe	Eastside High School
Young, Elizabeth	Eastwood Middle School

## Budget

Mississippi Teacher Corps	
Annual Budget 2004-2005 Projected	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Housing	25850
Textbooks	7860
Tuition	110000
Summer Stipend	20000
Administration	41000
Workshops	2000
Socials	4000
Graduation Fee	1000
Recruiting	1000
Teacher Visits	3000
Office Costs	7000
Misc.	2000
<b>Total</b>	<b>224710</b>