



"Committed to Service"

Patricia Thomas Wright is a native of Arkadelphia, Arkansas. She is the second of twelve siblings and truly knows by experience that it takes a village to raise a child. The acknowledgement by Wright of the impact and enormous role the community (church, school, and neighborhood) played in her growth and development resonates in her commitment to her faith, family, and public education.

Wright has been described as a gifted leader with a natural ability to motivate and influence others in an extraordinary way. As a result of her dream for the children and families of Arkadelphia, Wright was instrumental in providing the leadership to organize a non-profit organization leading to the development of a million dollar multipurpose facility located in Feaster Park. The Community Family Enrichment Center opened December 2000 in a collaborative partnership with the City of Arkadelphia, Central Arkansas Development Council and the Clark County Adult Education Program. The center serves as an umbrella for six other non-profit organizations without a physical structure.

As a community leader, Wright continues to be a guiding force in the development and expansion of early childhood programs in the Arkadelphia School District. The goal is to ensure a quality, accessible and affordable preschool program for all children. In August 2014, the Peake Rosenwald School renovation project was completed and open for preschool, under the leadership of Wright. The restoration of Peake Rosenwald School is part of the legacy of educating African American children starting in 1900. Peake High School is the only surviving Rosenwald School in Clark County serving as a reminder of the legacy of Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington.

Currently, Wright is the President of the Peake High School Alumni Foundation, Delta Kappa Gamma Lambda Chapter and Vice President of the Clark County Church Women United. She was recently elected Secretary of the Democratic Committee of Clark County, and also serves as Clerk of the Council the ruling body of West End Presbyterian Church. She is a lifetime member of the NAACP and served as the co-chair of Governor Beebe's Task Force on Best Practices for After-School and Summer Programs.

Wright received her BSE, MSE, and Educational Leadership degrees from Henderson State University while working as a full-time state employee. She also became the first African American in the charter class of Educational Leadership Program to receive three consecutive degrees from Henderson State University. In May 2012, Wright received her Doctorate of Education degree from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville while employed as the Executive Director of the Community Family Enrichment Center and Director of Special Programs for Arkadelphia Public School District.

Wright is married to Vern, whom she describes as a loving and supportive spouse. Together they have a blended family of six children and twelve grandchildren.

The Buffaloes' Foundation, Inc. 2015 Inductee

