

FRANCES STETSON



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HOUSTON

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Education Administration
University of Maryland at College Park

M.Ed., Special Education Administration
University of Texas at Austin

B.S., Elementary Education & Special Education (Students with Visual Impairments)
University of Texas at Austin

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1989 – present
President

Stetson & Associates, Inc.

Directs Stetson and Associates, an educational consulting firm with a client base of over 250 school districts, regional education service centers, state departments of education and other state agencies engaged in educational enterprises.

Selected Accomplishments:

- Conducted over sixty major program evaluations of effective practices in educating students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment. Typically, these reports are presented to each district's Board of Trustees and are credited with assisting the districts in making progress toward federal, state, and district-specific goals for improvements.
- Presented a Keynote Session entitled for a Joint Conference for International Council for Administrators or Special Education (CASE) and the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) in Louisville, KY;
- Selected by the Connecticut State Department of Education to assist the state in responding to the P.J. vs. Connecticut SEA Settlement Agreement. Stetson and Associates, Inc. has provided and will continue to provide extensive staff development to those districts named in the settlement and to any district in Connecticut wishing to gain the skills provided through the Step by Step for Inclusive Schools training. We also developed a school-level self-assessment tool to guide principals in review in their current practices that support inclusive education and to set priorities for future action. Presented with the Commissioner of Education, CSEA, to all superintendents in the State regarding models for improving services for students with intellectual disabilities. As a result of our efforts and the many

efforts of the CSEA and Special Education Resource Center (SERC) the statewide statistics are improving. SERC requested that they be granted a three-year license to expand the benefits of the Step-by-Step approach.

- Selected by the International Council for Exceptional Children to provide intensive training to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan Ministers of Education, administrators, and teachers regarding inclusive education and differentiated instruction. Our consultants have made six trips to these third-world countries and plan more in the future as travel tensions ease.
- Invited by the US Department of State's Office of International Information Programs to participate in a digital videoconference hosted by the Bureau of International Information Programs, Office of the US Speaker and Specialist Programs. The conference addressed issues of concern to the United States and Mongolia to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation regarding inclusive education and the legislative framework.
- Presented ten conferences across the nation for the Aspire/Iliad Partnerships (a project for the Council for Exceptional Children) that featured highly effective practices in implementing IDEA '97. This Office of Special Education Programs funded activity reached over 6000 participants and received overwhelmingly positive evaluations.
- Received a 6-year contract with the Florida Department of Education to develop and pilot three administrative training packages designed to provide principals with essential information related to inclusive education practices.
- Served as facilitator for a statewide, multi-agency Interagency Coordinating Committee in preparing legislative recommendations for coordinated supported employment services for Texans with disabilities, birth through adulthood.
- Received the President's Award from the Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education in recognition for outstanding service to the organization, including leading its 500 members in strategic planning for the 21st century.
- Presented Preconference Session for the International Council for Exceptional Children on inclusive education practices at their annual international conference and to present a Special Symposium on Inclusive Education in Atlanta, February 1998 and for four consecutive years.
- Frequently provides keynote presentations and invited sessions to national, state, and local conferences.

1982-89

Program Director, General Education and Accreditation

Region IV Education Service Center, Houston, Texas

Provided leadership to educators across a seven county region (55 school districts) regarding delivery of quality educational services; district and campus improvement planning, training and technical assistance regarding curriculum and instruction. Initiated a variety of new services including a Principal's Academy, a National Speakers' Series, Regional Forums for Instructional Excellence, and a Statewide Network for Effective Schools. Also served as Program Director, Special Education and as Consultant, Programs for Severely Handicapped Students during early tenure at Region IV ESC (one of 20 education service centers in Texas).

1978-1982

Division Director, Special Education Research and Technical Assistance

JWK International Corporation, Annandale, Virginia

Directed a four-year project, funded by the U.S. Office of Civil Rights and the Office of Special Education Programs, to identify administrative concerns and successful strategies for implementing the least restrictive environment mandate contained in Public Law 94-142 (now P.L. 105-17.). Prepared The First Report to Congress regarding P.L. 94142 chapters for this report and authored the LRE for the next four years.

Dr. Stetson also previously served as a Chief Consultant, Texas Education Agency and as a teacher of students with visual impairments.

References available upon request.