

## Gail George: B.A., M.S., M-Div., SBL, SDL, SDBL, Youth Chaplain

Gail George's career in education is reflective of the call on her life of service to others. Ms. George has over fifteen years of teaching experience in the New York City public school system. Throughout her academic career, Ms. George has strived to afford her students developmental opportunities to complement academic progress. These offerings have served to enhance student lives.

A sampling of these opportunities includes, but is not limited to a Peer Tutoring Program which paired middle school students with elementary school students for tutoring in math and reading. Prior to the advent of the Common Core career and college readiness initiative, Ms. George initiated and coordinated annual College Tours for her middle school students. A relationship forged with the City Harvest program afforded Ms. George's students the opportunity to conduct food drives that supported food pantries throughout the city. This is in direct alignment with the shared NYCDOE mission to *provide students with an education that gives them the tools to thrive in college, in careers, and as active members of their communities.*

The many positive outcomes from youth engaging in service to others are too numerous to list, but paramount are:

- **Developing leadership, communication, organizational skills and a sense of empowerment**
- **Building self-esteem from the positive results of their service**
- **Developing problem-solving and decision-making skills by applying their knowledge to real-world situations**
- **Learning how to cooperate with one another and work as a team with diverse groups of people including adults, peers, and others with different backgrounds and experiences**

Ms. George's work with youth extends to the community at large. As a seminarian, she interned with the UTH-TURN program which served as an alternative to incarceration for youth. Ms. George also served as a tutor to incarcerated youth and was featured on a PBS education documentary for her work with incarcerated youth. A certification in Youth Chaplaincy has created more opportunities to work with incarcerated youth and to minister to their needs as they prepare for life beyond the walls.

To be cited in Who's Who Among America's Teachers is an honor and a privilege. Ms. George has been nominated more than once. To be included in the publication, you must be

nominated by a high school or college student who is in the top 10% of his or her class. This is a recognition that Ms. George cherishes because it demonstrates that her students are doing well. Working with a diverse student population has been a hallmark of her career, but her objectives remain consistent. Ms. George desires that all of her students are successful in all areas of their lives. Students lament about her adages, but can repeat them verbatim. For example, *the journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step, so let's start stepping!* Ms. George looks forward to the journey that serving youth via the *DBNA* organization will entail.