

Mr. Ernest E. Garrett III's Biography

Ernest E. Garrett III, a doctoral candidate at Walden University, recently completed his dissertation proposal and is preparing for his upcoming oral defense at the end of October. The title of his doctoral study is "Variation in Hiring and Retaining Persons with Disabilities in Leadership: A Phenomenographic Study." He holds the distinction of serving as the first Deaf and African American superintendent of the Missouri School for the Deaf, a position that he held from July 2014 - July 2017. He was appointed and commissioned as a member of the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing by then-governor Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, a state agency that he led as its executive director from July 2011- July 2014. As superintendent, he championed the idea of "education without limits" and was instrumental in leading the school through the strategic planning process, resulting in a new mission, vision, motto, and strategic plan that was unanimously approved by the school's board of advisors. A former president of the National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA), Mr. Garrett is a recipient of the *Advocate of the Year Award* from NBDA (2009) and the *Lasting Impression Award* from Special School District of St. Louis County (2011). Most recently, he was a finalist for the *Paul G. Hearne Leadership Award* from the American Association of People with Disabilities (2015).



Mr. Garrett received an Associate of Arts degree in general studies and dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in history and professional/technical writing from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He then earned a Master of Science degree in Administration, with a concentration in Change Leadership in Education, as well as a Master of Social Work degree, with a specialization in School Social Work, both from Gallaudet University.

Mr. Garrett is licensed as a clinical social worker in Missouri and Wisconsin and as an independent clinical social worker in the District of Columbia. He is a certified school social work specialist, certified advanced social work case manager, certified advanced children, youth, and family social worker, and admitted to the Academy of Certified Social Workers.

Mr. Garrett is a lifetime member of the Gallaudet University Alumni Association, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Alumni Association, and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He holds memberships in numerous professional and advocacy organizations including the National Association of Social Workers, National Black Deaf Advocates, the School Social Work Association of America, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Academy of Management. He is active in the Jefferson City business community where he is a small business owner and a member of the Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce.