



Alumnus of the Year

Betty Bates '72

Betty Marie Bates was born in Charlottesville, Virginia. In the fall of 1966, twelve years after the landmark *Brown vs Board of Education* decision, Betty was one of many students who integrated the local Orange County High School (OCHS) in Orange, VA. Two years later she graduated with honors, ranking fifth in a class of 255 graduates.

In the fall of 1968, Betty entered West Virginia State College (now University), where she was named to the Dean's list, served as a class officer, member of the Student Government Association, Business Manager for "the Yellow Jacket" and was named to "Who's Who Among Students at American Colleges and Universities." In December, 1969, she was initiated into Alpha Delta Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and Alpha Kappa Mu National Honor Society. In 1972, Betty received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with concentrations in Management and Accounting.

Following graduation, Betty worked at and taught at West Virginia State for more than 10 years she earned a Masters of Science in Industrial Relations from the College of Graduate Studies (now Marshall University). Professionally over forty years, Betty was employed in both the private and public sectors of the financial services industries, primarily insurance, focusing on compliance and fraud investigations. After starting in the WV Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Charleston, WV, she moved to the Maryland Insurance Administration in Baltimore, MD, and spent the last 22 years with the District of Columbia, Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking as Chief Compliance Officer and Chief Fraud Investigator. In 2016, Betty retired from DISB as the Fraud Bureau Manager, Investigations & Enforcement Division.

The move to Baltimore connected Betty with the West Virginia State University National Alumni Association (WVSUNAA) Baltimore-Charlottesville Chapter, where she would devote her time, talent and personal resources to its many endeavors, serving as chapter president, vice president and twice a treasurer. In addition to these chapter responsibilities, she served for over fifteen years as WVSUNAA Eastern Regional Director, providing guidance and assistance to eight chapters.

Betty is a member of Celebration of the American African Male (CAAM), Red Hat Society (RHS), National Coalition of 100 Black Women (NCBW), National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), NAACP and Women in NAACP (W.I.N.). A tireless volunteer national and regional health care organizations, she has won many awards, including the 2017 Vashti Turley Murphy Award, 2010 Glover Smiley 110% Service Award, the Thelma Banks Cox Service Award, the James Waddy Meritorious Service Award," and the Zion Hill Baptist Church, 2006 Phenomenal Woman Award."

