

**VIRGINIA L. RHODES, Ed.D.**  
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**Education Consultant**  
**RENEGADE LEARNING**

***Expert Witness and consultant with specialties in:***

School and school district policy

Organizational development, school & district structural planning

Standards of administrative & teacher practice

Teacher Training/Evaluation, Administrative Training

School climate, SEL, discipline methodologies & applications

Diversity issues within in personnel and student settings

Urban school research

School & district document (digesting & interpretation)

STEM, environmental, magnet, and other specialty programming

Conditions affecting low-income students: mobility, poverty

Urban schooling & high-risk settings

Innovative & 21<sup>st</sup> Century practices (domestic and abroad)

Academic achievement & program development

**CONSULTANT EXPERIENCE**

35 years experience in urban school district policy, development, and administration & teaching.

Consultant (undisclosed international firm). Advisement on certain aspects of U.S. public school practices prior to their exploration of a related market sector.

Expert witness (undisclosed U.S. urban district, among the top 5 in size). Review of 30,000+ discovery documents pursuant to a class-action suit brought against the district. Production of data report, along with implications for legal strategy. Client gained insight into school practices and norms, enabling them to craft and win a satisfactory settlement.

Consultant, University of Cincinnati Career Center

Assistance in developing pre-service teacher hiring expectations.

Consultant, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Co-Investigator on study for mental health and achievement factors related to excessive student mobility.

Consultant, AdvanceEd Accreditation Team School Evaluation, various high schools

Post-graduate STEM coaching, various graduates

## **EDUCATION**

Ed.D. in Urban Educational Leadership, June 2005; University of Cincinnati

M.A. in Teaching, 1978; Indiana University

B.A. in Political Science, 1975; Antioch College

Administrator Development Academy, 1993-94; University of Cincinnati

Additional course work at Xavier University and University of Cincinnati

## **PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS**

Ohio Secondary Principal Certificate

Ohio 8-yr Prof. Teaching Certificate (Comprehensive Social Studies)

## **PUBLIC POLICY SERVICE**

Elected member, Cincinnati Public Schools Board of Education 1985-1993

Chairperson, Program & Personnel Committee

Chairperson, Facilities Committee.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS (present & past)**

Ohio STEM Learning Network

Stupski Foundation Grant Recipient

University of Chicago School Evaluation Team

NSF (National Science Foundation) STEM Grant Recipient

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

Comparative & International Education Society (CIES/WCCES)

National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)

University Council of Educational Administrators (UCEA)

Ohio Association of Secondary School Principals (OASSP)

Cincinnati Association of Administrators & Supervisors (CAAS)

Philosophy of Education Society

John Dewey Society

National Council for the Social Studies

Various Cincinnati community organizations

## RESEARCH & WRITING

(In progress) Teacher-led school initiatives chapter in edited volume. Expected publication date, Spring 2015.

**Principal Investigator**, NSF-funded I-TEST CincySTEM study, 2009-2012.

**“Creating Culture in an Urban STEM High School”** High School Journal, Fall 2011.

AERA National Convention; **presentation of research** on start-up of urban STEM high school, New Orleans, April 11, 2011 with Annette Hemmings & Doug Stevens.

National Science Foundation I-TEST conference March 4-5, 2011, Washington, DC; presentation on **CincySTEM research project** (Principal Investigator)

**“Using STEM & Green Strategies With Urban Youth”** June 2010, presentation at the World Congress of WCCES, Bogazici University June 15, 2010, **Istanbul, Turkey**

**“Hiring for Collaboration: The Team Task Interviews”** with Sharon Bachman, presentation at NWO conference, Perrysburg, Ohio, Nov. 6, 2010.

**“Kids In The Creek,”** Aiken University High School, case study, Oct. 2008, Cincinnati.

**“Learning On The Go: Voices of Highly Mobile Urban Students”** Learning Inquiry, Vol. 2, no.2, May 2008. (Review reference in London Digest, Fall 2008 issue)

**“The 42% Solution: Reducing Student Mobility”** Instructional Leader, Texas Elementary Principals & Supervisors Association, March, 2008. Vol. 21, no. 2

**“Effects of School Mobility on Homeless Children”** 2006-07. Consultant.

**“Student Mobility: The Elephant in NCLB’s Living Room,”** Vol. 25, No. 1 Winter 2007, ERS Spectrum/Journal of Research & Information.

