

RONALD S. ROCHON, PH.D.

Rochon, a native of Chicago's south side, currently serves as the Dean of the School of Education and Associate Vice President for Teacher Education at Buffalo State College in Buffalo, New York. He obtained a Bachelor's of Science in Animal Sciences from Tuskegee University and a Master of Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Reproductive Physiology. Rochon developed an interest in teaching while working in the hospital reproductive unit at the University of Chicago and returned to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to complete a doctorate in Educational Policy Studies.

Rochon's primary areas of interest center on the recruitment, retention, and successful matriculation of culturally, linguistically, and racially diverse students across the university campus; socializing students towards the realities of their life choices and preparing them for higher education; strengthening the relationship between communities and universities; empowering and equipping teacher educators to serve the diverse needs of ALL children; and assisting students in examining and deepening their understanding of the ways in which socio-cultural factors influence American educational thought, theory, and practice.

Rochon's research and teaching addresses the historical and contemporary perspectives surrounding the politics of race and culture within American society; trends among African Americans with respect to their feelings, attitudes, and perspectives toward ethnic and national identity; and the current educational controversy regarding the role of public schools in examining multiculturalism and addressing ethnic identity.

Rochon is committed to community renewal and collaboration. He works extensively with stakeholders in PK-12 settings and throughout the community to develop systemic community building and empowering relationships. Throughout his tenure, Rochon has secured private, state, and federal grant funding exceeding \$5 million to establish educational programming and workshops, long-term scholarships for underserved populations and exchange programs with universities in Ghana and China. He continues to seek funding for his work with these initiatives.

Rochon is most proud of the driving forces in his life – his wife Lynn, son Ayinde (eye-yen-day), and daughter Nia (nee-ah).