Dr. Shirley Raines is a much sought-after speaker, consultant and author. Shirley’s leadership roles culminated in her service for 12 years as the first woman president of the University of Memphis. Formerly at the University of Kentucky, she was Vice Chancellor for Academic Services and Dean of the College of Education. Powerful, prepared, and personable were the descriptions used at her induction into the Tennessee Women’s Hall of Fame. She has served on the selection committee for the National Teacher of the Years. She also was invited to speak at the White House Conference on University Entrepreneurship for the FedEx Institute of Technology. She speaks with humor, enthusiasm, and authority. Raines has written 18 books, 15 for educators, 2 for children, and her newest leadership book. Shirley’s latest book is An Uncommon Journey: Leadership Lessons from a preschool teacher who became a university president.

Dr. Shirley Raines, President Emeritus of the University of Memphis, was the first female president and served for 12 years.

Shirley came from humble beginnings on a cotton farm in Tennessee. She was a preschool teacher who became a university president.

Described as “Personable, Powerful and Prepared” at her induction into the Tennessee Women’s Hall of Fame.

Faculty member for five years at the Harvard Seminar for New Presidents and Chancellors.

Board member for corporations, hospitals, non-profits and foundations.

Goal-motivated and people-oriented, she leads others to develop their strengths, build productive partnerships and seize opportunities.

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