

# Mississippi School Boards Association

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## PROFILE:

### MSBA Executive Director Michael W. Waldrop, Ph.D.

MSBA Executive Director Michael W. Waldrop is a passionate education leader and former superintendent, teacher, coach and adjunct university professor. Superintendent of the Senatobia School District in North Mississippi for 14 years, Waldrop became MSBA's second executive director after serving for four years as MSBA Deputy Executive Director.

During his initial years with MSBA, Waldrop spent a great deal of time getting to know the viewpoints and needs of school board members, providing board member continuing education training, lobbying the Mississippi Legislature on board members' behalf; collaborating with other education organizations, building community connections and consulting directly with individual school districts on various school board matters. He is one of the primary authors of MSBA's school board member continuing education training modules and has presented at numerous State, Regional and National Conferences.

After the MSBA Board of Directors appointed Waldrop as the association's executive director, he immediately set his sights on adding to and enhancing MSBA services. New services implemented under his leadership include a superintendent search service, online policy service, grassroots advocacy assistance, individualized policy manual updates for districts wanting policies tailored to their specific situations, on-line training for school board members and superintendents, enhanced insurance options and improved loss control services. Under Dr. Waldrop's leadership, MSBA implemented a School Board President/Superintendent relationship training seminar and established a professional organization to support administrative personnel who work directly with school boards and superintendents regarding school policy issues, board agendas and minutes. He was also successful in working with the Mississippi Legislature to expand MSBA's role to give MSBA exclusive training authority in conducting state-mandated training for new school board members and for school boards and superintendents when their school districts were identified as academic underperforming or in financial distress.

A former adjunct professor at the University of Mississippi and Mississippi College, Waldrop served as a trainer for the Mississippi Department of Education on the superintendent's role in accountability and was a member of the Board of Directors of both the Mississippi Association of School Administrators and the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents.

Dr. Waldrop currently serves on the Mississippi Economic Council's *Blueprint Mississippi 2011* committee and has served on the National School Boards Association Liaison Committee, the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Blue Ribbon Commission for the Redesign of Administrative Preparation, the MDE Advisory Committee on Dropout Prevention, the Mississippi Institutes of Higher Learning Blue Ribbon Committee for the Redesign of Teacher Preparation and the MDE Career Pathways Oversight Committee. He has also served on the University of Mississippi School of Education Alumni Chapter Board of Directors and the Board of Directors of the Commission on Secondary and Middle Schools of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Dr. Waldrop was recently appointed by the Governor to serve on a state policy team to oversee the development of a "turnaround" plan for underperforming schools.

Dr. Waldrop was formally recognized by the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents for outstanding educational leadership and received the prestigious "Golden Lamp" leadership award from the Mississippi Association of School Administrators. He earned the Excellence in Leadership Award from the Delta Rural Systemic Initiative, received the "Distinguished Alumni Award" from Delta State University and was named "Alumni of the Year for the School of Education" by the University of Mississippi.

Waldrop is a former member of the Mississippi Commission on School Accreditation, the Mississippi Effective School Consortium and the National Assessment Governing Board.

He earned a Ph.D. and a M.Ed. in educational administration from the University of Mississippi and a B.S.E. from Delta State University. He and his wife Sondra have two sons and seven grandchildren. Dr. Waldrop is a Baptist deacon and a Rotary International "Paul Harris Fellow."