**“Kids on the Move: School Mobility & NCLB”** North Central Accreditation Assoc. Newsletter, March 2006

**“Impact of Urban School Mobility on Ohio School Ratings”** Urban Education Journal/*Perspectives on Education*, Oct. 2006, University of Pennsylvania (**predictive discriminant function analysis**).

**Student Mobility Bibliography**, *MobiKid.Info*, European website dedicated to issues of student mobility. 2006

**"Using *de facto* Learning Theory to Understand School Mobility"** Academic Exchange Extra, Oct. 2005, and presented at Columbia University, 2005.

**School Mobility and Behavioral Health**, Children's Hospital medical Center Research Center, Dr. Mona Mansour, principal investigator & consultant.

**"Kids on the Move: School Mobility and NCLB"**, North Central School Accreditation and School Improvement Newsletter; Feb. '06, Vol. 4 Issue 4.

**"School Security: Real Safeguards, or Mechanical Shortcuts?"** Cinti Post, 1/93

**"Representation & Neighborhood Power: District Elections"** Cinti Herald, 2/93

**"Student Mobility & Achievement"** August, 1992

**"Americans in Russia: How Many Muscovites Does it Take?"** 9/91

**"Power, Silence, and Serenity"** 2/91

**"Stability & Continuity in Neighborhood Schools"** 7/90

**"Panaceas and Public Schooling"** Cincinnati Post, 9/89

**"Privatization in Public Schooling"** NCEA Conference paper, 6/89

**"From Classroom to Boardroom"** Federation Teacher, 1986-88

**"Rhodes Reports"** Educational issues newsletter, 1986-91

**"Women in Politics"** Cincinnati Review, Fall 1986

**"Mainstreaming in the Social Studies"** Co-author, curriculum guide, 1981

**"Teaching the Federal Election Process"** News and Notes/Social Sciences, '77

## SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

**Unified Solutions CEO/Consultant** 2004- 2008

**Renegade Learning CEO/Consultant** 2012-current

Urban schooling policy, management, leadership, STEM, SEL, development of school culture and creating high levels of teacher performance and leadership through Board, administrative & teacher training.

**Principal, Hughes STEM High School** 2009-2012

A 7-12 public high school in Cincinnati, with university & industry partners. Innovations included PBL, technology, intersessions, collaborative teacher leadership, active research agenda, interdisciplinary teaming, & "Transparent Classroom" (Professional Practice Demonstration Lab), recipient of 3.5m NSF research grant.

**Principal, Western Hills Design Technology High School** 2008-2009

Gates-redesigned urban pre-engineering Ohio Tech prep high school, featuring design and technology emphasis with coursework 9-12, including design competitions.

**Principal, Aiken University High School** **2006-2008**

Responsible for restructured urban college prep school, initially in "Academic Emergency." Founded Ohio's first urban Environmental Studies high school, emphasizing STEM and producing substantial gains in science. Obtained grants (STEP/UC College of Engineering), established Outdoor Classroom and Outdoor Adventures).

**Assistant Principal, Walnut Hills High School** **2001-2006**

Curriculum & Instruction; master scheduling, AP program coordinator, coordinator of North Central Accreditation process, counselor supervision.

**Principal, Academy of World Languages** **2000-2001**

Responsible for K-8 diverse environment, with students from 46 countries, being taught 6 different languages by a staff from 16 different countries.

**Assistant Principal, Hughes Center High School** **1997-2000**

Curriculum & Instruction, master scheduling for the Paideia High School, Teaching & Technology, the Zoo Academy, Cincinnati Academy of Math & Science, Communications and Health Professions, and inclusion practices.

**Principal, CPS Senior Summer School & OPT Prep** **1995-96, 1998**

During 1998 session, provided detailed Ohio Proficiency Test subscale data distributed to SS teachers, resulting in more targeted instruction and higher test success by participants.

