

# Been There, Done That: My Life In The Educational Arena

Paul E. Meacham Ph.D.



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Born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in 1936, Dr. Meacham was exposed to the wonderful world of books at an early age. His mother arranged for piano lessons with a local piano teacher for him. However this move was soundly rejected because "no boys played piano in this neighborhood." But when he was in the seventh grade a band was organized in his elementary school and he joined, playing trumpet through high school because "boys did play trumpet." By his senior year he knew he wanted to be a band director, so after graduation he headed north to Tennessee State Univ. and played for four years in the marching and concert bands, earning a bachelors degree (BS) in music education. He later earned a masters (M.Mus) of music at the Univ. of Michigan and spent 15 years directing school bands in Alabama and Tennessee at every level from elem. to junior high and through high school and college. After nine years in the public schools of Memphis, Tennessee, he initiated a professional career change, earning a Ph.D. in Community College Administration at the University of Texas, and embarking on a 22 year journey that included senior administrative positions in the community college systems of Dallas and Austin, Texas, and the presidency of the Community College of Southern Nevada (CCSN). After 11 years at CCSN, Dr. Meacham retired from the Community College and accepted a tenured position as a full-time professor in the College of Education at UNLV. Following nine years at UNLV, he retired from professional life as an educator after earning both titles of Emeritus President of CCSN and Emeritus Professor of Education at UNLV. Dr. Meacham has been the recipient of many additional awards. Among them are two buildings that bear his name. One is a threestory state of the art senior citizen apartment complex in East Las Vegas on Windmill and Las Vegas Boulevard. The other one adorns the Student Services building on CCSN's West Charleston campus. Dr. Meacham continues to serve active roles in many arenas. National and local organizations such as the West Las Vegas Arts Center, the Southern Nevada Chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers, and the Joe Williams Foundation are three examples of his service to those who live, work, play, and study in Las Vegas-the jewel of the valley that we all call home.

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