PRINCIPAL CORPS HONORS

SANDRA KYLE

and thanks her for 8 years of being the PC Mom and taking care of Cohorts 5-12!
MRS. SANDRA

A ray of sunshine,
The calm in the storm.
The smiling face,
The one to call when you need help.
The one who knows all the answers,
The one to ask if you are scared to ask Dr. Burnham!

~Jennifer Foster, Cohort XI, 2019-2020
COHORT 5
2013-2014

Cheers
TO RETIREMENT!
There are some people who leave the greatest impact on your life while saying very few words. Mrs. Sandra is a woman of action and timeliness that taps into a motherly gene that very few possess. She was always there to simply listen and encourage. I never had an encounter with her that did not include her authentic smile and sincere care. I will never forget the moment she told me with a big smile on her face, “I am so proud of the man you have become.” That was it; I felt the true joy she had for me. Mrs. Sandra is a jewel that will never be replicated. While there are many great foundational blocks within the PC family, she is unquestionably the glue who holds it all together.

Mrs. Sandra, thank you for your love, your listening ear, and your leadership in the most organic way. You have truly helped me write my story, and I pray that you continue to bless others as you have blessed me.

With love,
Cloyd Garth Jr., Superintendent, Hazlehurst City School District

Mrs. Sandra has been a cornerstone of the Principal Corps. She was always willing to listen and love each of us. She has done so many things to help me personally, my fellow Cohort 5 members, and all Principal Corps participants. A very telling sign of just how much she has been valued and loved by PC students occurred when a group of PC alums were back on campus for a panel discussion a few years ago. At the conclusion of the day, we found ourselves returning to the old habit of piling into Mrs. Sandra’s office reminiscing and enjoying getting to be with her again. She is a wonderful lady who has made each of our experiences in Principal Corps so much better.

Mrs. Sandra has known since I completed PC in 2014 that I absolutely love the blue PC pens. Each year, she sends me a small "care package" of those pens. Each time I use one of the pens, I cannot help but think of Mrs. Sandra and remember just how special she is to me.

John Barnett, Principal, Corinth High School

Mrs. Sandra did so much for Cohort 5, especially in the food arena...Ha! We were blessed to have you. You graciously helped us with anything we needed regardless of what it was. I hope you enjoy your time with your family and wish you nothing but the BEST!
Misty Spencer, Career Tech Director, Biloxi High School

IF IT WERE NOT FOR SANDRA, I COULDN’T HAVE MADE IT THROUGH PC. FROM ALLOWING ME TO DO LAST-MINUTE PRINTING FOR MY REFLECTIONS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS THAT WERE DUE OR LETTING ME GRAB A FEW EXTRA BOOKS OR PC SWAG EACH TIME I VISITED, I DON’T KNOW WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE. I’LL NEVER FORGET THE TIMES SANDRA WOULD LET ME COME TO HER OFFICE TO JUST SIT AND VENT; SHE WOULD ALWAYS OFFER ME WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT. THOSE CONVERSATIONS MEANT MORE TO ME THAN SHE KNOWS. I AM SO BLESSED SANDRA HAS BEEN A HUGE PART OF MY DEVELOPMENT AS A SCHOOL LEADER.

HAPPY RETIREMENT,
BRAXTON STOWE, PRINCIPAL, COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL

Ms. Sandra, my bookshelves are certainly a little heavier thanks to you!! But seriously, you provided an understanding ear to listen when we struggled. You always offered a kind word of encouragement when we were at our rope’s end, and you always let me confiscate a new book to read whenever I stuck my head in your door. Principal Corps would not have been the same without you, and I am so happy for you to have this time to enjoy with your family.

The upcoming cohorts will be lost without you...I know Dr. B will be, too. Thank you for everything! Congratulations on your retirement!

Haley Wilson, Assistant Principal, Lafayette Elementary School

Mrs. Sandra started with Principal Corps the same year as Cohort V, and we were high maintenance! I cannot overstate how much we all relied on her. She allowed us to print our papers in her office, she made sure we had valid parking passes, she sneaked us extra goodies like journals and pens, she made sure we paid our graduation fees...I could go on and on! Basically, she mothered us, even though we were grown adults, but as it turned out, everyone else felt the same way. She is the beating heart of the Principal Corps program, always ready to help and always with a beautiful smile. Mrs. Sandra, you made a difference.

Emily K. Branch, Principal, Petal Upper Elementary School
COHORT 6
2014-2015

Mrs. Sandra is...

retiring!
First and foremost, I’d like to congratulate Mrs. Kyle on her retirement. There has been no other person who could serve as the “glue” for any program better than Mrs. Kyle. There are so many PC alumni who never would have made it without her help, guidance, and friendship. Mrs. Kyle is such a welcome relief to all cohorts during the beginning month of Principal Corps as students are stressing out and going crazy getting into the administrator mindset. The genuine care and compassion for Principal Corps and education was so present in her daily life. Mrs. Kyle, we THANK YOU, love you, and wish you all the best!

