

# Dr. Bobbie Richardson, a Lifelong Educator

*"The moral test of government is how it treats people in the dawn of life, the children; in the twilight of life, the aged; and in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped." –Hubert Humphrey*

## Foundation & Family

Dr. Bobbie Richardson was born in Wood, North Carolina, in the northeast region of Franklin County, on her family's farm. She is the daughter of Pattie Mae Richardson and the late Bob Richardson, and the sister to 17 siblings. Her family's farm produced crops such as tobacco, corn, cucumbers, and soybeans; raised hogs, cattle, and chicken; and grew vegetables and fruit trees for the family to live on. Dr. Richardson learned the value of hard work at an early age. In her early years of working on the farm, she missed school often to make sure the crops were harvested. She was grateful when the General Assembly later passed mandatory school attendance. Dr. Richardson received her secondary education from Franklin County Schools, where she was salutatorian of her graduating class of 46. She credits her parents for laying down a strong foundation of a love of God, self-respect, respect for others, a love of education, and the knowledge of right from wrong for her and her siblings. Her religious foundation came from her parents taking her to Sunday school and

Today, Dr. Richardson still lives in the Wood Community near the family farm where she grew up.

## Educational Career

Dr. Richardson is a graduate of NC Central University in Durham, NC, where she earned her undergraduate degree and master's degree, and of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she earned a doctorate in Education Leadership.

Dr. Richardson served as the Director of Exceptional Children for Warren County Schools and was the Director of Exceptional Students Program for the NC Department of Corrections, as well as the School Administrator for Licensure, Personnel & Curriculum. Before her retirement in 2013, she was the Director of Exception Children for Vance County Schools. For ten years, from 1988-98, she was a consultant with the NC Department of Public Instruction. She has also been in the trenches, working as a teacher in Durham Public Schools for the Children with Disabilities Program and as a teacher assistant for exceptional children classes at Head Start. She is a former member of the

## Achievements & Community Service

Dr. Richardson has been recognized many times for outstanding service to her community, including the 2015 Top Ladies of Distinction (Wendell Chapter) Everyday Heroes Award, 2010 Franklin County Democratic Woman of the Year Award, 2012 Perry's Alumni Humanitarian Award, and Who's Who Women in Education Award from Durham Public Schools in 1989. She has been nominated and accepted to serve as a State Director for the national Women In Government organization. In 2014 she received the Rising Star Award at the NC League of Conservation Voters' Green Tie Awards banquet. She was one of the recipients of the 2016 Women of Excellence Award from the National Foundation of Women Legislators and in 2016 she received the Political Courage Award from the Rocky Mount Chapter of the NAACP.

She is a supporter of Franklin County Safe Space (domestic violence services), Franklin County Partnership in Healthcare (formerly Volunteers in Medicine), the Boys & Girls Club of Franklin and Nash counties, and United Way.

Rep. Richardson serves on the Executive Committee for the NC Democratic Party. She is a past chair of the Franklin County Democratic Party and currently is a member of the Franklin County Women Democrats, Franklin County Senior Democrats, the Franklin County African American Caucus, and Nash County Democratic Women. She is a member of the NC Legislative Black Caucus and board member of the NC Legislative Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.

She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and a member of the Roanoke, Va., Moles. She is a trustee of Gillfield Missionary Baptist Church and chair of the church's Education Committee. She

## **In the Legislature**

Dr. Richardson retired from helping the children and teachers of North Carolina become the best they can be and is representing the people of House District 7 (which consists of portions of Franklin and Nash Counties). She was appointed in January 2013 and won election in Nov. 2014 and re-election 2016 for additional two-year terms each in the NC General Assembly. She has served as secretary of the House Democratic Caucus and is currently serving as House Democratic Whip.

Rep. Richardson currently serves on the following committees in the NC House of Representatives: Appropriations, Appropriations Subcommittee on Agricultural and Economic and Natural Resources, Transportation, Strategic Transportation Planning and Long-Term Funding Solutions, Elections and Ethics Law, Education K-12 (vice-chair), Alcoholic Beverage Control, and Judiciary IV. Additionally, she has been selected to serve on several interim committees: Select Committee on School Safety, Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, Joint Legislative Committee on Local Government and Transportation.