

A Passion for Education | Dr. Rufus Ellis, Jr.

“Every truth has four corners: as a teacher I give you one corner, and it is for you to find the other three.” – Confucius

Rufus Ellis, Jr., Ph.D. epitomizes the qualities of an exemplary educator thus, making a positive difference in the educational welfare for students, faculty, university and the community at large. He has clearly attained prominence in his profession with demonstrated extraordinary success, innovation and leadership during the tenure of his career. Dr. Ellis is an experienced veteran educator having created an impressive repertoire of achievements in his profession and duly recognized for his prestigious work. Named Princeton University Woodrow Wilson Fellow, 1985; Received the 1997 NAACP Black Achievers Award (Recommended by Florida Commissioner of Education Frank T. Brogan); 2002 Recipient of the Public Charter Schools President’s Award (Recommended by Florida Governor John Ellis “Jeb” Bush in response to the President of the United States request); 2008 Oxford Roundtable (Harris-Manchester College) Inductee; 2011 Florida A&M University Teacher of the Year; 2016 Florida A&M University College of Education Gallery of Distinction Inductee; Former Classroom Teacher, School District Administrator, State Public Schools Program Director, Administrator, Policy Analyst, Federal Liaison, and currently, a member of the teaching faculty in the College of Education, Department of Secondary Education, Technology and Foundations and Project Investigator/Director, FAMU SMART Academies 21st Century Community Learning Center.

Dr. Ellis is a celebrated author and lecturer with a remarkable trail of publications and presentations including the customization of three textbooks. He has been an active member of several “Think Tanks” including The Institute for the Transformation of Learning; Leadership for Education Entrepreneurs; Institute for Life Long Learning and Community Education, and the Oxford Roundtable.

Although Dr. Ellis hosts a trail of awards and recognitions, he remains inspired by having the opportunity to assist with the crafting of the Public Charter Schools Subsection of the Federal Education Act, “No Child Left Behind”, signed into law, January 8, 2002. In response to his service, Dr. Ellis received an invitation from the U.S. Department of Education Secretary of Education Roderick R. Paige on behalf of the President, George W. Bush and subsequently attended the signing ceremony on January 9, 2002, Constitution Hall, Washington, DC. Dr. Ellis had the pleasure of meeting the president along with U.S. Senator Edward M. “Ted” Kennedy and Georgia Governor Roy Barnes, the “Signing Team”.

Dr. Ellis is also known for his prodigious talent for generating external competitive funds. Over the course of his professional tenure, he has assisted in securing over a billion dollars in external funding to support various education entities. Most recently, January 1, 2020, Dr. Ellis received another 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant award making a total of more than 2.4 million in funding.

Dr. Ellis' personal, academic and career experience have been enhanced by his travel to more than 29 countries worldwide. Dr. Ellis is equally motivated by earning the respect of his peers in the Christian sector and civic organizations. He attributes his academic and professional gains to ***The Grace of God***, and the loving support and nurturing of his parents, siblings, and an army of other relatives, friends and love ones coupled with a litany of supportive individuals God provided on his path in life. Dr. Ellis' testimony is: "If ever given the opportunity coupled with support and God's Blessing, one can do."

Dr. Ellis favorite biblical quote yields from St. Matthew 7:12 "*Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.*"

Dr. Ellis holds a deep interest in the educational welfare of those he serves, his students. He is privilege to find himself on the highest mountain of world class scholars, making for a power-driven educational domain for the cultivation of knowledge and emerging scholars.