

Dear Colleagues,

I write today with sad news. San Bernardino has lost a civic and educational leader, Dr. Margaret Hill. She was one of our giants and, with her loss, we feel diminished.

A pre-eminent member of the Inland Empire's Black community, she earned her M.A. in educational administration from CSUSB in 1980, received an honorary doctorate from the University of Redlands in 2011, and was celebrated with the dedication of the Dr. Margaret Hill Board of Education Community Room in 2019, in the San Bernardino Education Building.

She was passionate about access to education and pursuing learning as a way of moving people's lives forward, individually and collectively. The drive for student success and equity informed so much of what she did. Her participation in the "Snapshot" events we have held at CSUSB, to support Black enrollment, is just one example.

She began her career in education in 1971 at San Bernardino High School, and went on to become a school principal, an assistant superintendent, an adjunct professor and—ultimately—a board member for the San Bernardino City Unified School District. Her current term was set to expire in 2024.

She was the author of two books: *It's All About the Children* and *From Sharecropping to Non-Stopping: Reflections on Life from a Veteran Educator*. She also wrote a weekly column on education for the San Bernardino Sun newspaper.

Those are just some of the facts about Dr. Hill's life. But what is just as important, if not more so, is the way that she made people feel. From the generations of school children whom she supported and inspired, to the members of our own Pan African Alumni chapter, to her fellow members of Kiwanis, to her colleagues on the SBCUSD board, she was a warm, abiding presence. We simply counted on her being there. And, with her loss, there is a hole in our midst.

I know that we will be hearing more about the iconic (and I do not use this word lightly) Dr. Hill's life in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we celebrate all that she accomplished and did to better the lives of the children of the Inland Empire. We are proud to be able to name her as one of our CSUSB alumni community and to have had her here, in the IE, as one of our guiding lights.

Sincerely,

**Tomás D. Morales**  
President