**Assistant Principal, Taft High School** **1994-96**

Curriculum & instruction, master scheduling, teacher evaluation, staff development, counseling & records, grade reporting, student database. Student discipline & development, gr. 9-10; athletic & extracurricular program.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Lecturer, Political Science, University of Cincinnati** **1988-94**

Women in Politics; undergraduate course on women's political leadership.

**Faculty trainer & founder of Teachers' Writing Group, Hughes** **2009-2012**

**Teacher, Newport Jr. High (& Districtwide Public Relations)** **1990-93**

Team-teaching, themed units, Geography Bee, Black History, parent involvement, KERA, networked Windows Lab, the Hunger Project, Soviet Cultural Display, Desert Storm War & Peace Table; Mock Presidential Election.

**Teacher, Cinti Public Schools: Aiken, Woodward, Sawyer, & Bloom 1977-84, 1993-94**

**Economics, History, Civics, World Geo., Social Issues, Ohio Studies, Gr. 7-12.**

Stock Market Game, mock elections, Black History Quiz Bowl Tournament, assemblies, co-author Social Studies mainstreaming guide, TBC. rep, school reform training & technology skills. Interdisciplinary team teaching, project/presentation-based assessment. Program planning & recruitment.

### **CONFERENCE/PROGRAM LEADERSHIP**

**“STEM FOR ALL,”** presentation at 26<sup>th</sup> annual At-Risk Youth National Forum, by Clemson University’s National Drop-Out Prevention Center. Feb. 16-19, 2014 Myrtle Beach, S.C.

**“Team-Tasking Hiring – An Innovative Approach for STEM,”** Presentation, Statewide T-STEM Conference, Feb. 6-8, 2014, Dallas, TX.

**Ohio Statewide Educational Conference:** RTT participant, Oct. 29-31, 2013

**AdvanceEd Team Evaluator** for school accreditation, St. Bernard/Elmwood Place High School. Jan. 2014, Ponitz Career Center High School May 2013, Dayton, OH. Western Hills University High School, Jan. 2013 Cincinnati.

**N.E.W. Conference,** Ft. Wayne, IN, Nov. 6, 2012. Led training workshop for faculty in **planning and implementation of STEM high schools.**

**Stupski Foundation** National Convening, San Francisco, Oct. 22-25, 2012, brought group of secondary faculty & students for **cooperative training** in student-led schooling.

**Urban Institute Conference,** University of Akron, OH, June 20, 2012. **Led training session for Woodrow Wilson Fellows on urban high school culture-building.**

**STEM Training Professional Development,** Hughes STEM faculty, June 1-5 2012.

**“Innovative Urban School Structures,”** Panelist at Leadership Cincinnati’s Education Day, March 8, 2012, Hughes STEM High School’s Innovation Lab.

National Science Foundation, I-TEST Summit, Feb. 2012, Washington, DC. Participant in **constructing STEM models,** Principal Investigator on NSF I-TEST STEM study.

**Stupski Learning Lab National Conference**, Danville, KY, Feb. 2012 School Improvements, student & **faculty training in school-initiated research** & climate improvement.

**E-Tech Ohio** Conference, Columbus, Ohio. Feb.,2012. Whole-school strategies to reduce the digital divide.

**"The Digital Divide,"** Presentation, N. Ky. Univ., Bowles Diversity Ctr., Nov. 2011.

**Building Culture in an Urban STEM High School**, presentation at AERA annual convention, April 2011, New Orleans, LA with co-authors Annette Hemmings and Doug Stevens.

**Innovation presentation** at Ohio STEM Learning Network's **Race-to-Top conference**, Columbus, March 2011.

**"Building an Urban STEM High School,"** Next Generation Learning Conference, Columbus, Ohio. **Technology and School Culture.**

**Hiring for Collaboration; STEM Teacher Selection**, presentation/workshop at the Southwest Ohio STEM HUB Fusion Center Conference, University of Cincinnati, Sept.15, 2010.

**"Using STEM & Green Strategies With Urban Youth,"** presentation & workshop scheduled at the World Congress of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES), Bogazici University June 14-19, 2010, Istanbul, Turkey.

