

## *Wilma Chapple Anderson Wright*



Wilma is one of the charter and founding members of Kappa Omega Omega Graduate Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated. It was in 1976 she gave leadership to establishing a local chapter of an organization committed to serving the Bakersfield community. Since that time, she has consistently served this community through her work in the sorority, her church, and the educational system.

Wilma was born and raised in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. In 1968, she completed her undergraduate work at Langston University where she also pledged membership to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in the Alpha Zeta Chapter. In 1969, she was recruited to Bakersfield as part of the efforts to diversify the Kern County Education System by hiring more African American Educators

Wilma's professional career was a 34 ½ year journey that includes exemplary service as a teacher and guidance counselor in the Bakersfield City School and the Kern High School Districts. During her tenure as Head Counselor, West High school received recognition as "Head Guidance Department" for the district. Wilma's degrees include Pupil Personnel Services Credential, Lifetime Teaching Credential, BA undergraduate and MA in Education Foundations. She also completed her course work for the Administrative Credential. Additional enrichment classes and education includes classes at UC Berkeley and in Hawaii. After "retiring" from an impressive career as an educator, she continued to serve as the coordinator consultant for Project BEST (Black Excellence in Scholarship and Teaching), an enrichment program for young Black Males in the district. During that time she wrote and received \$150,000 scholarship grant funding for high school senior graduates in the program.

Wilma has received such accolades as Counselor of the Year and Kern County Teacher of the year. She was also instrumental in garnering the Jim Burke Foundations support for several educational programs sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, including the Miss Fashionetta Scholarship Program. For many years, she was Chairman of the Kappa Omega Omega Chapter Scholarship Awards Program for graduating African American High School Seniors. She has actively served on the steering committee for the Miss Fashionetta Program since its inception over 20 years ago. Recently, she served as the General Chairman for Miss Fashionetta 2005, one of the most successful years in total monies awarded for Scholarship for the participants and other youth.

As an active member of St. John Missionary Baptist Church, she lent her remarkable voice to the Evangelical Choir; directed the orchestra recruiting many youth to play their instruments in this ministry; gave leadership as a member of the Education Council providing education and scholarship to High School students, organizing activities such as educational achievement recognition dinners, Back to School Rallies and field trips to college campuses. She also played a leadership role in bringing the Historically Black College Recruitment Tour to Bakersfield to assist local youth in getting admitted into college. Most recently Wilma conducted Character building presentations to youth in our community. She is an exceptional role model to young women actively training them to be successful, respected, sophisticated and Godly.

Wilma's father, Willie Lee Chapple, worked for the railroad, and her Mother, Helen Chapple, worked for the telephone company. Her parents stressed that education was very important and high achievement was expected. Miz Wilma (as we affectionately call her) always knew she was headed to college and she often practiced her teaching skills on her siblings during their formative years. She is the oldest of six children. Wilma has always expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the commitment her parents have shown to her education, moral and spiritual growth.

Wilma and her husband, Rev. Clabe Wright recently decided that it was now time for them to return to their roots, their hometown of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Wilma is looking forward to being able to show love and thanks to her mother by living close to her during her Mom's senior years. It is with a heavy heart that we watched Wilma Anderson leave the community of Bakersfield earlier this month. Our sorority has a large empty place in our chapter family. We miss the love that emanated from our Sister, Wilma Anderson Wright. The Kern County Community will miss her as well. We dedicate Miss Fashionetta 2010 to our sister "Miz Wilma" with all our Love.

The Ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.  
Kappa Omega Omega Chapter