

# I am The ROCK

## Michelle McCollin

**Job:** Associate professor of special education. I teach the full range of undergraduate and graduate courses.

**Joined SRU:** August 2004.

**Background:** I was born in Port of Spain, Trinidad. I moved to Brooklyn, N.Y., as a toddler. I attended a non-secular private school in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn and the Bronx High School of Science, a specialized high school for the intellectually gifted. I completed my bachelor's degree in African-American studies and international relations at Syracuse University. I went on to complete two master of science degrees in education prior to the conferring of my doctorate of philosophy degree from Southern University and A & M College.

**Interests:** I enjoy traveling and plants. I have traveled to five of the seven continents...but I have not been to Las Vegas. I must address this immediately. The place I love the most is Paris. I have more than 200 houseplants ranging from the sublime to the surreal.

**Person(s) I would most like to have dinner with:** Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman. Both of these fearless warrior women represent the true spirit of revolution and power to me.

**Why I work at The Rock:** Working at the Rock is an act of revolution, evolution and transformation. The study of special education is still quite young and as such, we still grapple with definitions, intervention, legislation and litigation. As an advocate and facilitator, I too am in a constant state of evolution, revolution and transformation as it pertains to my content and craft. I love my department and all of our University students because we have a unique opportunity to not only impart varied knowledge bases and skill sets, but more importantly, be transparent in our practice, praxis and paradigm.

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