

BIOGRAPHICAL NARRATIVE

Ronald S. Rochon, Ph.D.

As a native of the southside of Chicago, Rochon currently serves as the Dean of the School of Education and Associate Vice President for Teacher Education at Buffalo State College in Buffalo, New York. Prior to this he served at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse as the Director of the Research Center for Cultural Diversity and Community Renewal (CDCR) and Director of the Master of Education Professional Development Program (MEPD).

Rochon obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Sciences from Tuskegee University and a Master of Science degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with an emphasis in reproductive physiology. After working at the University of Chicago within the reproductive unit of the hospital, Rochon developed an interest in teaching and obtained a Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

One of Rochon's primary areas of interest centers around the recruitment, retention, and successful matriculation of culturally, linguistically, and racially diverse students across the university campus. Rochon strives to strengthen the relationship between the community and university and, with the partnership of a friend and colleague, established CDCR and acquired over \$3 million in federal grant funds. Rochon has coordinated exchange programs between the University of Cape Coast in Ghana and the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and Buffalo State College International Educational departments.

Rochon has passion for teaching and learning and strives to empower teacher educators to serve as effective leaders serving the diverse needs of ALL children. He has instructed undergraduate and graduate students in courses that address the historical and contemporary perspectives surrounding the politics of race and culture within American society. His primary focus is assisting students in examining and deepening their understanding of the ways in which socio-cultural factors influence American educational thought, theory, and practice. Rochon's research agenda is grounded within a historical context that examines trends among African Americans with respect to their feelings, attitudes, and perspectives toward ethnic and national identity. His work investigates the current educational curriculum controversy regarding multiculturalism as well as the role of public schools in addressing questions of ethnic identity.

Rochon considers himself a life-long learner. His intensive work with students in K-12 settings, and throughout the community, consistently reminds him of the necessity of systemic community building and empowerment paradigms. He coordinates community collaboration opportunities designed to prepare students for higher education and systematically socialize young people towards the awesome realities of their life choices.

Rochon fully support the African proverb, "It takes an entire village to raise a child," but believes that educators must first participate in reconstructing the village. Rochon is most proud of the driving forces in his life – wife Lynn, son Ayinde, and daughter, Nia.