



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hopper administrator named Star in Education

The Ivy League Educational & Charities Foundation was honored B. P. Hopper's Assistant Principal, Victoria McClain, and 20 other "Stars in Education" with a VIP reception on Friday, Feb. 5 in Houston. Victoria also will be spotlighted at the foundation's second annual Educators' Benefit Ball on March 27 in Houston.

Victoria was selected for this award as the result of the exceptional dedication and leadership she has displayed during her 34-plus years as an educator. Prior to becoming an administrator, she taught at elementary, secondary and college levels and also served as an elementary school counselor.

Victoria can best be described as an individual of vision, leadership, faith and action who is energized by her interactions with children.

The youngest daughter of four girls and the sixth child of nine children, Victoria grew up in Austin. Her high school class was the last class to graduate from L.C. Anderson High School before closing its doors. This was during the time of desegregation.

However, Victoria continued her education at Prairie View A&M University where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in education. She continued her education by earning her master's degree in education from Prairie View A&M University with certifications in Elementary Education, Bilingual/ESL Education, and Reading Specialization.

Victoria was the first of her parents' children to receive her master's degree. She was also the first student to receive her Bilingual/ESL certification from Prairie View A&M. Later, she was put to the challenge of being the first ESL instructor at the Ripley House, provided by Houston Community College, who at that time was piloting an ESL program.

Also at this time, Lamar Consolidated ISD was beginning their first state-mandated bilingual program and needed bilingual teachers. They asked Victoria to come on board and be a part of their team. She became the first bilingual teacher hired to teach the only third grade bilingual class.

Victoria continued to blaze the education trail by becoming the first "Reading Specialist" to develop a Title I Reading Program at La Porte Junior High School.

It was there while teaching her students that she realized God wanted her to dedicate her life to help mold the total child ... "The True Prize," she said. So she continued her education by attending the University of Houston in Clear Lake and receiving her counseling certification.



Victoria McClain
B.P. Hopper Elementary
Assistant Principal

Starting a new chapter in her life, Victoria wanted to do more in education by helping students through the field of counseling.

Texas City ISD at that time was beginning to add counselors to their elementary school program. The district hired Victoria and again, she was the first counselor hired to establish such a program to meet the needs of students from Pre-K to fourth grade.

To continue the mission, she earned her Mid-Management Certification from University of Houston in Clear Lake. She was later hired as an Assistant Principal at Highlands Elementary School in Goose Creek CISD, where she served from 1996 through 2001.

Victoria also served as assistant principal at San Jacinto for one year. Victoria is currently an assistant principal at B.P. Hopper Primary in Goose Creek CISD. She is a member of Sagemont Baptist Church, a member of Xi Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc. and Jack and Jill of America Inc. where she has and continues to service children through community service activities throughout the Houston and surrounding areas.

A breast cancer survivor, Victoria continues to live her life through God, she said, believing that "the will of God" will not take you where the grace of God will not protect you.

And because of her faith, dedication and the support of so many people, Victoria has persevered 34-plus years in the business of educating students through working and playing in what she calls "God's garden."

Victoria says she accepts the ILECF Stars in Education honor in the name of God with special thanks to her deceased parents, her husband, Charles Ray, her children, Charlene and Reggie, family members, friends, students, colleagues, faculty and staff of the past and present.

The Ivy League Educational & Charities Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which provides funding to further the educational pursuits of those in education by providing scholarships to individuals, as well as issuing community based grants and awards to area organizations and individuals.

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