



Dr. Karen Elizabeth Brantley

October 22, 1942 - June 25, 2016

Celebrating The Life Of Dr. Karen Elizabeth Brantley:

Dr. Karen Elizabeth Brantley was born October 22, 1942 to James Edward Brantley, Sr. and Helen McCall Brantley in Detroit, Michigan. Karen was a life-long Detroiter.

At a very early age, Karen attended St. Cecelia Catholic School later graduating from Detroit St. Leo Catholic High School in 1960. She briefly attended Michigan State University and joined the Student Non-Violence Coordinating Committee (SNCC). While with SNCC she went south to register voters in particularly turbulent times during the civil rights movement. Upon returning, she matriculated to Wayne State University in Detroit earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education in 1972 and Master's Degree in Education majoring in Instructional Technology in 1973. In 1996, Karen earned a Doctorate in Education, majoring in Higher Education Administration, also at Wayne State.

After graduation, Karen worked with the Children's' Television Workshop as their Midwest Regional Coordinator. She then worked for the City of Detroit Department of Health initially as an Educator and Researcher. Later she was Director of a Head Start Program. She also taught Kindergarten in Detroit Public Schools and was an Adjunct Instructor at Marygrove College where she mentored teachers completing graduate degrees. During this time, Karen

began her teaching career at Wayne County Community College, initially as Adjunct Faculty in Child Care Training and Human Services in April 1972. Though she didn't know it at the time, she would spend the majority of her career at Wayne County Community College in increasingly responsible positions eventually reaching Assistant Dean of Instruction.

In addition to her daily teaching and administrative role(s), she also participated or led several committees at WCCCD including North Central Committee on Academics, Northwest Campus Retention Committee, Northwest Campus Administrative Council, Pre-Social Work Advisory Committee, Urban Teacher Advisory Committee and Women's Studies Committee.

Dr. Brantley has several writings and was a requested speaker at several conferences throughout the US. Additionally, she was featured in the International Who's Who of Professionals in 1997.

In short, many social workers and teachers in metro Detroit are influenced by programs in which had a role or were taught directly by her. Dr. Brantley retired from Wayne County Community College in 2007.

In her spare time, Karen was also a passionate activist. She participated with several professional, political and social organizations, including Phi Delta Kappa, NAACP, Michigan Community Theater Troupe, Michigan Political Leadership Program, League of Women Voters of Michigan, Women's Justice Center, New Life Home for Recovering Women, Sisters Network of Greater Metropolitan Detroit, Jim Dandy Ski Club, YWCA Child Care Advisory Committee, Blanche Kelso Bruce Academy and her beloved Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. To relax, Karen routinely read 3-4 books a week and loved to travel.

Karen peacefully passed away the evening of June 25, 2016 after an extended illness.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Karen Elizabeth Brantley*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Dr. Brantley was a very kind and gentle woman. When she use to come to me for service I could hear her say " ok I have time" with a smile. I knew her a few years and I know she will be missed. Prayers go out to her family. Starr Wade-Massey.*

starr massey - July 08, 2016 at 06:29 PM



“ *Dear Family,*

Dr. Brantley was a true and proud educator. She loved her students with a passion; she loved to be in the company of her fellow professors and adjuncts as she would say; and most of all -- we all appreciated and cared for Dr. Brantley who worked tirelessly to make a difference in a student's life. She will be missed.

Jacqueline Hodges

Jacqueline Hodges - July 07, 2016 at 07:36 PM



“ *You will truly be missed. Norman McRae*

Norman McRae - July 06, 2016 at 12:43 PM



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“ Dear Family,

We are deeply saddened at the loss of Karen, our Aunt, Cousin and Friend, but we do not mourn as those who have no hope. As stated in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

So we commit her to her heavenly Father that she may dwell with Him, and all of our ancestors who have transitioned.

Blessings of Peace. Susan Williams Howard and Family, Los Angeles, California

Susan Williams Howard - July 05, 2016 at 12:21 PM