



Dr. Erika Burton earned her BA from The University of Arizona in English with a Minor in Psychology after completing her Master's Degree in Elementary Education at Aurora University. Burton then went on to be awarded her doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies with a minor in research and supervision from Loyola University in Chicago in 2004.

During and after her professional preparation, Burton taught second grade in a bilingual classroom in the inner city of Los Angeles, First grade on the west side of Chicago in a restructured school, third grade at Holmes Elementary in Oak Park, IL., and later served as an Assistant Principal in River Grove's Elementary School.

In 2005, Burton co-founded Orion's Mind, an Educational Company with an overarching mission to close the achievement gap in Chicago. The company started with 2 employees and today has 30 full time staff and 3,000 part time employees. Orion's Mind was the second largest supplemental education provider in Illinois behind Chicago Public School's own supplemental curriculum called Aim High. The company served more than 9,000 Chicago Public students in grades K-8 during the 2008- 2009 school year. Orion's Mind is also the largest supplemental provider in Waukegan Public Schools serving over 1,000 K-8 students.

Burton worked closely from 2005- 2009 to develop and revise curriculum, develop and facilitate the instructor and lead instructor trainings, and the instructor supervision program designed to ensure consistent and successful implementation of the Orion's Mind curriculum.

In 2009, Burton started a new chapter in closing the achievement gap by starting Stepping Stones Together. Stepping Stones Together is a program she created that delivers a reasonably priced parent/child online beginning reading program empowering parents with the tools they need to help their child learn to read.

Burton is an adjunct professor for Roosevelt and National Louis University with a focus on teaching educational leadership, action research, early childhood and elementary education. She is dedicated to closing the achievement gap working with teachers to develop strategies to help all students achieve measurable results. Burton was awarded grant money in 2007 by National Louis University to ensure teachers use action research to better serve their students' needs.

Burton last presented at the 2007 (ASCD) Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development conference in Orlando, Florida, and in 2006 at National Louis University's Imagination conference, and the ASCD's Midwest conference in 2006 focusing on multi-disciplinary approaches to learning.

Her most recent publication was in Burton, E. (2009, August). 21st century focus: brain learning. *Southeast Educators Network*,(11.2).