

# Professional Biography

Tennessee State University, Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering, May 2004.  
Morgan State University, Certification Courses in General/Special Education, June 2007.  
University of Nigeria, Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering, May 1995  
Anne Arundel Community College, Certification/Education Courses, 2008 - 2009.  
Goucher College, Certification/Education Course, 2009.

## **School Leadership Teams:**

Sponsor of School Club.  
Council on Teaching and Learning.

## **Awards:**

Excellence Award for High School Mathematics.  
Teaching Excellence Award, Anne Arundel Community College.  
Teaching Excellence Award, Baltimore County Public Schools.  
Mathematics Hero Award, Raytheon Corporation.  
Boeing Company Award for Excellence in Virtual Simulation Prototyping.  
Excellence Award, 24th Research/Symposium Presentation.  
Research and Design Award in Design and Production.

# Resume

## KENNETH N NWOCHA

### Education:

**Master's Degree. Mechanical Engineering**, Tennessee State University – May 2004

**Bachelor's Degree. Mechanical Engineering**, University of Nigeria – May 1995

Highly Qualified Status Courses, Secondary Mathematics Education, June 2008. GPA 4.0

Morgan State University, Baltimore, Certification Courses, General/Special Education, June 2007. GPA 3.5

### Certifications:

Advanced Professional Certificate, Grades 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> issued by the State of Maryland

### Experience:

Montgomery County Public Schools

**Math Teacher** – Honors PreCalculus, Honors Geometry, and Algebra 1/Related Math – August 2015 to Present

- Notified parents and legal guardians of the academic achievements of their students by hosting on-need-basis meeting with them and through a monthly grade-reporting process.
- Conducted individual student and parent-teacher conferences in order to stimulate students continued interest in school work and paths for success.
- Encouraged students' participation in the learning of mathematical contents by driving instruction based on research and proven Best Practices that work.
- Demonstrated higher thinking math concepts by using application of everyday problem that students can easily relate to.
- Taught students test-taking techniques and strategies for achieving higher scores in all local, county-wide and Maryland State tested areas.
- Employed the use of a buddy system to facilitate student partnering of non-readers with advanced readers and to address behavior issues.
- Improved student achievement by encouraging and stimulating learning environment and through tutoring/coach classes provided to students during their lunch, before or after-school sessions.
- Decreased number of students failing in Algebra 1 coursework via differentiated instruction and behavior intervention such as speaking to Latino parents via a Language Hotline that parents can relate to and be heard.

Baltimore County Public Schools

**Math Teacher** – Workshop Presenter, Honors Geometry, Honors College Algebra, Algebra 2, Gifted & Talented Pre-Calculus and SAT – August 2007 to June 2015

- Implemented creative curricula utilizing outcome-based education & alternative assessments.
- Integrated multiple teaching styles to intensify the range of learning.
- Improved academic achievements of low-performing students through step-by-step teaching that builds on content, skills, background knowledge and understanding
- Conducted individual student and parent-teacher conferences in order to stimulate students continued interest in coursework
- Challenged students to higher achievement via differentiated instruction.
- Facilitated parental involvement meetings focused on education, parenting and training parents in order to strengthen the community voice in classroom governance.

- Set and achieved HSA objectives through rigorous, step-by-step approach that yielded maximum performance.
- Inspired students to complete and high school assessments at the very first time.
- Attended STEM programs within and outside the county in order to master content-delivery based on STEM education.
- Received Teaching Excellence Award by the Board of Education as a recognition of my input in generating high enthusiasm for teaching and learning mathematics at high school level.
- Honored as Excellent High School Math Teacher by Baltimore County Chambers of Commerce.

## **Leadership:**

**Council of Teaching Learning and Teaching** for Montgomery County Schools: Advocated for and participated in ongoing meetings, and being a liaison between teachers and the Board of Education.

**MSEA and NEA:** Annually represents more than 13,000 teachers in Montgomery County at the state level, *Maryland State Education Association* and at the national level, *National Education Association*, in crafting and deliberating on new policies for each fiscal year.

**Professional Development Programs/Workshops:** Presented at teachers conferences across this nation between June 2010 and August 2013.

**Facilitator:** Mathematics Content Knowledge Assessment for Educational Testing Services from 2010 to 2012.

Member, Maryland Consortium of Adjunct Faculty Professional Association, September 2008

Member, Maryland Council of Mathematics Teachers, October 2010

Math Coordinator, an Association of Academic Minds, University of Nigeria Chapter, May 1994.

