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Date of Current Degree:

Institution: Southeastern Louisiana University

Major Field: Educational Leadership

Major Professor: Jennifer Sughrue, Ph.D.

Title of Study: AN ANALYSIS OF THE BROWN RULINGS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY AS PERCEIVED BY EDUCATORS IN ONE SCHOOL IN LOUISIANA

Pages in Study: 169

Candidate for the Degree of Doctor of Education

The study examined the history and effects of the monumental Brown v. Board of Education (1954) ruling and related decisions regarding school desegregation in one public school in Louisiana. As phenomenological and narrative research, this investigation included a review the historical experiences of the pre-Brown era and the educational and cultural experiences of select educators as a result of the decisions handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954 and 1955. The author examined the experiences that these decisions had on current and former educators who were and are linked to one public school in Louisiana and on its educational climate from the 1960s until the present day. Pursuant to the analysis of these rulings, an investigation through a case study design has been conduct with regard to the rulings' relationship to the perceptions and experiences of the teachers with regard to equal educational opportunity.
Brown was intended to provide and ensure the promise and hope of equal educational opportunities for all public school children in the United States. The years following the rulings have been marked with inconsistent progress toward eliminating “separate but equal” schools. As students of color show lagging achievement results, compared to their white cohorts, one benefit of this work is the potential for educational leaders to reflect on the status of equal education opportunity for the students in their schools and for policymakers to take an account of the progress toward or away from equal education opportunity in their state.