Clay Garner, Assistant Principal, Brandon High School

Mrs. Sandra was always a comfort during our times together in PC. She not only took care of our daily needs, she was a listener and an encourager to everyone who dropped by her office. My favorite memory of her was taking a moment to talk about our families and just visit.

Mrs. Sandra never hesitated to give you her full attention; she is truly a balm to the souls of all who meet her.

Kristen Langerman, Assistant Principal, McLaurin Elementary School

When I read of your retirement, Mrs. Sandra, I was at school in my office. I actually screamed out loud because I couldn’t believe the news. You are truly an amazing and sweet person. Principal Corps will NOT be the same without you. Your face was the first one I saw when I had my interview. Your smile and kind words helped put me at ease. Thank you for always being so kind and helpful to us all. I feel sorry for the person who takes your position, not place. They have some mighty BIG shoes to fill. You’re absolutely the best. Enjoy your retirement.

Angela Lowery, Principal, Osyka Elementary School

The Bible speaks of us entertaining angels (Heb. 13:2). Ms. Sandra, as we affectionately called her, was certainly our PC Angel. Her kind spirit was evident in every way demonstrating a heart touched by God. Although Dr. Burnham and our professors were vital to our becoming the administrators we are, Ms. Sandra helped us navigate through the program with her special touch. She was our mom away from home. I could not imagine going through PC without her. Ms. Sandra was our guiding angel with a smile that made everything better. I am truly going to miss calling Dr. Burnham’s office and not hearing her voice.

Ms. Sandra, I love you and will carry our conversations and experiences in my heart always.

Love you much!

Shay Isaac, Assistant Principal, Susie B. West Elementary School

What a bittersweet moment, Ms. Sandra! You are one special lady who took the time to get to know each of us during our time in Oxford. From day one, you made us feel welcome and special! I’m most thankful for the little chats of encouragement and the many laughs we had in your office...especially the times when you helped us surprise Dr. Burnham! You are the GLUE that holds Principal Corps together. I’m not sure how Dr. Burnham will continue without you...PC will never be the same. You have impacted so many people with your kind compassion. I wish we could have been there to celebrate with you! I hope you enjoy your retirement. It is well deserved. Travel more, eat all the biscuits, and relax!

Much love and respect,

Candace Henderson, Director of Elementary and Federal Programs, Laurel School District
When each of us started our Principal Corps journey, we all thought we were pretty good teachers and were fully prepared to become administrators. Dr. Burnham quickly taught us otherwise. He taught us how to conduct ourselves, treat others, and look after students first. All along the way, however, we were learning another valuable lesson—the importance of having the highest quality, highest character, and the most talented people around you. Ms. Sandra embodies all of those traits. As many of us have moved into our roles as assistant principals, principals, central office personnel, and beyond, we realize the essential nature of having someone like Ms. Sandra to make sure things run smoothly. Someone sent these lines out on Administrative Assistants Day, and I immediately thought of Ms. Sandra. "In a school, if a teacher is out, we get a sub. If the principal is out, no one cares. If the secretary is out, shut the whole thing down!" How true!

Ms. Sandra made every single person who came to her office or went through the program feel cared for and listened to. There was never a request she could not fill, an email she did not answer, or a problem she could not solve. If the faculty is the backbone of Principal Corps, then Ms. Sandra is the lifeblood that keeps all the parts moving and every system functioning properly. She will not easily be replaced, and she will be greatly missed.

Ms. Sandra, I wish you the best in your well-deserved season of respite, and I hope the enjoyment you will have spending time with your family is equal to the profound impact you have had on the Principal Corps program. The PC members who have benefited from their experience with you, and the legacy of education that you have directly impacted will continue to affect so many for years and generations to come.

Josh Lindsey, Principal, West Elementary School

Mrs. Sandra is one of those rare combinations of extreme competency and radical hospitality. There was never a question about whether things would be handled by Mrs. Sandra…. she almost always had them handled before we even asked for assistance. Her warm smile was quick to melt away everything from the nervousness of overly green future administrators to printing our assignments when our printer ran out of ink. Since graduating from Principal Corps, Mrs. Sandra has continued to "see" us despite the distance and time by extending gracious words of encouragement through emails, phone calls, and those specially blessed face-to-face encounters. Each of us who went through Principal Corps during her watch is better for having her life intersect with ours. Mrs. Sandra, I pray you have the most blessed years in your retirement. You have certainly blessed me!

Mary Moak, Assistant Director of Research and Development, Madison County Schools

Mrs. Sandra, thank you for your countless acts of kindness shown during my time with PC 6. I think my cohort will all agree that you were a critical part of our successes. Your pleasant demeanor has always been a source of comfort throughout the many intense days at Insight Park. Those memories will never be forgotten, and I am glad to have shared them with you. Again, I thank you for everything you have done for me personally. I hope for the very best as you embark on your next endeavor in life, including abundant wishes for great health and prosperity for you and your family.

