



*African-American/Caribbean Education Association, Inc.
(AACEAINC)*

"Working to better the education of our children"

*The Mildred Collins
Nursing/ Health Science/ Medicine Scholarship*

BIOGRAPHY

Mildred Collins was born in St. Kitts. She received an excellent education and her mother instilled in her that she must always share and help others. She joined the Girl Guides in 1931 where she practiced what her mother had taught. Because of her great desire to help the sick, she joined the Red Cross. There she learned how to care for the infirmed and derived from this experience her niche in life. Her love for academics began at the Basseterre Girls' school where she excelled and demonstrated, early on, her scholarship and brilliance. Ms. Collins' love for service started her on the way to an outstanding Nursing Career in 1942 when she began her official training at the Cunningham Hospital, now renamed the Joseph N. Frances General Hospital. She would continue her studies obtaining the General Midwife Certificate from the Central Midwives Board of England. With grounded nursing credentials she began her career at the Basseterre Sugar Factory Medical Center where she was the Nurse in charge from 1948-1957. In 1957 she was granted the Obstetrical Nursing and Public Health "Scholarship" at the International Cooperation Administration of Puerto Rico. To answer the call of a nurse's shortage, she moved to St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands to lend support. Her work and dedication to patients afforded her the House Supervisor position at the Knud-Hansen Memorial Hospital where she went on to become the Acting Head Nurse on the Medical Surgical Unit. Having received letters of meritorious service, she came to New York in 1959 with impeccable nursing credentials. She passed the New York State Board, received her license as a Registered Nurse by the New York State Education Department, and joined the staff of the prestigious New York Hospital-Cornell University Medical College; and she became a nurse specialist in obstetrical, gynecological, medical, and urological surgery. Ms. Collins never forgot her roots, where she came from, or her homeland. Working tirelessly, she earned extra hours to purchase modern medical equipment that was used at New York Hospital so that she could send such equipment to her native Cunningham Hospital in St. Kitts. She also purchased suction machinery for stomach operations and standby blood pressure equipment and her appreciative patients at New York Hospital went on to donate equipment in her name. For the 50th Anniversary of Girl Guides in 1981, she personally donated toys to the organization and sponsored many food drives. Over the years she has helped St. Croix and St. Kitts by returning home to nurse senior citizens in their last days and young children in need of pediatric care. In her later years, Ms. Collins has become a community activist championing community and education causes. She has been chronicled in the New York Times, the Daily News, the Times/Ledger, and the Laurelton Times. In 2006 she was the recipient of the "Senior of the Year" award (Councilman James Sanders) and the "Community Activist Award" (Elmer H. Blackburne Democratic Club). She was honored by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. in 1996 and holds numerous awards for meritorious service from New York Hospital. She belongs to various community based organizations that advocate for education and her desire to nurture small children inspired AACEAINC's Adopt a School Program. Ms. Collins advocates for improved hospital and health care, veterans' rights, transportation and zoning issues and the beautification of the community. She is the Secretary of Record of the African-American/Caribbean Education Association (AACEAINC) and a Christian woman always willing to help somebody. Dedicated to the principles of service she continues, today, to give of herself willingly and selflessly.