## **Awards/Other Recognitions:**

**Excellence Award for High School Mathematics**, Baltimore Chambers of Commerce, May 2014

**Teaching Excellence Award**, Anne Arundel Community College, April 2013

Panelist, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, January 2013, January 2011, and February 2010

Teaching Excellence Award, Baltimore County Public Schools, November 2012

**Mathematics Hero Award**, Raytheon Corporation, September 2012

STEM Judge, Howard County Public Schools, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Fair, February 2012.

Robotics Judge, Baltimore County Public Schools, VEX Robotics Competition, October 2011

**Conference Presenter**, Minnesota Council of Mathematics Teacher (MCMT), Annual Mathematics Teachers Conference, October 2011.

**Conference Presenter**, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Annual Collaborative Conference on Student Achievement (CCSA), April 2011.

**Praxis Mathematics Item Writer**, Princeton, NJ, 2011 – 2015.

Advisory Committee Member, Baltimore County Board of Education, August, 2010.

Advisory Member, Educational Testing Services' Praxis Mathematics Committee, October 2010.

Presenter, Maryland Consortium of Adjunct Faculty Professional Association, October 2010.

20th Annual Association of Faculties for Advancement of Community College Teaching, (AFACCT) Conference on January, 2010.

Presenter, Morgan State University, Annual Mathematics & Science Conference, 2008 – 2009.

Presenter, Maryland Consortium of Adjunct Faculty Professional Association, September 2008.

Boeing Company Award for Excellence in Virtual Simulation Prototyping, April 2002.

**Cash Award**, the 24th Research/Symposium Presentation in Nashville, March 2002.

**Research and Design Award**, Best Student in Design and Production, September 1995.

## **Personal Statement – Kenneth N Nwocha**

In the last few years or so I have been involved in professional development workshops as a Speaker/Conference Presenter throughout the Baltimore-Washington axis, I have also presented at several conferences such as the Collaborative Conference on Student Achievement (CCSA), organized by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, HI-TEC Conference, a national conference on advanced technological education where secondary and postsecondary educators meet to brainstorm on innovative ways of improving instruction and achievement of our students, and Minnesota Council of Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM), an organization of professionals dedicated to promoting the teaching and learning of meaningful mathematics for all students by supporting educators in their efforts to improve mathematics instruction, just to mention a few conferences where I presented. These varied experiences have one common thread – the need for consistency in educational reforms! This is the foremost reason for vying for this elected office.

As a member of the Council on Teaching and Learning at the Montgomery County Public Schools, I hear teachers, principals, and other school leaders tell me, they are in dire need of ways to incorporate research-proven strategies that actually improve teachers' effectiveness as well as engage students' interests in their schools. This is another reason for running for this position. I have shared unique findings about students, learning, assessments, and teaching in general to a wide audience. Now, it is time to focus on our students in the State of Maryland.

As a member of the Advisory Committee to the Board of Education, Baltimore County Public Schools, from 2010 to 2013; I made sure no public comments were made about an on-going project without a prior authorization from the president of the committee. In fact, I would refer any matter outside my purview to the Board or the President of the Advisory Committee. Why is this important? We know, in this day and time, few persons would distort a rather innocuous comment to mean something else, taken out of context, and perhaps put the Board of Education in a bind! This is not who I am or what I represent. I want to continue to support the positions of the State Board of Education in the same capacity as I did at the local school system. Where there may be disagreements, I am certain, the State Board of Education has avenues for resolving those disagreements so no one would contradict any position taken by State Board of Education. This is a major requirement for anyone who would be member of this board and I am the right candidate for this position.

Another reason to be in agreement with decisions of the Board is that it creates the impression of being one entity, where confidential information is respected and protected by all members of the Board. When these things are in place, the State Board would not only produce high-quality outcomes but would align itself with all stakeholders and the general public, which in turn would boost the rating of the Board at state and national levels. This is precisely what we need at this hour and I would love to be part of this winning team.



September 25, 2019

**Recommendation for Mr. Kenneth Nwocha**

Dear State Board of Education Chair/Committee:

It is an honor to recommend Mr. Kenneth Nwocha to your highly regarded State Board of Education. I have worked with Mr. Nwocha in the last 3 years at Springbrook High School. He is friendly and expects a lot from his students. He spends his lunch time in the classroom because his students always come to him for help with their class assignments.

Due to Mr. Nwocha's commitment to students and the community, he has received several outstanding awards such as the Math Hero Award by the Raytheon Corporation, Excellence in STEM Education Award by the Baltimore County Chambers of Commerce, and Boeing Company Award for Excellence in Virtual Simulation Prototyping. He often attends professional development workshops where he shares his passion, teaching strategies, research-based learning outcomes which have affected the way he teaches Honors Precalculus, Honors Geometry, and Geometry. I have had the opportunity to visit Mr. Nwocha's Geometry classroom and observed his positive interactions with his students. Mr. Nwocha is an exemplary teacher.

