

Woman with a Heart for Bakersfield

Caren Floyd



Dr. Caren Floyd has a zealous heart for education and learning. A lifelong-learner and educator, Caren's passion is fueled by her belief that "education is one of the greatest gateways to freedom." Caren's abundant professional and community service reflect her heartfelt love for teaching and empowering the best in our young people.

Caren has advanced the education of young people for over 40 years. She initially worked for 10 years as an instructional assistant, helping freshmen and sophomore students to become better readers. Later, Caren worked at Highland High School as an attendance clerk. It was while working at Highland High that Caren chose to further her education by obtaining a bachelor of arts degree and a teaching credential. Caren continued to educate herself while being a wife and mother, and teaching at Fairview Elementary. She went on to receive her master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction at California State University, Bakersfield. Then, while teaching at Greenfield Junior High, Caren earned a doctor of philosophy at Claremont Graduate University. Caren's career in education included 15 years in the classroom, as well as 13 years in school administration. She served as a vice principal for six years and principal for seven.

Caren's commitment to education and learning have continued in the capacities of Sunday School teacher for over 25 years and former Education Council chairman at her church, co-chairman of the NAACP Education Committee, and chairman of the National Day of Literacy sponsored by the African American Read-In Committee. Through Kappa Omega Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's "Emerging Young Leaders" and "Miss Fashionetta" programs, Caren has mentored over

20 young ladies. Caren accompanied her mentees to dance rehearsals, luncheons, plays, church services, and numerous community service events. As a mentor for Miss Fashionetta, Caren groomed young ladies in self-confidence, integrity, and spiritual and physical development. Caren has maintained her relationships with her mentees over the years and enjoys seeing them succeed.

Caren also has touched many lives in her volunteer services at the Voter's Education Forum and Bakersfield Senior Center. As chairperson of the education committee, Caren sponsored Saturday Education Forums for parents, sharing information for educational success.

Caren and her husband Ernest celebrated 51 years of marriage in April 2013. The Floyds raised two sons: Curtis, attorney at law, and Demetrius (deceased). She is mother-in-law to Jennifer Floyd, attorney at law, and is blessed with three grandsons: Brendan M. Floyd, 18, junior at Ridgeview High; Curtis E. Floyd, 17, junior at Liberty High, and Evan E. Floyd, 14, 7th grader at Rosedale Middle School.

Caren was the fifth of five children, and the only girl born to Willis and Carrie Mae Hill. Caren thanks God for her health, strength and supportive family that make her community work possible.

