

MARIE MALLORY ACKORD
Southwest Florida Community Foundation

Marie Ackord was born in Georgia, and her family moved to Daytona Beach, Florida when she was 4 years old. She graduated from Campbell Street High School as Valedictorian of her class and went on to Bethune-Cookman University where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics. While at Bethune-Cookman, Marie was named to Who's Who Among Students at American Universities and Colleges. She then received a Masters of Science degree in Administration and Supervision from Nova Southeastern University. Her career as a mathematics educator and district specialist extended over a period of 43 years (4 years in Collier County, 39 years in Lee County) until retirement from the school district in June 2003 and joined the SWFLCF Board in July 2009. Marie is a widow with one adult daughter, Monique Patrice Campbell.

As a charter member and charter president of the Fort Myers Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Marie is presently serving as 1st Vice President. Since the chartering, she has served as president for five-1 year terms and two-4 year terms as well as secretary, treasurer and chairperson of several committees. Marie was instrumental in starting the chapter's Delta Life Development Center which focused on assisting students in preparation for entering college. Presently, she serves as Secretary of the DLDC Board of Directors. Previously, she served on the Regional Leadership Team and was elected and appointed to national committees. Presently, she is the Primary Advisor of the Tau Sigma Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Committee and organizations both civic and professional Marie has served on are:

Lee County Schools District Advisory Council, Fort Myers Middle Academy School Advisory Committee, Florida State Board of Clinical Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists, and Mental Health Counselors Probable Cause Chairperson, North Fort Myers High School-School Advisory Committee, Member of State Board of Clinical Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists, and Mental Health Counselors, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Visitation Committee, Commissioner-Cape Coral Library Advisory Committee, Member-Lee County Arts in Public Places Board, Commissioner-Fort Myers Human Relations Commission, Life Member-National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, SWFLCF Founders Society, Phi Delta Kappa Educational Fraternity, St John First Missionary Baptist Church Board of Directors, Willing Workers Ministry, and Bethune-Cookman University Wildcat Boosters Club.

Marie has been the recipient of many awards:

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Service to Education Award; The Florida Deltas Epitome of Fortitude Award; Who's Who Among American Teachers; Lee County Golden Apple Teacher of Distinction; Finalist-Lee County Golden Apple Award; Ida S. Baker Distinguished Educator Award (2nd & 3rd Place); Florida Department of Health-Exemplary Service Award; American Legion Post 192-Community Service Award; Certificate of Appreciation from Governor Bob Graham for Distinguished Service to the State of Florida; Who's Who Among Black Americans; Mary McLeod Bethune Award of Contributions to Education in Lee County; Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.-Lee County Minority Woman of the Year.