



# GAYE ADEGBALOLA

## NATIONAL PRESENTER : NOW OFFERING Motivational Presentation for Educators

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Gaye Adegbalola was an educator in the Fredericksburg City public school system for 18 years, and honored as Virginia State Teacher of the Year in 1982. Primarily an eighth grade science teacher, "Ms. A" (as referred to by her students) also designed and taught the Gifted and Talented program from its inception, and developed and taught the Creative Thinking class. As Teacher of the Year, she delivered motivational speeches and facilitated instructional workshops throughout the state of Virginia. She toured the speaking circuit for many years, and gained extensive experience in "teaching teachers how to teach" – with an emphasis on meeting the needs of all students in the regular classroom.

Recently, Ms. Adegbalola was contacted by her former James Monroe High School Principal, Dr. Stan Durtan, to present an opening day motivational speech to his school district. (Dr. Durtan is now the Superintendent of the Wissahickon District outside of Philadelphia, PA.) Because of the exceptional response and the encouragement of Dr. Durtan, Ms. Adegbalola is now inspired to offer this presentation to your school district.

The main objective of Ms. Adegbalola's presentation is to motivate instructional staff to reach all students by first seeing their own worth as educators, by understanding diverse student needs, and by realizing that it is not difficult to vary instructional components for better learning.

Ms. Adegbalola believes that teachers must first know, deep down, that they can readily meet the challenge of leaving no child behind. She believes that teachers must truly feel the passion and power of education. She believes that teachers must find creative ways to close the achievement gap in their classrooms, in their communities, in the world.

So, in this presentation, with the humor and life lessons of a seasoned educator, Ms. Gaye Adegbalola:

- ★ Defines concrete examples of diversity issues, socio-economic problems, multicultural (in)sensitivity and gender issues in the classroom and in life;
- ★ Highlights the strengths of various instructional departments and illuminates their unique challenges;
- ★ Holds a mirror for teachers to recognize their own strengths, worth and beauty and how they have the power to shape the future – locally and globally;
- ★ Divides curriculum features into four components: Content, Delivery, Skills and Product, and shares how to easily manipulate/vary the components to meet varied student needs;
- ★ Defines how to be "a guide on the side" rather than a "sage on the stage" – how to teach by varying delivery skills;
- ★ Incorporates poetry and musical presentations to emphasize the topics covered (if time allows).

In summary, Ms. Adegbalola's main objective is to have all educators believe in themselves – that they have the power to meet local, state, and national learning objectives, and, in turn, that they have the passion and power to make this world a better place for all.

### BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

*Gaye Todd was born and raised in Fredericksburg, VA. She graduated as valedictorian of the then-segregated Walker-Grant High School. She finished*

*Boston University with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry. Prior to becoming a teacher, she worked as a technical writer for TRW Systems, a biochemical researcher for Rockefeller University, and a bacteriologist for Harlem Hospital. She has a Masters degree in Educational Media from Virginia State University.*

*In the early '70s, she began her teaching career for the City of Fredericksburg Public Schools. Throughout her teaching career, she directed Harambee 360° Experimental Theater, Inc. She was able to creatively use performance outlets as tools to assist black youth in gaining confidence as they struggled with identity issues during the spread of "integration."*

*During her teaching career, Ms. Adegbalola moonlighted as a musician. By maintaining the blues legacy, she now sees herself as a contemporary griot – keeping the history alive, delivering messages of empowerment, ministering to the heartbroken, and finding joy in the mundane. As a founding member of Saffire – the Uppity Blues Women, she became a full time performer. She composes, sings, plays guitar and harmonica. She has toured nationally and internationally, and has won numerous awards from college performances and the prestigious Blues Music Award (the Grammy of the blues industry). She has 10 CDs in national distribution.*

*Ms. Adegbalola continues to teach courses in the Business of Music, the History of Women in the Blues, Vocal and Performance Techniques. Because of her participation in the Civil Rights movement of the '60s and the Black Power movement of the '70s, she often lectures on "Civil Rights and Civil Wrongs."*

These experiences coupled with Ms. Adegbalola's dynamic speaking style, provide this former Virginia State Teacher of the Year the necessary tools to motivate your instructional staff to help close the achievement gap and "leave no child behind."