

## **Dr. Kathy Bryant**

### **Assistant Professor**

**D**r. Kathy Bryant is an assistant professor in the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education at Jackson State University. Some of the highlights of her four year tenure at JSU include: participation in the Center for Undergraduate Research, College of Education and Human Development (Elementary & Early Childhood Education) departmental curriculum redesign and coordinating monthly education seminars for incoming students. During the 2011-2014 academic years Dr. Bryant focused her research, teaching, and service on activities designed to enhance student learning, program quality, and research and publication opportunities for candidates within the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education. Dr. Bryant's effort to guide research over the course of those years offered her the opportunity to conduct research with six (6) undergraduate students entitled "The iPad An Instructional Tool: An Examination of Faculty Implementation Experience." This research proposal was funded by the JSU Center for Undergraduate Studies and is currently in progress. She also serves on various committees. Professor Bryant's love and passion is educating others.

Her teaching philosophy and perspective about what makes a great teacher comes from observations of former teachers and mentors. First, great teachers are willing to step out of their comfort zone and learn something new from the ground up and then they are willing to teach others. Second, great teachers are willing to try new things to help engage their students in active learning, even if it means struggling at the onset with things like new technology. Third, great teachers allow themselves to become partners with their students in the process of transforming a classroom into a learning environment, where ideas and resources are exchanged and current dogma is questioned in a nonjudgmental fashion. If the goal is to produce

students who are lifelong, self directed learners, then educators must be willing to model that behavior both in and out of the classroom through research.

Over time she has developed a love, enthusiasm and talent for seeking answers, and explaining what she has learned to those around her. As a professor, she continuously seek to develop continued excellence in both research and teaching, by treating them as a mutually beneficial partnership that can, and will grow and improve together. Her focused research interests and technical experiences will enable her to establish a strong undergraduate research partnership that attracts the interest of students, and develops into collaborative relationships with other faculty and institutions. Collaborative relationships are crucial elements of successful research contributions. Thus, she will continue to focus on her research agenda by forging research relationships with other faculty who share common or related interests.