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LIVING IN THE FLOOD PLAINS:
ONE PUBLIC EDUCATOR'S EXPERIENCE IN THE MEDIA TORRENTS

A Dissertation

by

Vickie Cassel Hugger

Submitted to the Graduate School

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DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

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Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership
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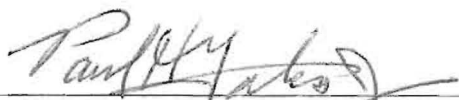
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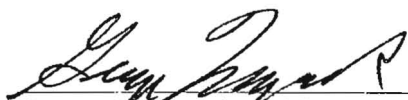
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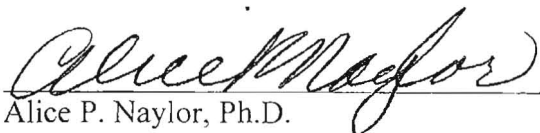
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Abstract

LIVING IN THE FLOOD PLAINS:

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(December, 2007)

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Public education is a political arena that is both influenced and monitored by the news media. This qualitative work, in the form of autoethnography, utilizes first hand experience, personal notes, e-mail messages, newspaper accounts, court documents, surveys and interviews to capture two distinct experiences of media interaction for one public school administrator. The literature research forms the backdrop of political events which formed the culture of intense political and community interest in public education and in the activity of the news media's monitoring of local school events. The work presents caveats to public school administrators regarding the need to be media savvy and continues dialogue relative to the political power, media influence, and community connections for public school leadership.