

2016 MAGC Honorary Lifetime Member ~ Dr. Gail P. Hammond



**In honor of her lifetime of service to gifted children, MAGC is renaming its Teacher Grant to Pursue Gifted Education the Dr. Gail P. Hammond Teacher Grant.
Grant Award: amounts up to \$600.**

Gail P. Hammond, Ph. D., is a Master Teacher with forty years' experience, twenty-six of them in the Rankin County School District gifted education program. She was conferred Bachelor of Science, Master of Education, and Educational Specialist degrees, plus a Doctor of Philosophy degree with emphasis on gifted education. She also earned and renewed National Board Certification. She has served as Vice President, President-elect, and President of Mississippi Association for Gifted Children.

Dr. Hammond represented MAGC on numerous task forces with the Mississippi Legislature, the Office of Governor, and Mississippi Department of Education. She attended the MAGC Gifted Education Summit, has served on the MAGC Past Presidents' Council, and has been a conference presenter. She served multiple times as Mississippi's delegate to the National Association for Gifted Children State Affiliate Education Conference in Washington, D.C. In 2004, Dr. Hammond was awarded the *Frances A. Karnes Award for Excellence in Gifted Education* and is currently a member of the MAGC Advisory Board.

Dr. Hammond was the first Teacher Director elected (then re-elected) to the National Association for Gifted Children Board of Directors. She has been a conference presenter in ten states and a co-presenter with esteemed national leaders in the field of gifted education. She was recipient of the NAGC *A. Harry Passow Teacher Scholarship Award*, representative to the Regional Advocacy Conference, and liaison between NAGC and MAGC. As researcher

showcasing gifted education advocacy in Mississippi, Dr. Hammond participated in a study which was published by NAGC in the scholarly journal, *Gifted Child Quarterly*. She also assisted in research for books by nationally known author Dr. Sylvia Rimm.

Professional activism on behalf of education has been of vital interest to her. She was even recognized for excellence in teaching at a Joint Session of the Mississippi Legislature during a governor's State of the State Address.

Dr. Hammond was named Vine Street Elementary School *Teacher of the Year*, Jackson Metro *Outstanding Educator*, Northwest Rankin Middle School *Teacher of the Year*, and *Excellence in Education Award* recipient from Northwest Rankin High School Academic Foundation. She was named Delta Kappa Gamma International Society of Key Women Educators *Woman of Distinction* and *Red Rose* honoree. She was also honored by *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. She was a Mississippi Association of School Administrators scholarship recipient, state representative at the George Washington Teacher's Institute at Mount Vernon, and named to the *Mississippi Hall of Master Teachers*.

Dr. Hammond is active in her community with numerous charitable causes and is a supporter of the arts. When Mississippi Children's Museum opened in 2011, Dr. Hammond was honored as its *Community Hero*. She now serves on the MCM Educator Advisory Board.

Dr. Hammond epitomizes the lifelong learner as she continues in retirement to enhance her personal education. "Lifelong learning is as much a part of my life as eating and sleeping. I thrive on gaining new information via travel, reading, educational television, conferences, conversations, classes, and observations. Then I seek opportunities to interact with students, encouraging their spark of curiosity to ignite into full flame.

Dr. Gail P. Hammond