

Kenneth McKinney, Sr.

A dedicated educator, pastor, mentor, and nonprofit leader, Kenneth McKinney, Sr. has spent his career investing in the next generation and helping young people discover their potential.

Born in Fulton, Mississippi, he has built a life of service rooted in education, faith, and community impact across North Mississippi and the Memphis area.

Kenneth served with distinction as Principal of Hope Sullivan Elementary School in Southaven, Mississippi, where he led with a deep commitment to creating a safe, supportive, and inspiring environment for young learners.

He is Co-Founder and Vice President of the Hope Center of North Mississippi, the nonprofit mentoring organization he established alongside Stacy Dodd. Through the Hope Center—a Silver Level Affiliate of the Mentor Memphis Grizzlies Foundation—Kenneth helps provide one-to-one and group mentoring for at-risk youth in grades 3–12, giving them guidance, encouragement, and opportunities to grow into future leaders.

In addition to his educational and nonprofit work, Kenneth serves as Associate Pastor at Golden Gate Cathedral Church in Memphis, Tennessee. He is also a member of the Southaven Chamber of Commerce and has been involved with A Way Out Program (AWOP), another initiative focused on mentoring and supporting youth.

Kenneth holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Delta State University and a Master of Educational Leadership from the University of Mississippi. He earned a Computer Skills Certification from the U.S. Air Force and a Mentorship Certification through the Memphis Grizzlies Mentorship Organization. He is a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

In 2022, he authored *Yes, You Can Win!*, a book that shares how applying the principles of God's Word can help people overcome life's storms and trials. In 2023, he was nominated for Mentoring Practitioner of the Year by the MENTOR Memphis Grizzlies Foundation.

Kenneth lives in the Bartlett area with his wife, Jacqueline. Together they have four children—Ashlee, Galvin, Kenneth II, and Jeremy—and are blessed with grandchildren. His passion is educating and mentoring at-risk youth and families, offering them knowledge, wisdom, and real opportunities to thrive in an encouraging environment.

Driven by faith and a belief that every young person deserves a chance to succeed, Kenneth continues to pour into the lives of others so they, too, can discover that yes—they can win.