

Dr. Thea Williams-Black

Professor and Department Chair

Dr. Thea Williams-Black always knew she wanted to become a teacher. After graduating from Tougaloo College she began her teaching career in the same classroom her mother used to teach in at DeLisle Elementary School in the Pass Christian Public School District. While teaching during the day, Dr. Williams-Black began working on a Master Degree in Elementary Education and Gifted Education at night. Once she completed all course work, she decided to return to school full-time to obtain a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction-Literacy Education from The University of Southern Mississippi. After graduating with her doctorate degree, Dr. Williams-Black began her higher education career at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, LA as an Assistant Professor of Literacy Education and Director of the Summer Gifted Program. She then moved to Williamsburg, VA to become the Director of PreCollegiate Learner Programs and Adjunct Professor in Gifted Education. Having a desire to return back to Mississippi, Dr. Williams-Black taught at the University of Mississippi for 8 years as an Associate Professor in Literacy Education and developed the School of Education's first online program, a Masters Degree in Literacy Education. She has presented at several state, national and international conferences as well as published several manuscripts in journals on literacy, diversity, social studies, gifted and technology. Dr. Williams-Black has currently co-authored three books and two book chapters. Her pride and joy is her supportive husband of 8 years, Terrence Black, and her blessing from God, Thea Emerson, (6 years old). Thea's motto in life is that obstacles may come your way, but keep your faith in God and it to shall pass.

"I am excited to be at Jackson State University to continue the legacy of my late grandmother, Mrs. Violet Williams, my father, Rev. Theodore R. Williams, and my sister State Representative Sonya Williams-Barnes."