**Roundtable presentation, National Science and Math Teacher Imperative**, June, 2010, sponsored by 127 Universities of the Assoc. of Public/Land Grant Universities; Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Ohio Summit on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills**, CPS Superintendent's representative, Columbus, Ohio, May 4, 2010

**"Generating & Analyzing Data Through Collaboration,"** 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teaching & Learning Conference: Building a Regional Vision, High Aims Consortium, April 29, 2010, with James Stallworth & Tiffany Stanton. Exploration of electronic student response systems.

**Panelist: "Opening a New STEM High School"** along with UC and Strive partners; Governor's Southwest Ohio Regional STEM Conference, Cincinnati, April 2010.

National Association of Secondary School Principals (**NASSP**) Annual Convention  
March 12-14, Phoenix.

Association for Practical & Professional Ethics, Annual Meeting Panelist "**Ethical Considerations for K-12 Expulsions**" (Robert Ladenson) March 2010, Cincinnati, OH.

**National Science Foundation (NSF) Conference**, Feb. 25, 2010, Washington, D.C.  
Principal Investigator, CincySTEM Urban Initiative. Grant Awardee.

**Ohio STEM Summit Conference**, March 2, 2010, COSI, Columbus, Ohio

**OSLN STEM Principals Conference**, Feb. 2010, Bucyrus, Ohio

**Southwest Ohio STEM Summit**, University of Cincinnati, Sept. 2009

**Presentation at NWO Symposium** (NorthWest Ohio Center for Excellence in  
Science & Math Teaching Science), Nov. 6, 2010, Penta Career Center, Perrysburg, Ohio.

Cincinnati City Schools representative on **Mayor's Green Initiatives Committee**,  
**2010**

**Digital Directions: Smart Ed-Tech Strategies for Tough Times**, Chicago,  
Education Week. Sept. 2009

**OSLN STEM/Batelle Target Conference**, Feb. 6, 2009, COSI, Columbus, Ohio  
**Faculty Writing Group/Data Acquisition & Aggregation Group**, STEM High  
School Faculty in collaboration with UC Faculty, Oct. 2010, founder & co-facilitator.  
Workshop speaker, NOW Bowling Green State University/Owens Community  
College **Kids in the Creek: Starting an Urban Environmental Studies School in  
Ohio**

Math/Science Teacher Summit, Nov. 8, 2008:

Member, University of Cincinnati **Secondary Education Advisory Board**

**Mock Interviewer for prospective teacher candidates**, UC Career Development  
Center

Member, **High School Task Force, Curriculum & Instruction Dept.**, CPS

CPS Rep on **Green Partnership** for Greater Cincinnati Project Team, Ed.  
Subcommittee

Member, **Sustainable Design Committee**, Cincinnati Public Schools.

**Keynote Speaker**, "The Revolving Door of Student Mobility," Student Mobility  
Summit, Parent Education Committee of LaGrange Village Council, Toledo, Ohio, Feb. 22,  
2008.

Student Mobility Workshop, Feb. '08 **Nat. At-Risk Youth Conf./Nat. Dropout  
Prevention Ctr**, Myrtle Beach.

Presentation, **Mending the Rift Between Administration and Teachers** in Inner-City Schools, Feb. 19, 2008, National At-Risk Youth Conference.

Student Mobility Briefing for **Community Education Organizers**, Oct. '07, Columbus.

Roundtable presentation, April 7, 2006, Student Mobility, **American Education Research Association** Annual Convention, San Francisco, Ca.

Workshop, April 4, 2006, Student Mobility, **North Central Assoc. Forum**, Chicago, IL.

Paper Presentation, Dec. 4, 2005, Student Mobility & NCLB. Also, **Race & Education Session Chair**, International Conf. for Social Science Research, Orlando, Fla.

Paper presentation, April 16, 2005, **Student Mobility and the Loss of Community**. Urban Affairs Association, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Workshop presentation, April 1, 2005, *de facto Learning Theory*, Philosophy of Education Society Graduate Student Conference at **Columbia University, New York City**.

Roundtable presentation, March 5, 2005, **Student Mobility, Anonymity, and the Loss of Community**. Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

Paper presentation, Feb. 11, 2005, **Student Mobility, Parent Decision-Making, & NCLB**, Parent Education Conference, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.

Research presentation, Oct. 2004, **Student Mobility & NCLB, Migrant Education** Conference, South Padre Island, Texas.

Research presentation, Spring 2001, Student Mobility, Lexington **Spring Research conference. University of Kentucky**.

**Decentralized student data access** at Hughes, to enable teacher teams to use data analysis to support improved instructional practices.

**Designed and supervised new Intervention Team** at Woodward, targeting high-risk students to support student progress.

**Pioneered the team-taught Humanities & Junior Research block courses** at Woodward, recognized by Ohio Governor Voinovich in December 1993.

## RECOGNITION & AWARDS

PI Emeritus Award: **Outstanding Contribution to the ITEST Community & Leadership in the STEM education field, Feb. 2012**, National Science Foundation

**Environmental Educator of the Year**, Greater Cincinnati Earth Coalition, 2008

**Wright-Overstreet Award for Exemplary Service in Human Rights**, 1990

**Outstanding Achievement Award**, Cincinnati Womens' Political Caucus, 1989

**M.L. King, Jr. Achievement Award**, Taft Alumni Association, 1988

Named in "**200 Bicentennial Leaders**," Cincinnati Enquirer, 1988

Excellent Staff Attendance Award, Hughes Center, 1997-99

Problem Solver of the Year, Taft High School Faculty Awards, 1996

Awarded study grant by the Indiana U. Religion Studies Institute, 1983

**Outstanding Teaching and Curriculum Development in Economics**, 1979

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Co-Convener, UGRR/Abolition Intersession, Hughes STEM March 2014  
 Site Coordinator of College Hill Bicentennial Living History, 2013  
 College Hill Forum, Education Committee Chairperson, 2012-present  
 Volunteer, formation of Crawford Commons, new public park in College Hill  
 "Swing Semester" volunteer host, Fall 2008  
**Elected member, Cincinnati Board of Education 1985-1993.** Chair, Program &  
 Personnel & Facilities Committees. Focus--neighborhood schools/student mobility  
 Present or past member of:

- College Hill Development Corporation
- College Hill Forum
- Sister City Association of Cincinnati, vice-president
- United Way/Community Chest Planning Division Board
- Women In Jazz Committee
- Warner Cable Board of Directors
- H.O.M.E. (fair housing agency) Board
- Woman's City Club
- Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus
- National Organization for Women
- Friends of Findlay Market
- Roselawn, Walnut Hills, & Clifton Heights Community Councils
- Founding member, National Coalition of Education Activists
- Emily's List funding network
- Planned Parenthood Federation

## PUBLIC SPEAKING EXPERIENCE

"Believe-Achieve-Succeed," Black History Celebration, Hughes STEM, Feb. 2014  
 Clifton Heights-University Heights-Fairview Community Council  
 College Hill Forum & numerous other community councils  
 Northern Ky. Chamber of Commerce & Newport Kiwanis  
 Banker's Club Executive Women's Roundtable, Woman's City Club  
 Hyde Park Methodist Church & Christ Church Forums  
 Cleveland League of Women Voters & Ohio Women Lawyers Conference  
 Ohio Family Planning Conference & Planned Parenthood Federation Convention  
 Chicago Public Schools Training Workshops  
 Cincinnati Women's Spring Empowerment Conference  
 Cleveland Educational Equity Conference  
 U.C. Medical Center & other graduations, and university classes

## REFERENCES

Nelson Vincent, VP for Technology & CIO, University of Cincinnati  
Dr. Annette Hemmings, University of Wisconsin  
Dr. James Koshoreck, Professor, Northern Kentucky University  
Anthony Smith, Superintendent, Finneytown Public Schools  
Dr. Tim Nolan, Professor Emeritus, Cincinnati State Technical & Comm. College  
Dr. Nancy Evers, Professor Emeritus, University of Cincinnati  
Robert J. Suess, Director, PASS, Gear Up Cincinnati, and retired Hughes principal

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Dr. Rhodes is currently consulting through her company, Renegade Learning LLC, and can be reached at 513-207-2566 or via e-mail: [vrhodes@cinci.rr.com](mailto:vrhodes@cinci.rr.com).