

Associate Professor Mareyjoyce Green (Sociology and Director of Women's Comprehensive Program)

Professor Mareyjoyce Green died peacefully on September 13, 2019 at the age of 91. Professor Green, known to almost all as Mareyjoyce, joined Cleveland State in 1966 as an Instructor in the Department of Sociology. She retired in 2009 as Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the Women's Comprehensive Program. Many of us believe her to be the best known and most impactful of CSU sociologists. Mareyjoyce excelled in public sociology, using the sociological evaluations, testimonials of her success and their gratitude for her belief in them. This bond with her students can be explained in part by her own life challenges.

Although she never ever talked about herself, we learned from her adult children that her own childhood was spent on a small family farm in the backwoods of East Texas, together with her seven brothers and sisters. Their home had no electricity or running water, but a passion for education. Along with being an excellent farm hand, specializing in weeding, Mareyjoyce graduated from high school at age 15, and then four years later, in 1947, from nearby Wiley College. Wiley College was the first HBCU west of the Mississippi and is affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Mareyjoyce Bowie majored in sociology and education and also met her future husband, Charles Green. Her late husband was one of Cleveland's first African American CPAs, worked many years for the Internal Revenue Service, and later managed a church credit union. When the Greens arrived in Cleveland in the early 1950s looking for work, Mareyjoyce successful

In 1978 she developed and became director of the Women's Comprehensive Center, a position she held until her retirement. The program targeted reentry women, those whose educational careers had been interrupted after high school or a short period of college because of various other life responsibilities. She recruited these students to CSU and became their supercoach, always telling them they would succeed and providing critical advice to make that happen. She and colleague Roberta Steinbacher also successfully applied for a county grant for CSU that provided scholarships for women students on family assistance.

All women in the Comprehensive Program took her famous capstone seminar, Women in Corporate America. This was a learn by observation experience in which each student shadowed a leader in each of the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

Mareyjoyce served two years, from 1990-1992, as Interim Vice President for Minority Affairs. This was a troubled time in CSU's history, and although she was ambivalent about accepting an assignment many of her minority colleagues urged her not to take, her success in healing these wounds was vital for continuing the university's commitment to equity and diversity.

Outside the university Mareyjoyce always was much in demand for her service leadership. For her profession of sociology she was President of the Association

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