

DR. MAXINE MIMMS



DR. MAXINE MIMMS, BORN IN 1928 IN NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, WAS DEEPLY INFLUENCED BY HER FAMILY'S ADMIRATION FOR MARCUS GARVEY AND EXPOSURE TO EDUCATIONAL TALKS BY BLACK LEADERS. SHE EXCELLED ACADEMICALLY, GRADUATING WITH TOP HONORS FROM HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL IN 1946 AND OBTAINING HER B.A. FROM VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY IN 1950. AFTER WORKING AS A SOCIAL WORKER IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN, SHE EARNED HER PH.D. IN EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION. MOVING TO SEATTLE IN 1953, DR. MIMMS TAUGHT AT LESCHI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND LATER WORKED IN VARIOUS ROLES IN EDUCATION, INCLUDING AT EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE.

IN 1972, SHE STARTED THE EVERGREEN-TACOMA CAMPUS AT HER DINING ROOM TABLE, FOCUSING ON SERVING URBAN AFRICAN AMERICAN ADULT LEARNERS. HER MISSION WAS TO INCREASE AFRICAN AMERICAN REPRESENTATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND PROMOTE THE VALUE OF EDUCATION IN THE COMMUNITY. DR. MIMMS RETIRED FROM HER DIRECTORIAL POSITION IN 1990 BUT REMAINS ACTIVE IN EDUCATION, EARNING RECOGNITION FOR HER LEADERSHIP WITH AWARDS LIKE THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD IN 2001. SHE LATER FOUNDED THE MAXINE MIMMS ACADEMY, A NON-PROFIT IN TACOMA, TO SUPPORT MARGINALIZED YOUTH IN EDUCATION.

AND SHE CAME TO TELL ME!
GIRL, ENJOY YOUR LIFE.
LOVE YOUR COMMUNITY.
ALLOW YOUR MIND TO WANDER...
GO TO AFRICA!
GET YOUR EDUCATION, LITTLE GIRL.
YES, YOU CAN!
AND LET THE CHILDREN SPEAK AND PLAY, AND
HAVE A MENTOR OR TWO OR THREE OR FOUR, AND
HAVE A LOVER OR TWO OR THREE OR FOUR, AND
I LOVE THE WAY YOU LOOK, AND
DO YOUR THANG!
SUPPORT YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, CUZ WE ALL WE
GOT!
GIVE,
CHALLENGE YOURSELF AND OTHERS.
YOU ARE NOT YOUR PAST!
AND IF ANYBODY ASKS, I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE...

IF I ONLY KNEW I WAS A QUEEN IN THE MAKING
I WOULD'VE LOVED MYSELF MORE, BUT
I'M HERE NOW AND I KNOW
I AM
I BE
I AM SO...LET ME BE.
MY REGALITY IS NOT TO SUPPRESS YOU,
OR YOUR SHINE.
YOU SEE MY LIGHT IS ALSO YOURS;
BASQUE IN IT WITH ME.
IT'S ALSO FOR YOU.

THANK YOU DR. MIMMS,
YOU'VE TAUGHT ME TO LAUGH AT THE FUNNY AND THE CRAZY
AND THE SAME WAY YOU ALLOW US TO BASQUE IN YOUR
LIGHT,
I HOPE WE ALL HAVE THE COURAGE, STRENGTH, AND
HUMILITY TO ALLOW OTHERS TO BASQUE IN OURS.
YOU'RE A BLESSING AND I THANK YOU.

 Onya