



## GINGER LITTLETON

Born in the Panama Canal Zone, Ginger Littleton graduated from high school there and went on to attend the University of Alabama where she received her undergraduate degree. She taught English in Melbourne, Florida, and then moved to Panama City, Florida where she engaged in various business ventures while teaching middle school and high school English. In addition, she served as an adjunct professor at Gulf

Coast Community College.

She later earned her master's degree at Florida State University's Panama City Campus and became the assistant principal at a new charter school. She was elected to the Bay District School Board in 2006 and served thirteen years, running unopposed for each term.

During Ginger's tenure as a member of the Bay District School Board, new schools were built and a half-cent sales tax was passed, allowing older schools to be refurbished and their technology updated. In 2010, a man entered the School Board meeting intending to shoot the male members of the board. Littleton sprang to action, hitting him with her purse. This move made national news and earned her the nickname "the purse lady."

While serving on the Bay District School Board, Littleton was tasked with piquing local interest in Florida State University Panama City. In that role, she started the FSU Panama City STEM Institute, which provides STEM learning opportunities for elementary, middle and high school students and helps teachers provide challenging, hands-on activities that engage students. Students from the region regularly attend camps and workshops that connect them to amazing career opportunities as well as to the pathways provided by FSU to access those opportunities. The STEM institute continues to bring learners and educators from around the region to the FSUPC campus and takes content experts to the small, rural districts with its STEM on the Move initiative.