With love,

Marcus Stewart, Principal, Richland High School
Oh, Mrs. Sandra, I'm so very excited for you! I will miss you terribly. You've taken very good care of ALL the cohorts that have come through Insight Park. You mean the world to me. Your loving, caring nature made you “mom” to all of us! I'm so happy you get to rest and just be a mom to your family. I've been blessed to have the privilege to work with you more than most cohort members and to be able to keep in touch every June has been so wonderful. Knowing you were there taking care of Dr. Burnham has been a relief for me. I knew he was in good hands. May you have many more blessed years with your beautiful family and know that you are loved by MANY. Thank you for all you've done and for being true to the person you are inside. Your light shines brightly! Love ya!

Wendi Husley, Assistant Principal, Gulfport High School

Mrs. Sandra will always hav a special place in my heart. Number one, I never encountered her when she wasn't smiling. She may have been overwhelmed at times, but you would never know by her calm, refreshing spirit. She was always organized and would go the extra mile to make sure we had what we needed. She was an instrumental part of the program. She made it a point to ask about our families and how we were doing with our transition to PC. The person who follows her will have huge shoes to fill, but Mrs. Sandra is more than deserving for this relaxing time. Love you!

Tina Moore, Assistant Principal, Pope School

Ms. Sandra, thanks for all you did to make my PC experience pleasurable. Enjoy your much deserved retirement!

Trena Warren, Elementary Curriculum Specialist, Claiborne County School District

I remember so many good things about Ms. Sandra. PC 6 learned very quickly that she was the glue that held us together. If we needed something printed, had a special lunch request, or just needed a wise person to lend an ear, she was our go-to person! I appreciate all that she has done for each and every person who has had the privilege of being part of such a special program. Congratulations to Ms. Sandra on her retirement!

Carrie Speck, Principal, Horn Lake Elementary

Mrs. Sandra is one amazing lady, and I cannot imagine my time in PC without her support and encouragement. She was our mom, our cheerleader, and our go-to for a pep talk. She also saved our tails a time or two. For me, it was when I was trying to steam several of our gowns prior to graduation. Let’s just say she did quick work with some carpet cleaner before Dr. B rounded the corner! Mrs. Sandra provided the warm smile and reassurance at the end of every hard day that the journey was worth it and promised we would survive. Since PC, Mrs. Sandra has been a constant source of information and updates. She is quick to celebrate the accomplishments of us or our family and beams like a proud mom when we share our latest good news, advancements, or opportunities. My life is truly better because of Mrs. Sandra’s impact.

Carol Davis Smith, Academic Director of Elementary Education, DeSoto County Schools
COHORT 7
2015-2016

Enjoy
Upon becoming a PCer, Mrs. Sandra instantly became your mom, sister, confidant, and friend. She exemplifies class and beauty while standing firm in the values and vision of Principal Corps. Mississippi schools are better because Mrs. Sandra kept us all focused on our dreams of becoming instructional leaders. As a PCer, I knew I could pop in her office, and her smile would make everything better. She went above and beyond the call of duty to make sure we had what we needed while we were at our home away from home. Congratulations, Mrs. Sandra! Thank you for taking care of us!

Kristy Dunning, Principal, Lake Cormorant Elementary School

Happy retirement! You are such an amazing person inside and out. Thank you for your smile and daily positive energy and thoughts. You certainly made the program experience incredibly grand. Enjoy your much deserved retirement!

Stephani Crowell, Principal, Quitman County Middle School

Ms. Sandra is one of the most genuine and helpful individuals I have had the opportunity to work with. She always presents herself with a smile and warm heart. Although I was driving about four hours one way, I never felt like I was too far from home. Sandra made EVERYONE feel welcomed and at home. I am so grateful to have crossed paths with someone so caring. Thank you for being there for all of us on the hard days and congratulating us on the good days. You will truly be missed, and I pray you enjoy your retirement. You deserve it!

Tristal Watson, Principal, Oak Park Elementary School

I remember the first time I met you and asked for assistance. I was nervous and unsure of how you would respond. I think I asked if I could borrow some copy paper. Throughout my post graduate studies, I have had several professional assistants get upset when someone interrupted them. However, you didn't get upset. You stopped what you were doing to assist me. Over time, I began to realize that it was not because I was new to Principal Corps...it was because of your heart. Love and kindness make up the very essence of who you are. Your friendly face and smile we received daily are still much appreciated. Mrs. Sandra, I wish you the best retirement.

Love!

Melanie Wells, Assistant Principal, StoneBridge Elementary

My favorite memory of Sandra would be the condolences she expressed to myself and our family when my mother passed away in September 2018 and then my sister passed away in March 2019. The ongoing thoughtfulness is what reminded me of how special Sandra is as the linchpin that allows the solidarity in our PC family to remain as strong as it is.

