

Reba R. Hollingsworth, Ph.D.

Dr. Reba R. Hollingsworth, born in Milford, Delaware, was the second eldest of seven children born to Solomon and Rachel Shockley Ross. During her junior year at Delaware State College, she married Berlin N. Hollingsworth on December 28, 1947 at Bethel A.M.E. Church, Milford, Delaware. They have one daughter, Vivian O. Dancy, one grandson, William J. Johnson, and two great-grandsons, Jeremiah J. Johnson and Jayce A. Johnson.

After graduating from Delaware State College in 1949 with a B. S. degree in Home Economics, she began her teaching career in Rains, South Carolina. In 1954, she was hired to teach Home Economics and Science at William C. Jason Comprehensive High School in Georgetown, Delaware, where she worked until 1966, when she was employed as a guidance counselor at Dover High School in Dover, Delaware until she retired in 1988. Dr. Hollingsworth earned her M.Ed. degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Delaware in 1970. She completed all work (except the dissertation) toward a doctorate degree from Temple University and did advanced studies at Chapman College and the University of La Verne in California. In 2001, Dr. Hollingsworth earned her Ph.D. Degree in Counseling from Pacific Western University in Los Angeles, California.

In addition to her teaching/counseling career, Dr Hollingsworth was a cookware salesman, an Overseas Travel-Study Counselor, an adjunct professor at the University of La Verne, Wilmington College, and Delaware State University. She was the counseling practicum supervisor for the University of Delaware, Southern Illinois University, and Wilmington College; consultant to the Brandywine College Admissions Department; instructor/trainer for Parent and Teacher Effectiveness Training courses; and co-owner of Hollingsworth & Hollingsworth Consultant Services specializing in Pre-Marriage and Marriage Counseling and Parliamentary Procedure Workshops and Training Sessions.

Dr. Hollingsworth has participated in many communication, counseling and behavior modification workshops and is a nationally certified counselor, who participated in standardizing the National Counselor Certification Test. Her involvement in civic, professional, and community activities are many and varied. She has served as a member of the Scholarship Selection Committee of the National Achievement Selection Program for Outstanding Negro Students of the College Board; served on the Talent Search Advisory Board of Delaware Opportunities Industrialization Center; was the first black president of Delaware School Counselors Association and of the Zeta Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma Society; was the first Black female guidance counselor at Dover High School; was chair of Senator William V. Roth's Service Academy Selection Committee; and was president of the Afro American Historical Society of Delaware. She was Coordinator of the Northeastern Province Silhouettes of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity; and was National Secretary of the Silhouettes of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Dr. Hollingsworth was chair of the 1972 National Nominating Committee and a member of the National Constitution and Bylaws Committee for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., was a member of the Golden Life Membership Committee; and has served as recording secretary and as parliamentarian of the Eastern Region, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Currently, Dr. Hollingsworth is vice chair of the Delaware Heritage Commission; vice chair of the Delaware Review Board for Historic Preservation; a Diamond Life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; a life member of the NAACP; chair of the Education Committee of the Milford-Slaughter Neck Branch, NAACP; a life member and Parliamentarian of Delaware State University Alumni Association, Inc.; a member of the Dr. Jerome Holland Statue Committee at Delaware State University; a member of Friends of the Delaware Public Archives; a member of Delaware Retired School Personnel Association; a board member of the Richard Allen Coalition, a member of the Delaware Afro-American Sports Hall of Fame, and a member of the Delaware Women's Suffrage Centennial Committee. She is a member of Whatcoat United Methodist Church, a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians, past-president of Delaware State Association of Parliamentarians, and a member of the American Institute of Parliamentarians. She and her husband established an endowed scholarship through the Delaware State University Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Hollingsworth has been invited to speak before several organizations, including: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Founders Day programs, NAACP programs, Women's Day programs at several churches, Black History Month programs at schools and churches, the University of Delaware Women's Study Lectures, Delaware State University Book Banquet, the University of Delaware Lifelong Learning Academy, Robert A. Young Educational Organization, Inc., The Sunshine Circle Club, Delaware Technical and Community College, Friends of Old Dover, and Delaware State University Hornet Hero Lecture Series. She also wrote two Guest Opinion Articles, which were published in the Delaware State News entitled "The NAACP vs the Ku Klux Klan" and "The Hollingsworth's Secrets to a Long, Happy Marriage." She has edited and served on the publication teams of several books.

