



LONNIE LUCE

Executive Director

Blended & Online School Solutions

Alonzo “Lonnie” Ray Luce, PhD

[REDACTED], Gonzales, LA 70737 | [REDACTED]

Education

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION | 1991-1999 | LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Dissertation Title: Magnetism of Magnets: The Impact of High School Magnet Programs on Desegregation and School Improvement in East Baton Rouge Parish

SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION | 1991-1994 | LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

MASTERS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION | 1991-1992 | LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN EDUCATION | 1986-1990 | SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY

Major: Social Studies | Minor: Math | Graduated *magna cum laude*

Experience

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | BLENDED & ONLINE SCHOOL SOLUTIONS | MARCH 2019 – PRESENT

- Responsible for managing business, growth opportunities and expansion of BOSS, Inc.

SUPERINTENDENT (LOUISIANA) | CHARTER SCHOOLS USA, LA | MAY 2018 – PRESENT

- Lead eight schools with 5, 500+ students, located in five Louisiana parishes.

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER | FOUNDATION FOR LOUISIANA STUDENTS, LA | AUGUST 2018 – APRIL 2019

- Responsible for continuing growth of University View Academy.

SUPERINTENDENT | UNIVERSITY VIEW ACADEMY, LA | JULY 2016 – AUGUST 2018

- Led all aspects of a statewide, online, public charter school, and in one year led to an independent school under a non-profit board. Implemented a new ERP package for finance, human resources and payroll; implemented new instructional software (SIS & LMS) and curriculum schoolwide. Hired staff or outsourced staff to implement marketing, enrollment, finance and all other back office needs. Grew the school from 2,100 to 3,000+ and increased School Performance Score for SY 16-17 when other statewide online schools declined.

SUPERINTENDENT | ST. JAMES PARISH SCHOOLS, LA | AUGUST 2007 – JUNE 2016

- Selected Louisiana State Superintendent of the Year in 2014. Joined the Phillip Schlechty Superintendents Leadership Network in 2015. Served as the superintendent representative on the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana’s (TRSL) Board 2012-2016. Completed the Superintendent Academy at Lamar University (Class of 2011-2012). Implemented a head start program for PK3 that complements a universal PK4 program during SY2015-16. Expanded dual-enrollment programs and created a cohort of Jumpstart students. Created a cohort of jumpstart students that will complete an associate degree or diploma program in a high wage, high demand career path upon graduating from high school. Initiated a 1:1 laptop program for all 2nd-12th grade students. Created a district wide gifted center for grades 3-8. Developed and implemented a virtual school and technical education program to serve students around the state through Supplemental Course Allocation. Implemented a building program that impacts all school sites after gaining a 75% voter approval in 2015.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT; EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY | GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS, SC | JUNE 2003 – AUGUST 2007

- Led all aspects of instruction in a district of 67,000 students, including 12 International Baccalaureate programs and 12 magnet academies. Implemented a major initiative to improve graduation rate; our district was awarded a Small Learning Communities Grant for SY04-05 to SY06-07. From SY04-05 to SY05-06, the high schools that were part of the grant implementation decreased the number of ninth grade retentions from 728 to 387 by implementing ninth grade academies with rigor, relevance, and relationships. Increased AP exams taken from 3,778 in 2004 to 4,868 in 2005. Implemented an online instructional system that provides instant information to teachers for instructional progression. Implemented an intensive teacher training program that was delivered to over 1,200 teachers per year. Rolled out a parent portal granting access to grades, attendance, discipline, demographics, and other information. Extended instructional time for Title 1 middle schools by providing laptops for all students in three schools to access curriculum over the Internet from home. Implemented a refresh program that replaces all computers every five years (over 20,000 in the district).

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER | NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, LA | APRIL 2001 – MAY 2003

- Led a district of 130+ sites and 70,000+ students in all forms of technology. Built an instructional technology department funded primarily from grants. Managed several multi-million-dollar budgets and saved the district millions by replacing outsourced networking staff and Oracle analysts with in-house staff.

DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY | LIVINGSTON PARISH SCHOOL BOARD, LA | AUGUST 1999 – APRIL 2001

- Led the district of 20,000+ students in all forms of technology. Oversaw Administrative and Student Information Systems, Wide Area Network, and Instructional Technology. Implemented an automated library and textbook system at all schools. Replaced all networking infrastructure in one year using a federal E-rate grant.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR | LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY | JULY 1998 – 1999

- Coordinated and participated in the development and application of computer-based technologies for electronic delivery of independent courses for college, high school, and non-credit students. Led the technology change that helped LSU sustain their ranking in the top ten Independent Study programs in the nation.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF INSTRUCTION; TECHNOLOGY MAGNET COORDINATOR; TEACHER | ISTROUMA HIGH SCHOOL AND TECHNOLOGY MAGNET, LA | AUGUST 1992 – JULY 1998

- Led the transformation of a traditional high school into a technology magnet with state-of-the-art technology infrastructure, equipment, and instructional programs.

Military Experience

Joint Forces Headquarters, New Orleans, LA
Staff Officer – Retired as a Colonel

May 2016 – Retired August 2018

199th Leadership Regiment, Pineville, LA
Commander

April 2012 – April 2016

225th Engineer Brigade, Pineville, LA
Brigade Executive Officer

September 2011 – March 2012

528th Engineer Battalion, Monroe, LA

Battalion Commander

April 2008 - September 2011

108th Division (Institutional Training), Charlotte, NC

Division Engineer; 1st Brigade XO; Brigade S1

July 2004 - Jan 2008

769th Engineer Battalion, Baton Rouge, LA

Battalion S3, Battalion S4, Company Commander and others

December 1985 - July 2004

Military Honors

Bronze Star

Deployed to Afghanistan in support of Enduring Freedom; Officer in Charge (OIC) of engineer detachment in Kandahar, Afghanistan, during deployment from May, 2002 through January, 2003.

Itshner Award

Under my command, my company received the award for best engineer company in the United States Army Reserve Component.

Alonzo “Lonnie” Ray Luce, PhD

Gonzales, LA 70737 |

February 28, 2020

Louisiana Superintendent Work Group
Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE)
Suite 5-190
1201 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Louisiana Superintendent Work Group:

I am deeply interested in and would be honored to be appointed as the next Louisiana Superintendent. I was born, raised, and educated in Louisiana where I graduated from St. Amant High School in Ascension Parish, Southeastern Louisiana University with an undergraduate degree, and Louisiana State University with two graduate degrees. I have worked in educational settings for over 25 years and all but four of those have been in Louisiana. I retired from the National Guard in 2019 with a cumulative 32 years of service and with only four of those years taking place outside of the Louisiana National Guard. Louisiana is my beloved home state, and I would value the opportunity to serve it and its students in the capacity of State Superintendent.

My education and myriad of experiences have prepared me to assume this responsibility. I have served in various educator roles, progressing from a classroom teacher to a superintendent in Louisiana. I served as the Technology Leader and the Deputy Superintendent of Schools in Greenville County, South Carolina for four years. For several years, I led the largest statewide online public charter school in Louisiana. I currently lead the largest public charter school management organization in Louisiana, which serves students in Caddo, Calcasieu, Lafayette, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville Parishes.

My training as an educator started with a bachelor’s degree in which I became certified in social studies and math. I continued my education and earned a master’s degree in public administration where I gained skills in public budgeting and other areas. I also earned a specialist certificate and doctorate in education administration and supervision.

My experience as a teacher and school administrator were in an inner-city high school in East Baton Rouge Parish. I taught world geography, civics, and computer science. Later, I became the technology magnet coordinator who led the school-within-a-school technology magnet program for a short time before eventually leading it as assistant principal. While I was at Istrouma High School, we stabilized faculty turnover, successfully recruited students from across the parish into an inner-city school, and elevated the academic performance of the student body. I chose to write my doctoral dissertation on the magnetism of magnet programs after seeing the great potential of parent and student choice for improving school performance and desegregation.