Brad Blake, Principal, Magee High School

Mrs. Sandra will be missed by the entire PC family! While I can't recall a specific favor, she was always willing to offer help when needed or lend a listening ear. Mrs. Sandra's sweet smile and calm demeanor were always appreciated. She kept everything organized and running smoothly. She was PC 7's fairy godmother making necessary items from parking passes, stacks of texts, and lunches appear. The PC experience would not have been the same without Mrs. Sandra.

Leslie Alexander, Assistant Principal, Northside Elementary School
love, happiness, and joy

FROM PC COHORT 8
Being accepted into the Principal Corps program was a life-changing experience, and I was filled with uncertainty as I began my PC journey. Even before arriving on Ole Miss’s campus, you were communicating and coordinating the PC experience to ensure we would have what we needed upon arrival. While those first few days (and weeks) were filled with questions, you were always available to assist, provide certainty, and support. With 17 new cohort members vying for your attention, you always made each of us feel like we were your individual focus. We knew whatever it was we would come to you, and it would be taken care of. For that, I cannot thank you enough. I wish you all the best in your retirement.

Donald Clause, Assistant Principal, Martin Bluff Elementary School

Principal Corps can be an intimidating process, but you somehow empowered us every step of the way to push through and become more than we ever imagined. You wore many hats: mom, friend, encourager, counselor, and sometimes psychiatrist. We leaned on you and you always managed to push us up. I am particularly thankful for all of your help when I was worried about my daddy being sick. You helped ease the guilt I felt from not being home by reassuring me with your smile and wisdom. You are loved so much!

Nichole Robinson, Assistant Principal, Brandon High School

I have struggled on where to begin to describe the woman who was both “the key to staying out of hot water” and also the key to literally obtaining hot water. I’m certain all PCers had similar difficulties to adequately explain how much Mrs. Sandra contributed to our successes through PC. She screened our questions so we wouldn’t sound like complete morons to our distinguished professors. She gracefully laid the hammer down on the maintenance department to get hot water on in the “unoccupied” dorms during the summer. Since she’s retiring, I’ll also confess that she was “in” on coordinating our sneaky plots for celebrations throughout PC, including birthdays, wedding showers, and, of course, banquet programs. Most important, she would tell us when not to proceed and abort our plans because it would simply not go over well. Doc told us countless times that the school secretary is the gatekeeper, the one who knows what’s really going on in the building and where the weak links are. Sandra was the gatekeeper to our fearless leader’s door and to all the “tips” on how to succeed in PC. She told us not to be afraid of Dr. Bunch and reassured us of how much we would love all the faculty after the devastation of only having Dr. Burnham for the first summer. Other than Dr. Burnham, Sandra was the only other constant throughout the duration of the program for us. She will always be part of PC, retired or not, and I’m so thankful for her love and service to the program. I love Mrs. Sandra for all of that and so much more, and I know she truly loves each of us, too.

Jamie Parker, Visiting Instructor of Data Analytics, University of Southern Mississippi

From the first email I ever received in regard to Principal Corps until the final day of classes, Mrs. Sandra offered a calm spirit that eased my apprehension. She became a familiar face that we all needed being so far away from family and friends. I will never forget our conversations when I felt homesick or was just overwhelmed with responsibilities and she would assure me everything would be okay. She reminded me of my calling and purpose. As happy as I am for Mrs. Sandra to have time with her family, I am deeply saddened for the upcoming cohorts. Mrs Sandra, your sweet face will be so missed in the PC family. Lots of hugs,

Wyn Mims, Principal, Petal Elementary School
On behalf of PC 8,
Thank you, Mrs. Sandra, for your unwavering support and unrelenting guidance that helped in leading our path to success. May God bless you with the best of retirements filled with fun, happiness, and good health! We honor you with much appreciation and gratitude.
Arias Melvin, Assistant Principal, Richland Upper Elementary School

Sandra, when I think of you, I think of how calm you were even when things were chaotic. I think about how you were ALWAYS available to lend a helping hand to us. Most important, I remember that you did your job so well, you made Dr. B look good! Thank you for your service to the Principal Corps program and therefore to the children of Mississippi. Happy retirement!
Aaron Diaz, Principal, Central Elementary School

Ms. Sandra was one of the first points of contact in my Principal Corps experience. She was immediately a warm and welcoming presence. Ms. Sandra answered my numerous questions from parking passes to caps and gowns, always with a smile and a gentle disposition. She had an incredible talent for making one feel at ease about the little particulars which felt like very big, urgent dealings in the moment.
They say, "love is in the details," and so was the nature of Ms. Sandra’s service to us, Dr. Burnham, and the Principal Corps program. Ms. Sandra always paid attention to details allowing us to feel nurtured, appreciated, and loved. She gave us a sense of home every visit when we were hours from our families and loved ones. Without a doubt, our experience was elevated and profoundly more enjoyable because of Ms. Sandra.
It is with heavy heart that I write this because I lament the future Principal Corps members who will be missing out on one of the humblest heroes of our program. We wish you all the best, Ms. Sandra. Thank you for all you have done for the program and me personally—you truly made an impression on our hearts.
Crystal T. Wade, ESL Coordinator, Gulfport School District

