

Dr. Bettye H. Perkins

A PILLAR IN CLOSING THE TEACHER DIVERSITY GAP IN NEW YORK

BY: MAGDALINE DELANY

Most recently, Dr. Perkins' successful teacher of color recruitment model was featured in the September 2016 American Federation of Teachers (AFT) renowned publication, *The American Educator*, titled, "Growing the Next Generation: A Program Encourages Students of Color to Become Teachers".

➔ According to Gilbert K. Chesterton: "Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another."

Born and raised in the segregated south (South Carolina), Dr. Bettye H. Perkins Ed. D., is the Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers (TSTT). She has been at the forefront in helping to close the teacher diversity gap in America's schools for more than 22 years. With her passion for opening doors for young people, Dr. Perkins launched TSTT in 1994 with only 7 students in Westchester County, New York. Today, TSTT's full-circle regional collaborative teacher of color recruitment model has been successfully replicated in four states: New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Virginia. TSTT has produced over 150 alumni teachers, and nearly 1000 high school and college students are currently in the pipeline to become caring, committed and competent teachers and leaders.

Dr. Perkins received a Bachelor's



Degree in Education from North Carolina A&T State University, a Masters Degree in Education Administration from Pace University, and a Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership and Urban Policy from Fordham University. Her work on the recruitment and retention of teachers of color has been published by the American Association of School Personnel Administrators (AASPA) as a best practice for Human Capital Management Strategies; the

Amsterdam News for her 'Male Teacher of Color' Initiative, and by Harvard Business School for the significant economic value and the critical social impact TSTT has made on our society.

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On Thursday, May 18, 2017, Dr. Perkins was the recipient of an honorary degree in pedagogy at Manhattan College Spring Commencement. Dr. Perkins delivered an empowering and motivating speech to the graduates. When asked about her hobbies, Dr. Perkins shared that she enjoys playing tennis with her husband John. They also enjoy mentoring many young people and spending time with their family, friends and godchildren.