



Dr. Asa Grant Hilliard III (1933 – 2007)

Scholar, Educator, Psychologist, Historian

Biography

Dr. Asa G. Hilliard III was a leading scholar who had a profound impact on students' and other scholars' thinking about promoting educational excellence, developing African and African American pedagogy, and reaffirming the humanity of African American people. He advocated for the accurate stories of African Americans, Native Americans, Latin, and Asian peoples to be included in curricula and instruction at all educational levels. Dr. Hilliard challenged and redefined common misconceptions about the educability and intellectual capacities of African American children, the use and validity of standardized intelligence tests, and the accuracy of European and American history. He developed K-12 school curricula that integrated African and African American content into many subjects. Several of his curricula in pluralistic education, assessment, and valid teaching have become national models, including an approach which represents the first time that a comprehensive global and longitudinal view of people of African ancestry has been presented in a curriculum (The Portland Baseline Essays).

Dr. Hilliard earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, a master's degree in counseling, and a doctorate (EdD) in educational psychology from the University of Denver. From 1980 until his death, Dr. Hilliard served as Fuller E. Callaway professor of Urban Education at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia, with joint appointments in the Departments of Educational Policy Studies and Educational Psychology and Special Education. Dr. Hilliard's highly distinguished career also included serving as a professor, department chairperson, and dean of the School of Education at San Francisco State University; consultant to the Peace Corps in

Liberia, West Africa; superintendent of schools in Monrovia, Liberia; and high school teacher in the public school system of Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Hilliard was a board-certified forensic examiner and diplomat of both the American Board of Forensic Examiners and the American Board of Forensic Medicine. He served as lead expert witness in several landmark federal cases and two Supreme Court cases on test validity and bias. As a renowned consultant, he worked with various school districts, universities, private organizations, and government agencies and produced an extensive portfolio of articles, technical reports, chapters, and books on numerous subjects including teaching strategies, African-centered pedagogy, educational policy, valid assessment, child development, and ancient African history and culture. Dr. Hilliard was a founding member of the National Black Child Development Institute and the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations.

For over 30 years, Dr. Hilliard led study groups to Egypt and Ghana as part of his mission to teach the truth about the history of Africa and the African Diaspora. In 2001, Dr. Hilliard was enstooled as development chief for Mankranso, Ghana and given the name Nana Baffour Amankwatia II, which means “generous one.” On August 13, 2007, Dr. Asa G. Hilliard III joined the pantheon of ancestors while leading students on the 20th annual study tour of the Nile Valley in Egypt. Dr. Hilliard was truly a “generous one”—generous with his brilliance, time, talent, and dedication to the affirmation, humanization, and centering of African peoples and culture throughout the diaspora.