



Dr. Marsha Dempsey Herron is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma's doctoral program in special education. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in public administration from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina and a Master of Science degree in special education with concentration in elementary education from City University of New York - College of Staten Island. She is currently working as a post-doctoral research fellow with the Zarrow Center for Learning Enrichment at the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Herron's experiences include working as a special education teacher in under-served communities in Brooklyn, New York, where she filmed a documentary and implemented the first portfolio evaluation process for students with disabilities in her school. She also works with beginning teachers throughout Oklahoma City to help them establish effective practices in the first few weeks of school. Her research and teaching interests focus on working with both students and teachers of students with emotional and behavioral disorders to produce better life outcomes. Additional areas of interests include self-determination, social justice, school climate, dropout prevention, transition, and universal design for learning.

Dr. Herron's service extends beyond the university community. She currently serves on the Council for Exceptional Children's Board of Directors and the Human Relations and Cultural Diversity Committee for the Division of Career Development and Transition. Dr. Herron belongs to the National Black Caucus of Special Educators, the American Psychological Association (APA) and is also an active member of the North Dakota Study Group, an educational advocacy organization. Dr. Herron is also a member of the Sigma Sigma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Some of her current honors include selection as the first African American to deliver the fall convocation address for the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education, the R. Steven Hsu Special Education Scholarship (2011), Sandra L. O'Brien Special Education Scholarship (2010 and 2011), and the Sooner Scholar Fellowship (2008-2009).

Dr. Herron believes in the power of education as a life-changing tool. She frequently states that "Education should not be about race or socioeconomic status, but the opportunities and access provided for all students to receive effective educational services."