



Robert "Bob" W. Blackburn, Professor Emeritus of the Department of Educational Leadership, Passed Away September 10, 2016



Robert "Bob" W. Blackburn, Professor Emeritus of the Department of Educational Leadership, Passed Away September 10, 2016. He began his career at CSU, Hayward (East Bay) in the fall of 1981. He retired in 1996 and participated in the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP). Dr. Blackburn received an A.B. in 1957 from Oberlin College, an A.M. in 1964 from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Ph.D. in 1984 from the Union for Experimenting Colleges and Universities.

The following has been provided by the Blackburn family:

Jan. 14, 1935 - Sept. 10, 2016, Oakland

Robert "Bob" W. Blackburn, 81, died peacefully in his sleep on Saturday, September 10, 2016. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Martha Blackburn, and his sister, Betty Tjossem. He is survived by his wife Barbara, children Christopher and Samantha, granddaughter Maya, and sisters Bonnie Poucel and Be Blackburn. Bob touched many lives with his warmth, irreverent humor, and passion for social justice. He served as a Peace Corp director in Somalia in the sixties. After working in civil rights and school reform in Philadelphia, he moved to Oakland and became Deputy and later Acting Superintendent of Oakland Unified School District.

In 1973 he survived an assassination attempt by the SLA, but lost his close friend Marcus Foster. For many years he taught educational leadership at Cal State East Bay and UC Berkeley. His legacy lives on in the students he mentored, inspiring them to become equity-minded teachers, principals, and superintendents.

A memorial will be held at 2 pm on Sunday, October 9, 2016, at the Snow Building, Oakland Zoo. His family is asking that anyone who wishes to honor his life consider making contributions to the Oakland Zoo or the Marcus Foster Education Institute.

<http://www.lastingmemories.com/memorial/robert-w-Blackburn>