

**LaRuth Hackney Gray**  
**New York University**

Dr. LaRuth Gray dedicates herself to improving the quality of education, as well as the quality of life for children. A retired Superintendent of Schools for Abbott Union Free School District in Irvington, New York, Dr. Gray currently serves as Scholar in Residence for the Metropolitan of Center Urban Education (Metro Center) at New York University. Prior to this appointment, she had served as Deputy Director of METRO Center and as an Affiliate Professor in the Administration, Leadership and Technology Program in NYU's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development.

In her previous role at Metro Center, she supervised the school service programs of Metro Center, directed day-to-day operations and was responsible for overseeing all external relations and public relations which included the Center's web page and publications.

She began her career in education as a **teacher** in the New Rochelle City School District and moved up in the ranks to become **Chairman of the Language Arts Department**. From there, she was named first as **Principal**, then as **Director of Instruction** and finally, **Assistant Superintendent**. She then joined the Abbott Union Free District as a **Superintendent**, retiring from superintendency in 1989.

Among the accomplishments attributed to Dr. Gray during that time is the design, development and execution for a plan of the reorganization of the New Rochelle Public Schools to address the twin problems of minority isolation and declining enrollment. During her superintendency tenure, Dr. Gray was honored by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Alliance for Arts Education as an outstanding educator contributing to and supporting the arts in education.

She has been recognized by the **Dean of Steinhart the School of Culture, Education and Human Development at New York University with a Faculty Award for Outstanding Service**; the **National School Boards Association** as one of the “100 Outstanding Educators in Small School Districts in North America”; the **Congressional Black Caucus Education Brain-trust** for her Excellence and Equity in Education; the **American Association of School Administrators** as one of the ten pioneering *Sheroes* for helping break the glass ceiling for women in Education in the Country for the last 3 decades. She also received the Prestigious Evelyn Campbell Award (former Wisconsin Commissioner of Education from **AASA’s Woman Caucus**. Other awards include: Social Justice Award from the **Westchester Young Women’s Christian Association** and a Humanitarian Award from the New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce.

Formerly, she served the Martin Luther King Child Development Center(as President Emeritus), the United States Service Academy Review Board, 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, the American Education Research Association (as Chair of the Palmer Johnson Memorial Committee), the African American Advisory Committee to Westchester County Executive (as Chair of the Education Committee), the Board of Directors of the Westchester Children’s Association and the March of Dimes; as well as a member of the New York State Commissioner’s Advisory Panel for Children with Handicapping Conditions.

Her growing list of publications includes: “The No Child Left behind Act: “Threats and Opportunities,” *Journal of Negro Education* (2005), “White and Black Females in the Classroom,” *American Educational Journal* (2000); “The Best For Our Children: The Sherburne Earville Story,” Metro Center Press, New York University (1993); “Women of Color: In a Different Context”from

An Action Plan for Equity in New York State Education Administration, New York State Congress of School Administrator Organizations Publications (1994); “The Twin Problems of Declining Enrollment and Fiscal Constraints; A Dissemination Model for Community-Based Decision Making for the Experience of the City School District of New Rochelle”; Monograph, City School District of New Rochelle, New York (1989); “Aspirations and Achievements of Italian and Black American Youths in the New Rochelle Public Schools” ERIC Document (1978); “Urban Education by Whom? For Whom? ” Impact, Vol. 13, No. 2, New York State Association of Curriculum and Development (1971); a book, “The Urban Nomad: A Study of the Abused and Neglected Paradigm for the African American Teenager” (in progress); and “Charter Schools: An Answer to Closing the Achievement Gap for Urban Education? ”(in Progress).

A graduate of Howard University, Nova University, and Columbia University Teacher’s College, Dr. Gray is married to Joseph Morgan, who is also an educator. She is the mother of Diendra Gray Clark, a minister and Philip Gray, a certified CPA and a financial analyst.