



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Ruth Hassell-Thompson

Frances Ann Lightsy

RUTH HASSELL-THOMPSON May 11, 2011



Frances Ann Lightsy

Award: HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Year: 2011

Frances-Ann Lightsey, educator, leader and role model, began her journey as a student at The College of New Rochelle. From there, she received a Masters of Professional Studies Degree at Sarah Lawrence College as a Hearst Foundation Fellow, a Professional Diploma in School Administration and Supervision from the College of New Rochelle, and a certificate as a National Education Policy Fellow through Columbia University Teachers College.

In August 1985, Ms. Lightsey began her career with the Mount Vernon School District where she enjoyed many successful years as a classroom teacher in several disciplines. Her later move to Mount Vernon High School as Assistant Principal for Administration and Student Affairs began a new era in her career in education. During this time she designed several stimulating programs including a Stop and Shop Community Partnership, an International Study Abroad Program, and an Alumni Sharing Program to name a few. Ms. Lightsey served as an Assistant Principal in several schools until July, 2003, when she assumed her first Principal appointment.

During her tenure as principal, Ms. Lightsey has developed and overseen a number of unique programs which include partnerships with the Metropolitan Opera Guild; the Grimes Parent University; Junior Achievement; partnership with Greater Hudson Valley Links; and the creation of a Chinese Language and Culture Program.

As a testament to Ms. Lightsey's accomplishments she has been recognized by the NYS Conference of Black Senators; The City of Mount Vernon Distinguished Citizens Award; Who's Who in Business and Professional Women, and Living the Legacy-Harriet Tubman Award. In addition, she successfully developed and ran the first Patient Advocate's Office for the Mount Vernon Hospital.

Finding great joy in educating, Ms. Lightsy has made a profound impact on all the lives she has touched.