Among the many honors and awards presented to Dr. Hollingsworth are the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Eastern Regional Diamond Award, African American Woman of Distinction Award, 1971-72 Delaware Counselor of the Year Award, Keynote Speaker Award from the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League, 50-Year Brown vs. Board of Education Award, 2004 Tribute to Black Teachers Award, 2006 Delaware State University Alumni Association Hall of Fame Inductee, 2006 Unsung Heroes Award, Region II ,NAACP, Delaware State Education Association's 2006 Human and Civil Rights Award, the 2007 Governor's Heritage Award, 2008 Women's Day Celebration Award from Delaware Technical & Community College, Owens Campus Alumni Association, 2009 Shofar Lifetime Achievement Award, 2012 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Distinguished Delaware State University Alumni, Queen Mother, named Nana Afua Nyamboah of the Bretou Clan, Asiaka, Ghana, West Africa and the DSU Early College High School guidance department was named for Dr. Hollingsworth. In 2018, she was inducted into the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame and was selected as a Faithful and Unsung Honoree of Whatcoat United Methodist Church. In 2019, Reba received the Inner City Cultural League, Inc. Phenomenal Woman Award, became a member of the Friends of the Delaware Public Archives Board, and became a member of the Delaware Afro-American Sports Hall of Fame, Inc. In 2020, she received the Richard Allen Coalition, Inc. Award for Outstanding Service to the Community.

Dr. Hollingsworth and her late husband of more than sixty-eight years, Dr. Berlin Hollingsworth, have traveled extensively in the United States, including Hawaii and Alaska, Canada, Mexico, Bahamas and the West Indies, England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Zaire (The Congo), Senegal, Morocco and Gibraltar. In 2018, Dr. Hollingsworth traveled to Johannesburg, Cape Town, Robben Island, and the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa. She currently resides in Dover, Delaware.

Berlin N. Hollingsworth, Ph.D.

Berlin N. Hollingsworth was born and reared in Fayetteville, North Carolina, the fourth of ten children of Thomas and Lena Mae Pierce Hollingsworth. He received his B. S. Degree in Business Administration from Delaware State College (University), Dover, Delaware in 1967; his M. S. Ed. in Counselor Education from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois in 1975 and his Ph.D. in Counseling Education from Pacific Western University, Los Angeles, California in 2001. Dr. Hollingsworth completed all work (except the dissertation) toward a doctoral degree at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and did additional graduate studies at La Verne University, La Verne, California, Chapman College, Orange, California and Salisbury State College, Salisbury, Maryland.

Dr. Hollingsworth is a retired visiting teacher from the Caesar Rodney School District. He also worked as the first manager of the Martin Luther King Student Center at Delaware State College. While working at Caesar Rodney, Berlin worked more than ten years during the summers as a principal/coordinator for European and American study tours and traveled extensively in Europe. He and his wife conducted Parent Effectiveness and Teacher Effectiveness Training workshops and they are currently conducting Study Sessions and workshops in Parliamentary Procedure. Before working in the education field, Dr. Hollingsworth owned and operated a gas station-convenience store, was the first Black tire salesman for General Tire and Rubber Company of Delaware, was a cookware salesman, and worked as a chef cook in various restaurants and hotels in Washington, D.C., Delaware and New Jersey. Currently, he and his wife are co-owners of Hollingsworth and Hollingsworth Consultant Services.

Even though he is retired, Dr. Hollingsworth, a life member, is very active in the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. on the local, provincial and national levels. He has served as president of the Northwest Dover Heights Civic Association for more than thirty-five years. Dr. Hollingsworth is the past president of the Delaware State Visiting Teachers Association, past president of the Capital Esquires, Ltd., past polemarch of Dover Alumni Chapter, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, a life member of Delaware State University Alumni Association, Inc., a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and chair of the Membership Committee for the Milford-Slaughter Neck Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians and a member of the American Institute of Parliamentarians. Currently, Berlin serves as vice president of Delaware State Association of Parliamentarians. For the last fifty-seven years, he has been a member of Whatcoat United Methodist Church, where he chaired the Stewardship Committee from 1997 to 2009. He has served as chair of the Trustee Board, president of the Young Adult Fellowship, chair of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, member of the Men's Day Committee, and member of the Building Committee. Dr. Hollingsworth is a nationally certified counselor, who participated in standardizing the National Counselor Certification Test.

Dr. Hollingsworth is the recipient of a number of awards, including the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Achievement Award for the Northeastern Province, Kappa Man of the Year, Outstanding Kappa Award, and Outstanding Capital Esquire Award. For outstanding achievement, he was recognized by the Afro-American Historical Society of Delaware as one of the 100 African American Men of Distinction in Delaware, by the Kent County Chapter of Delaware State University Alumni Association for his contributions to the citizens of Delaware, and by St. Paul United Methodist Church, Milford, Delaware as an Outstanding Citizen. In March 2011, Dr. Hollingsworth was voted "Whatcoat Church Man-of-the-Year."

Dr. Hollingsworth and his wife have traveled extensively in the fifty United States, including Hawaii and Alaska, Canada, Mexico, the Bahamas and the West Indies, England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain Portugal, Greece, Turkey, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Senegal, Morocco and Gibraltar.

Berlin N. Hollingsworth, Ph.D. has been married to Dr. Reba Ross Hollingsworth for sixty-seven years and they have lived in Dover, Delaware since 1956. They have one daughter, Vivian O. Dancy, one grandson, William J. Johnson, who is also a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and two great-grandsons, Jeremiah J. Johnson and Jayce A. Johnson.