Dear Sandra, thank you for always taking the time to make sure everything was in order for us. I especially appreciate all the help you gave me when we were dealing with my crazy residency issues. You were always a joy to chat with, and I’m so glad to have been able to soak in that joy. Enjoy your well deserved retirement.
Love,
Mary Kate Diltz, Assistant Principal, Madison Avenue Upper Elementary School

Applying to Principal Corps is a daunting task. Mrs. Sandra’s kindness and patience helped ease the pressure. You could call, email, or text, and you would never know if you were getting on her nerves. She is one of the kindest women you will ever meet. As an adult, staying in a college dorm away from family is challenging. Mrs. Sandra made you feel at peace. She was mom on campus. As a principal, I have hired two administrative assistants. During the interviews I looked for Mrs. Sandra’s qualities: trustworthiness, patience, compassion, kindness, great work ethic, and a great communicator. Mrs. Sandra will always be synonymous with Principal Corps to me.
Milton Ray III, Principal, Crossroads Elementary School
Mrs. Sandra, I wanted to send a quick note of CONGRATULATIONS to you on your retirement. There is no doubt that you will be missed by so many people! I am among that fortunate number, and I am thankful for it. You always were able to give people your ear to listen when they needed it and your genuine care and concern when they needed it. So much came your way, and you took it in as your own. Words are unable to fully express all that makes you extraordinary, but know that we have all been affected by it for the better. You are a part of us, and I have no doubt your infectious spirit is part of many decisions being made all across the state. Thank you for all you did to make Principal Corps excel, and thank you for everything you did for me.
Your friend,

Jason D. Frazier, Assistant Principal, West Lincoln Attendance Center

As I sat down to recall all of the times Ms. Sandra helped me in my PC journey, I couldn't think of a single thing to write. Not one moment came to mind when I thought back on that hectic year, and I realized that is exactly why Ms. Sandra is so wonderful. She is the ultimate multitasker. Although she undoubtedly has dozens of irons in the fire at any given time, she gives you a sweet smile and makes whatever ridiculous favor you are asking seem like it is "just no big deal." Of course, she can send that email for you, get that book for you, check on that hotel room! I never once saw Ms. Sandra frazzled. Of all the things I learned from Principal Corps, I believe the one that has been most beneficial to me in my career is what I learned from Ms. Sandra--never let them see you sweat! With all that gets thrown at a school administrator daily, I do my best to give a sweet smile and attack the request like it's "just no big deal." I definitely haven't mastered the Ms. Sandra level of keeping it all together all of the time, but I'll keep working on it! :)

Katie Patridge Bertucci, Assistant Principal, Biloxi High School
COHORT 9
2017-2018

Happy Retirement!

MUCH LOVE FROM PC 9
There are so many wonderful things I could say about Mrs. Sandra. She was like our mother to Cohort 9. She was always willing to listen and offer advice when we needed it. She would often be the one to put us at ease and make us feel better during the many stressful times of Principal Corps. I still keep in contact with Mrs. Sandra until this day! There will never be another Sandra Kyle. Principal Corps has been very lucky to have her for as long as they have. She will be missed greatly, but she deserves the best retirement anyone could ever have.
Happy retirement, Mrs. Sandra! We love you!

Angela Arnold, Assistant Principal, River Oaks Elementary

Mrs. Sandra, I am so thankful I was able to meet you through Principal Corps! You helped all of us so much, and I know we wouldn't have gotten through the program without you. Congratulations on your retirement!

Christie Beeker, Principal, Mason Elementary School

"They may forget what you said-- but they will never forget how you made them feel."

~ Carl W. Buehner

Mrs. Sandra was excellent at her job which earned her professional respect. However, Mrs. Sandra holds a special place in the heart of every PC cohort member because of so much more. While going through the 13 months of PC, especially those eight weeks away from family and home, Mrs. Sandra was a constant bright spot. Her smiles, genuine concern, and light-heartedness were refreshing and needed. I honestly hate that Mrs. Sandra will not be around for future Principal Corps cohorts. Her presence filled a vitally important role for each of us in PC that will not be easily filled.

Good luck and God bless in your retirement, Mrs. Sandra! You deserve it!

Mandy Scarpulla, Principal, Franklin High School

Mrs. Sandra, congratulations! You deserve every minute of a wonderful retirement! You always amazed me at how you could keep 100 things going and keep a smile on your face at the same time! Every person who came across your path is better for getting to know you! Your genuine love and care for others is what makes you special!
God bless and enjoy the days ahead!

