

Member Highlight

Dr. Annie P. Wimbish,

Program Manager, Principal Preparation for Excellence and Equity in Rural Schools, UNC-Greensboro, NC



WHO IS ANNIE WIMBISH?

Dr. Annie P. Wimbish has a strong history of leadership within the educational field. In her career she has served as a teacher and Title I Supervisor in Halifax, Virginia; a principal in Savannah, Georgia; an Assistant Superintendent in Pinehurst, North Carolina; and a superintendent in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Currently she serves as the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Program Manager for Principal Preparation for Excellence and Equity in Rural Schools. Additionally, she is a leadership consultant, motivational speaker, and author.

She recognizes that she has been blessed with many opportunities in her life. This includes moving from sharecropper's daughter in Halifax, VA, to opening two new public schools in Savannah, GA, to becoming the first female superintendent in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and being elected the first African American female board chair of Averett University. It is not just attaining these professional roles that promotes her pride; she enjoys being a role model for other women who may believe they "can't" do certain things because of the many barriers put before them.

Dr. Wimbish wants her future to be focused on helping develop leaders who are caring and knowledgeable. She knows these are tough times and we need leaders who can be "tough" even as they build those much needed relationships.

WISDOM FROM ANNIE

*"So often, I am approached by women of all races exclaiming how my story gives them hope, especially after they've heard my story or read my book, *Rubber Bands on My Socks: The Reflections of a Sharecropper's Daughter – Family, Poverty, Potential, and Progress*. One of my favorite phrases is: *It's not where you come from but where you're going that makes the difference.*"*

"Treat people fairly, even as you hold them to high expectations, because you never know when you may have to cross their paths again."

"Gail Evans: Play like a man, win like a woman. Best advice I received when learning to lead in a man's world."

"I have often found myself the only female at the table surrounded by male leaders and had to intentionally make my voice heard or be overlooked as a professional."

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT BEING A WE LEAD MEMBER?

"Hearing from other women, sharing stories, gaining and giving support, book studies"

