



# Muscogee County School District

2960 Macon Road Columbus, GA 31906

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Dorothy I. Height Elementary Dedication Ceremony New School Dedicated to Civil Rights Leader**

**(Columbus, GA)**-Columbus, Georgia, is home to the first public school in nation named for Dorothy Irene Height, civil rights leader. Students, teachers, parents, staff, administrators and community leaders attended the dedication ceremony on Saturday, August 16, 2014.

Supporters gathered to celebrate the long awaited opening of the new elementary school and to honor the legacy of Height. She is often described as "the godmother of the civil rights movement." Height died in 2010.

"She's such an inspiration," said Principal Tammy Anderson. "She fought for civil rights and for the rights of women. She fought against illiteracy, against unemployment and worked very closely with a lot of leaders."

Dorothy I. Height Elementary is located at 1458 Benning Drive, Columbus, Georgia. The 91,000 sq. ft. state of the art facility has 47 instructional units and approximately 500 students as a result of a merger of students who attended Muscogee County Elementary and Cusseta Road Elementary schools.

Teamwork, loyalty, high academic achievement, and high expectations make up the emblems of the school's crest. The school's mascot, the husky, resembles the mantra and is also known for teamwork, loyalty and overcoming extreme obstacles.

Lois Keith, the co-chairwoman of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., was personally mentored by Height. She became Keith's mentor after they first met in 1990 at a National Black Family Reunion in Washington, D.C.

"She caused me to excel beyond my wildest dreams, to do things and think outside of the box, to be in the trenches to work for women and children around the world, to make a difference in my community, in my church, in my home with children," said Keith.

The Board of Education approved the name of the new school September 2013. Students were excited to start the first day of school in the new facility, which officially opened on Thursday, August 7, 2014.

The new school would not be possible without the support of the community and taxpayers who funded the estimated \$17.5 million to build the school. Funds were allocated to complete the school with the 2009 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST).

“If she was here today, she would be so honored,” added Keith.

For more information, contact Valerie Fuller, Director of Communications & Open Records Officer, [communications@muscogee.k12.ga.us](mailto:communications@muscogee.k12.ga.us), (706) 748-2034.