Love,
Marrion Winders, Assistant Principal, Starkville High School

As I embarked on this journey of becoming an administrator, I was filled with great apprehension. I had a newborn at home and two young sons whom I had never spent a day away from even when at work since I had always taught in their school! Mrs. Sandra was always ready with a hug and a listening ear when I needed to vent about all my motherhood worries. Her smile and infectious laugh could always turn the most stressful of days into a reason to celebrate by refocusing me on the progress I was making and the positive things I was working towards. She was a true guardian angel and a great friend. I will hate for future Principal Corps cohorts to miss out on her love and care, but I am happy for her to have the time to spend with her family. She is irreplaceable, and I miss her every day!

Monica Meredith, MTSS Supervisor and School Testing Coordinator, Senatobia Elementary School

Mrs. Sandra was a blessing to see each day during my Principal Corps experience. Not only did she keep our cohort, and Dr. Burnham, on our toes, but she represented the program with integrity and helpfulness. She will have a special place in my heart beyond the cohort and program for assisting me in a secret gender reveal for my husband. Mrs. Sandra is special in so many ways, and I wish her a happy retirement! It is well deserved.

Robin Auringer, Assistant Principal, 28th Street Elementary School
Selfless Servant

There was never a moment when Mrs. Sandra did not ensure I had everything I needed to succeed in PC. She ordered "special meals" because I do not eat meat and provided a stamp to mail my sons a letter home from Oxford because no task was too minuscule for her to assist. Many days I stopped by her office just to see her smile or get a hug because I believed my deceased mother was encouraging and supporting me through Mrs. Sandra. She always asked if we had enough to eat, needed anything else, or if she could assist us. The Principal Corps program will undoubtedly change the course of education in the state of Mississippi, and Mrs. Sandra has been the backbone to make our efforts possible. In every corner of our state, she has not only positively impacted each of us but also the scholars we serve. I am going to miss receiving her emails and hearing her sweet, endearing voice. I wish her the very best as she enjoys her family time—time well deserved. I hope to someday leave a legacy as she has, that of a selfless servant.

Kewanna Riley, Assistant Principal/MTSS Administrator, Magnolia Middle School

Mrs. Sandra (My Namesake), I will be grateful for your kindness and professionalism during my time in Principal Corps. You were the first face to greet me upon my arrival for my initial interview. I fondly remember the warmness of your smile and friendliness of your conversation which calmed my nerves and made me feel welcome. No matter how many times we came to you with a question or a request, you were there to accommodate us. You are truly one of a kind. Best of luck on your future endeavors.

Sandra Oliver, Principal, Franklin County Upper Elementary

Ms. Sandra’s smile and calming voice helped me make it through the principal corps program. She was quick to offer a word of encouragement, and she had a way that made me realize everything would work out just as it should. Even now, I look forward to visiting Oxford so I can stop by and see her.

Angel Carr, Principal, Houston Upper Elementary School

Mrs. Sandra, your presence in the office at Principal Corps was so calming and reassuring during my 13 months in the program. Thank you for the countless ways you took care of thousands of details and ALWAYS with a sincere smile and a gentleness that helped calm my frazzled nerves.

I wish you the best as you transition from your role in PC to enjoying your family life even more. You are amazing and will certainly be missed. Much love to you, Mrs. Sandra.

Sharon Cooley, Principal, Lumberton Elementary

Mrs. Sandra made me feel welcome. She was a listening ear and always showed so much compassion for each of us. One specific memory was moments before my Oral Comps, Mrs. Sandra took the time to reassure me. She is such a special lady who impacted each person she helped.

Lindsay Starbuck, Principal, Richland Upper Elementary School
COHORT 10
2018-2019

lots of love
FROM PC COHORT 10
Dear Sandra, may your retirement be everything you wish! Your work for the University of Mississippi, Dr. Burnham, and all who encounter you has been immeasurably valuable. Your tireless example for doing things the right way is admirable. Future Principal Corps cohorts will miss out by not having you as the backbone of the program. Your warm smile and bubbly personality, gentle nudging, encouraging spirit, and can-do mentality are certainly valued. Not only do you honor Dr. Burnham by being everything he tells us we should look for in a secretary, but you exemplify your profession with your joy.

Thank you for bold words of encouragement, closed door discussions with Kleenex, and fun conversations about your boys. I pray you are able to travel, play, and enjoy life to the fullest. I will miss knowing you are there with an answer to every problem.

Much love and best wishes,

Suzanne Cain, Teacher, Independence Middle School

I am glad to have this opportunity to honor Mrs. Sandra. She was an integral component in Principal Corps cohorts' matriculation from "applicant" to "alumni." I recall teasingly telling Mrs. Sandra how she had "organized my life" for six months prior to meeting her on the day of my PC interview! I'm convinced Mrs. Sandra has a heart of the purest gold!

Chander Jenkins, Assistant Principal, Eva Gordon Lower Elementary School

As we all know, interviewing for a spot in Principal Corps is stressful! I arrived, a bundle of nerves, and was welcomed by Mrs. Sandra. Within minutes of meeting Mrs. Sandra, you feel as if you have known her for years. She immediately put me at ease with her warm smile and words of encouragement—and that wasn't just the "sales pitch." The warm smile and encouraging words got me through many stressful moments during the course of my classes and job search. I am so excited for her to have this exciting chapter before her, but I am deeply sorry for the PC members who will not have the privilege of knowing her. Mrs. Sandra, I wish you all of the best of your retirement!

