

**Diane C. Watkins** has held numerous jobs in her district during her 33 years in education. She began as a special education teacher and later became a special education administrator. Her experiences as an elementary principal in a Title I school, a middle income community school, and an affluent school give her the knowledge to know that even though the families of those communities have different resources, many of the needs of the schools are the same. She served her district as the *Program Administrator for Federal Programs* for six years and is currently the *Director of Assessment and Accountability*. She has received several community and educational awards but says she is proudest of the James D. Mullins Leadership Award for her district and state for supporting literacy in her school because she was nominated by the very teachers she works so hard to support each day.

**Dr. Stephanie D. B. Johnson** has served in public school divisions for more than 42 years. She began as a kindergarten teacher and served every level of students in some capacity. Dr. Johnson has served as a Xerox Quality Trainer and a Ruby Payne Trainer. As a Title I principal, she lead her staff and students to a series of honors and awards including National Title I School, Governor's Award of Excellence and State Title I School. Her tenure as a leader led to outstanding student and staff success. She nows serves as *The Cordinator of Educational Leadership* at a local university where she recreates her passion for education in preparing a new generation of teachers and leaders.

Both have a deep desire to share their success with others, leading them to become certified national principal mentors. Their experience has taught them that the work of schools is hard and that you will only retain dedicated and committed staff members by establishing a positive relationship with them and motivating them to want to come to your building each day to be on your team.

For over a decade, they have presented at numerous local, state and national conferences including the *National Elementary Principals Conference* and *The National Title I Conference*. The have also served as consultants for districts across the country, sharing their strategies with other administrators. Their lively workshops are valued for their relevancy as they are still practicing their craft each day.

Their first publication, **The Missing Alphabet – M** is an illustration of how the M (motivation) of staff members is often missing in our schools. Their second book, **The Missing Alphabet – R (responsibility)**, is written for teachers to demonstrate how they can and should weave positive character traits into each lesson. Their third publication, **The Missing Alphabet – P (Principal's Planner)**, is a favorite organization tool for principals. Their fourth book, **The Missing Alphabet – F (family engagement)** offers simple suggestions for how to get families more involved in their child's education.