



THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

A high-quality education system that prepares all students for college, career, and life.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCES LOSS OF MONA BAILEY

“We are saddened at the loss of our colleague and champion for children Mona Bailey,” said State Board Chair Kevin Lavery. “Her poise, reasoning and unwavering commitment to the needs of students of color and those programs that enabled them to excel academically and personally was second to none. We were fortunate to have her at our table for the brief period of time we did and she will be missed. In so many ways, we were all smarter with Mona in the room. She has left an indelible imprint on public education in our state.”

Bailey spent more than thirty years serving in public education in a variety of roles, including as a high school science teacher, principal, Deputy Superintendent of Seattle Public Schools, and as Assistant State Superintendent in the Washington State Office of Public Instruction. She has received many awards, including being recognized by the Johnson Publishing Company as one of the 100 influential Black Americans and is listed in Who's Who Among Women and Who's Who Among Black Americans, and the MESA (Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement) State Board established the annual Mona Bailey MESA Teacher Award in 2003.

###

Bailey's full biography from the SBE website previously read:

In her thirty-two year career in public education, Mona Bailey has worked to promote equity and excellence for all students, especially for underachieving students. She has served as a junior and high school science teacher, high school counselor, Middle School Principal, Personnel Administrator and Assistant and Deputy Superintendent in Seattle Public Schools, and as Assistant State Superintendent in the Washington State Office of Public Instruction. Immediately after retiring, she served as a Senior Associate with the Institute of Educational Inquiry, a nonprofit Seattle-based organization focusing on educational renewal in partnership with the National Network for Educational Renewal. She continues to play a role in education as an educational consultant and as a volunteer with advocacy groups to reform education for K-12 students.

Bailey co-chaired the HB2722 State Advisory Committee to Close the Achievement Gap of African American Students in the State of Washington. She currently serves on the Pacific Science Center Board of Directors and chairs its Science Education Advisory Committee; the Seattle Art Museum's Education and Community Advisory Committee; United Way of King County's Community Building Committee; the Seattle YWCA's Communities of Color Advisory Committee; and the Black Education Strategy Roundtable Board of Directors. She is a founding member of School Board Leaders for the Future.

She has received many awards. The MESA (Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement) State Board established the annual Mona Bailey MESA Teacher Award in 2003 in honor of her services to the State MESA Program from its beginning in the 1980s. She has been recognized by the Johnson Publishing Company as one of the 100 influential Black Americans and is listed in Who's Who Among Women and Who's Who Among Black Americans. Florida A&M University awarded her the Meritorious Achievement Award and Distinguished Alumnus Award; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority honored her with the highest award bestowed upon its members, the Mary Church Terrell Award. In 2014, Therapeutic Health Services of Washington awarded her its annual Alvirita Little Award.

Bailey has a BS Degree in Chemistry from Florida A&M University and a MS in Science Education from Oregon State University. She was a candidate for the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership and Administration at the University of Washington.

Mona Bailey and her husband, William Peter Bailey, have two sons: Col. Peter Govan Bailey, United States Air Force and Christopher Evans Bailey, Founder and CEO of the Seattle based company, Mindseekers; two grandsons, Tre and Taylor; and two granddaughters, Grace and Addysen.