Love,
Kama Smith, Assistant Principal, Lawhon Elementary School
Jaimie Tiblier, Math and Science Curriculum Coordinator/Assistant Principal, Ocean Springs High School

Ms. Sandra,
CONGRATULATIONS!

I know you are looking forward to having a break from all of us PCers who needed a momma to talk to us and help us through the program, especially those of us who lose packages and scour the Ole Miss campus to find them. I appreciate everything you've done for me and our chats together. I hope you have a wonderful retirement and have plenty of time to watch all of those previous episodes of "Home Town."

Best Wishes!

Kristin Walters, Assistant Principal, Mason Elementary School
You will be missed!

FROM PC COHORT 11
Being accepted into Principal Corps was definitely an honor; however, transitioning into and through the program was not without issues. Whenever we had questions or concerns, you were always there to support and guide us. In some ways, you were our safety net. In others, you were a life saver! Thank you for all you have done for Principal Corps throughout the years.

With a grateful heart,
Cindy Morris, Math Teacher, Richland High School

Mrs. Sandra is a phenomenal woman with indescribable patience. Coming into PC, I had so many questions and always felt like the Tier III person regarding documentation, but Mrs. Sandra was patient with me and always provided concrete directions. The day of my interview we instantly clicked. I left feeling confident because of her and prayed hard I would be able to spend a year getting to know her and become a member of the PC family.

Thanks for all you do!

Brittaney Boyd

When I think about you, I think of the following quote: "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel." Mrs. Sandra, you are a tremendous person with a heart of gold. Thank you for planning and organizing my life during the past 13 months. Most of all, thank you for your kindness and encouragement. May your retirement life be the BEST part of your life!

God Bless,
Gina Pace, Assistant Principal, Woolmarket Elementary School

FROM THE MOMENT I DECIDED TO APPLY TO PRINCIPAL CORPS UNTIL THE FINAL DAY OF WORK, MRS. SANDRA’S COMMITMENT TO PC WAS UNWAVERING. A QUICK OFFICE VISIT WITH SANDRA EASED THE STRESS OF ASSIGNMENTS AND MADE WEEKS AWAY FROM FAMILY SEEM NOT SO LONG. SHE REPLIED TO EMAILS QUICKER THAN ANYONE I KNOW, KNEW HOW TO PLAN A PARTY (EVEN HELP WITH A SURPRISE ONE), ORGANIZED COUNTLESS MEALS, AND ENSURED ALL PC MEMBERS HAD BOOKS, PARKING PASSES, HOTEL ROOMS, AND DOCUMENTS TURNED IN ON TIME. NOTHING SEEMED TO UPSET HER—EXCEPT THE DAY LUNCH DIDN'T SHOW UP ON TIME! NO WORRIES...THEY QUICKLY KNEW ABOUT IT AND IT WAS THERE IN MOMENTS. I'M PRETTY CERTAIN IT NEVER HAPPENED AGAIN...HA! :)

MRS. SANDRA, I HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT TO THE FULLEST! CONGRATULATIONS! YOU WILL BE MISSED BY THE MANY YOU HAVE TOUCHED IN YOUR YEARS OF SERVING PRINCIPAL CORPS.

"SHE IS CLOTHED IN STRENGTH AND DIGNITY. WHEN SHE SPEAKS, HER WORDS ARE WISE, AND SHE GIVES INSTRUCTIONS WITH KINDNESS." PROVERBS 31:25-26

MICHELLE STINSON, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, SALEM ATTENDANCE CENTER

Mrs. Sandra,
Thank you for loving us all so well. Your kind words, gentle spirit, and humble servanthood make me proud to be a Principal Corps alum. You truly are the backbone behind the program, and I know I am a much better person because of you and your service. Enjoy retirement; you absolutely deserve it!

Love and many thanks,
Summer Rigney
Every time we had class at Insight Park, I made a point to stop by and visit with Mrs. Sandra. Even on the most stressful day, she knew exactly what to say to make me feel calm and confident. Even though Sandra’s feet appear small, she is leaving HUGE shoes to fill! Insight Park just won’t be the same without her there!

Johnna Henley, Interventionist, Richland Upper Elementary School

For me, thirteen years passed between graduating from college and beginning Principal Corps, so in May 2019, I felt pretty lost when it came to registering for class and completing the necessary steps for the scholarship. Ms. Sandra’s email of “instructions” came and alleviated my distress. I still keep the folder she sent on my desktop and reference it every semester. She still graciously answers the questions I continue to ask, despite her having answered them repeatedly. Throughout my PC experience, she continues to be the person who makes it possible for me to get through all the paperwork hoops and focus on my classes and internship.