In the course of time, I left Istrouma High School and went to Louisiana State University’s Office of Independent Study to help transition the program from a traditional correspondence program to an internet-based program. While I was at Louisiana State University, our program was

among the top ten distance-learning programs in the nation. My career progression continued when I left LSU to become the first technology director for Livingston Parish. Following this, I went to New Orleans to become Chief Information Officer, one of the top four "C" level positions created to reform New Orleans Public Schools. During this time, I was activated to go to Afghanistan, but, upon my return, found that I no longer had a position in New Orleans. Seeking a new opportunity, I departed for Greenville County Schools, South Carolina, to lead their technology department. After about a year in Greenville County Schools, I was promoted to the number two spot in the district as Deputy Superintendent of Schools. Greenville was the largest school district in South Carolina. We had about 63,000 students (about 10 percent of all the public-school students in South Carolina) and were growing about 1,500 students a year. After serving four years in South Carolina, I was given the opportunity to return to Louisiana to serve as superintendent in St. James Parish, which role I fulfilled for nine years. My experiences extend across districts larger than any in Louisiana to districts the size of St. James Parish, which resembles the size of many districts in Louisiana. I felt blessed to share what I learned as a Louisiana educator in another state and at the same time to have learned much from Greenville that I have since been able to apply in Louisiana.

I have consistently been involved in educational institutions that grew while under my leadership. While serving as superintendent in St. James Parish, we had notable student performance growth and distinguished innovations that allowed me to become the 2014 Louisiana Superintendent of the Year. I then became superintendent of Louisiana Connections Academy and led that statewide virtual public charter school to become independent as the newly renamed University View Academy. The school grew from 1900 students to over 3000 students in two years, during which time the curriculum was changed to follow Louisiana State Standards. During that time, I also agreed to take on the challenge of keeping Tallulah Charter School open by putting them under the University View Academy umbrella. When I left University View Academy, it was to lead the largest charter operator in Louisiana, Charter Schools USA – Louisiana. My successful experiences leading the largest statewide virtual school in Louisiana and now the largest brick-and-mortar charter operator in the state have given me the ability to assist Louisiana in providing great public-school choices to all of its students.

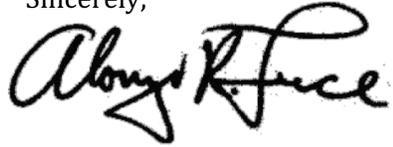
In addition to my educational experiences, my 30-year plus Army National Guard and Reserve career also provided many experiences that have helped me in school leadership positions in the past and that have enhanced my leadership skills for the possibility of becoming the State Superintendent. I spent over 18 years in the 769th Engineer Battalion in Baton Rouge before being mobilized as the operations officer to go to Afghanistan soon after the terrorist attack on the twin towers. I took half of our battalion to Kandahar, Afghanistan, and the battalion commander took the other half to Bagram, Afghanistan. I had a multi-national engineer force that reported to me including Jordanian, Canadian, active and national guard engineers. I joined the reserves in South Carolina for four years after returning from Afghanistan. Then, I commanded an engineer battalion of over 500 soldiers in Monroe. Later, I commanded the Leadership Regiment in Camp Beauregard that trained future officers and NCOs. The leadership skills I learned in Afghanistan and assisting in disasters such as hurricanes have been integral. Serving for several years in Monroe and Pineville has given me insight into the cultural differences between North and South Louisiana that are very important for the next Louisiana Superintendent to understand.

In conclusion, my education, school leadership experiences, and military experiences have prepared me and uniquely qualify me to become the next Louisiana Superintendent of Education. I have a doctorate in education administration, experience in large and small school districts in roles ranging from teacher to superintendent, and have successfully worked in and led traditional schools, virtual charter schools, and brick-and-mortar charter schools. I retired as a Colonel in the

Army National Guard and have experienced many cultures in Louisiana and beyond. On the basis of these qualifications, I have elected to put myself forth as a capable candidate.

Thank you for taking time to consider me for the position of Louisiana Superintendent of Education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alonzo R. Luce". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a distinct "R".

Alonzo "Lonnie" Luce