Mr. Nwocha will bring his energy and warmth to your board meetings. He is friendly, but demanding of his students. I believe that you will find these an asset to your organization. Should you need more information about this recommendation, do not hesitate to contact me via my email,

Sincerely,

Adrian Charley,  
Assistant Principal,  
Springbrook High School

Springbrook High School,  
201 Valley Brook Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20904

September 28, 2019.

**Letter of Recommendation for Mr. Kenneth N Nwocha**

As a fellow Mathematics Teacher, I am delighted to recommend Mr. Kenneth Nwocha to your agency as a teacher member of the Maryland State Board of Education. Mr. Nwocha is on the *Council on Teaching and Learning*, which is body responsible for regulating the actions of the Board of Education and the teachers' union (Montgomery County Education Association) in Montgomery County. I have had positive interactions with Ken, as we popularly address Mr. Nwocha. I have noticed his commitment to time and professionalism at work in Springbrook High School. He would always show up on time, at least an hour before school starts so he is prepared ahead of time before the arrival of students for his first period class. This has been Ken's constant attitude and habit to teaching here in the Department of Mathematics. Mr. Nwocha will be an asset to the State Board of Education.

Mr. Nwocha loves to be well-balanced in his approach to life. For instance, this past summer, he became part of the first ever GenCyber Teacher Summer Camp for 2019 at the University of Maryland Global Campus. He learned how to infuse cybersecurity contents into the mathematics curriculum. He participated in this program so he can kindle our students' interests in that field. He is always looking for ways to better serve his students and the Springbrook family! Ken has a knack for students' success and he would do anything to support them even if it means skipping lunch occasionally during school hours. His students know they can reach him during lunch periods because he is available to them!

Recently, Mr. Nwocha was awarded a scholarship to earn a certificate in cybersecurity in management and policy at the University of Maryland Global Campus. This attests to his ability to juggle different assignments successfully. I have also noticed his use of humor in our meetings. Ken would inject a timely humor in our conversations so everyone can see the positives in rather painful or meaningless tasks. This means we can positively approach the assignment with new insights. I believe this is the reason our students at Springbrook speak highly of Mr. Nwocha. He will do everything in his power to remove the pressure and stress associated with learning and teaching mathematics contents.

When Mr. Nwocha mentioned his desire to fill the position of Teacher Member at the Maryland State Board of Education and its associated election process; I had no reservation in recommending him for this position. He would bring energy, passion, and enthusiasm to your deliberations. Mr. Nwocha enjoys new challenges and opportunity to offer a different perspective to issues. You will have the pleasure of love working with Mr. Nwocha. Should need more details about this letter of recommendation, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email: [kolenick@montgomeryschoolsmd.org](mailto:kolenick@montgomeryschoolsmd.org). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kerrie Olenick

Resource Teacher, Springbrook IIS

Date: September 24, 2019

State of Maryland Board of Education

**Parent of Julia Rodriguez – Letter for My Daughter's Teacher**

Dear Sir:

I am really excited to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of my daughter's teacher, Mr. Kenneth Nwocha. First, Julia, my daughter speaks so much about Mr. Nwocha almost on a regular basis so this makes me think he must have a positive influence on my daughter to this extent. I was nervous at the beginning but then I noticed that my daughter, Julia Rodriguez's attitude to school work changed from being just a carefree student to becoming immersed with school work to the extent of doing homework late in the night. This made me to begin to see Julia in a new light for having Mr. Nwocha as her Honors Precalculus Teacher.

I have heard Julia talk about her teachers in the past but last school year was different. This was because she had Mr. Nwocha, actually last year at Springbrook high school. Then her grades in math became As and Bs. Mr. Nwocha is a good teacher because he completely changed my daughter's thinking about mathematics. How I wished all teachers can perhaps learn to handle kids like Mr. Nwocha. In fact, Mr. Nwocha told me he has worked as a Mathematics Teacher for the Montgomery County Public Schools System since August 2015. Previously, he worked in Baltimore County Public Schools for 8 years.

When I met with Mr. Nwocha at the back to school night this year, I could feel his passion for teaching and learning. This is what we need. So when Julia told me that Mr. Nwocha would call me I became even more curious. He told me about needing my letter of recommendation for the Board of Education at the State. This was how I knew about this new position. Your Board of Education will be stronger with Mr. Nwocha's presence. He is convincing and firm. He talks with a lot passion. He will make you proud of having him in your board meetings. He will be a plus.

If you need to know more about Mr. Nwocha, just call me on my cell phone,  
. Thank you so much for this opportunity to help you pick a good teacher for your board meetings.

Sincerely,

Nelson Rodriguez Pena