REGINA HUMBLE. LEAD TEACHER. GALENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Sandra,
I cannot imagine Principal Corps without YOU! I am so thankful you were here during my PC experience. You are so very kind, helpful, and gracious. I wish you the best in your retirement. Enjoy! You definitely deserve it!
Much love,
Jennifer Foster, Interventionist, Oxford Intermediate School

Sandra has made our PC experience more joyful and efficient! I truly admire her patience, professionalism, and genuine care for those she works with. Seeing her each month was such a delight! Sandra, I hope you enjoy time with your family and friends in retirement and know you have left a mark on each of your PC groups.
We love you!
Mary Alex Thigpen, Assistant Principal, Casey Elementary School
Congrats
MS. SANDRA
Heart Cohort 12
The "COVID" Cohort
Dear Ms. Sandra,

Thank you for guiding us through this PC process. You’ve made what could have been a really hectic time such a smooth transition. Our experience, thus far, has been an incredible one because of you. Wishing you all the fun in the world! Lindsay White

Thank you so much for taking care of all of us! You really are great at what you do and go the extra mile to help everyone in the cohort. I had not even met you yet, and you checked on my family after the tornado that came through Purvis. You are so kind and thoughtful and will definitely be missed! Best wishes, Kelli Ruth

I cannot thank you enough for all the help you have given us. You have helped us navigate through transitioning into Principal Corps. Because of you, everything went smooth. My impression of you is that of the wizard from the Wizard of Oz. Though we may not always see you, we know the work you do behind the scenes. Thank you for your dedication and congratulations on your retirement. Sincerely, Nick Thomas

Words to not begin to express how appreciative I am for you. You were the guiding light in my transition into Principal Corps. With your steadfast spirit, you helped make my transition seamless. Though you are not always in the spotlight, your efforts do not go unnoticed. You will be missed. Congratulations on a well-deserved retirement.

Enjoy the no-alarm-clock life! Kay Dee Calloway

You have been such a blessing throughout this experience. You provided clarity, support, and guidance when I needed it most. Being able to speak with you gave me such a peace of mind. I know we have only met via Zoom, but I am so thankful to know you. I will always cherish your kind words and willingness to help me. You have been such an asset to Dr. Burnham and the Principal Corps program. You will be missed by everyone. Enjoy your retirement. Congratulations! Sincerely, Megan Garner

Thank you for your hard work and dedication. You always make yourself available to answer questions and to respond to email. You have been such a blessing throughout this transition into Principal Corps. Congratulations on your retirement.

You will be missed. God bless, Shacora Moore

Thank you for supporting all of us in beginning our Principal Corps journey. Being there to clear up our doubts about the enrollment process and the many other issues we plagued you with meant a lot. Perhaps we will meet one day and I can thank you personally. I hope you will enjoy your retirement and have an opportunity to embrace new adventures. Wishing you all the best. Sincerely, Vanessa Hinton-Dean

Thank you for everything you have done for me in my journey into Principal Corps. From the lost transcript to financial aid questions to answering every question imaginable, you have been there. I hope you enjoy your retirement. It is well deserved. Maybe we can meet for lunch in Oxford one day! Congratulations on your retirement. Sincerely, Mary Seale

Thank you for all your guidance through the beginning of the Principal Corps journey. From the application process to the first day of class, you made sure we each had what we needed. Thank you for answering our endless questions and helping us navigate through the paperwork.

Congratulations on your retirement! Hotty Toddy, Heather Achord Bryan

I CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR YOUR GUIDANCE THESE PAST FEW MONTHS. FROM THE INTERVIEW PROCESS TO BEING ACCEPTED INTO THE PRINCIPAL CORPS FAMILY, YOU HAVE MADE THIS EXPERIENCE ONE TO REMEMBER. THANKS FOR BEING THE GUIDING LIGHT THROUGHOUT THIS TRANSITION. YOU WILL BE DEARLY MISSED. CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT! BEST WISHES, JENNIFER SEYMOUR

I WAS SO EXCITED WHEN I FINALLY WAS ABLE TO PUT A FACE TO THE GREAT AND POWERFUL OZ! YOU TRULY ARE THE PERSON MAKING EVERYTHING GO SMOOTHLY, AND I DON’T KNOW WHAT PC WILL BE LIKE WITHOUT YOU. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR THE PROGRAM AND ME. CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT, MARY MARTHA CROWE

Although we have never met face to face, you have touched my life in so many ways. From the first time I came into contact with you when I started the inquiry into PC……until now when you are retiring. You have been a prominent part of my PC experience: always comforting and reassuring. I did not think I would have to finish without the great Ms. Sandra. Cohort 12 views you as the ‘Great Oz’ because you are the magic behind the curtain. We know you can make it happen. Anytime I reached out, the response was always warm and friendly. I wish you the best in your endeavors. The PC family will not be the same without you.

God Bless and continue to be safe!!! Kimberly Moore