

Dr. Belton Encouraged Students To Reach Their Highest Potentials

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer

During the nearly 34 years which Dr. Moses Belton spent on the faculty and administrative staffs at Johnson C. Smith University, there was at least one purpose he wanted to fulfill.

"If I couldn't do anything else for the students at Smith, I wanted to make them think," Dr. Belton revealed. "I wanted them to think about their lives in terms of their own information and to use it to reach their highest potentials."

Dr. Belton advised the university students they had to retain their knowledge with strong character. A college education was not a highway to success. Belton learned hard work is essential while he was a student, and he passed this on to his students at Johnson C. Smith. He received his bachelor of science and bachelor of divinity degrees there.

After receiving his master of arts degree at Columbia University, and teaching at a few junior colleges in North and South Carolina, Dr. Belton returned to Johnson C. Smith as the associate dean of men and an instructor in religious education.



Dr. Moses Belton

While filling these positions in the mid-1950s, Dr. Belton also was active in the campus community. He was instrumental in gaining the Southern Regional Conference made up of black, white ministers, educators, and other community leaders throughout the South.

"The purpose of the Southern Regional Conference was to preserve human and economic resources of the South," Dr. Belton explained. The Charlotte Chapter of the Council was known as the

Charlotte Chapter of the Council. Dr. Belton believed that only in Charlotte, and through the Smith and Johnson C. Smith and local chapters of the Southern Regional Conference, could we have progressive attitudes.

Dr. Belton recognized black history being made right on the campus of Johnson C. Smith. He was the registrar of the college for 20 years, and later served as director of public relations and director of admissions during a part of the 1960s. He has many years of Belton stated, "The physical environment has been an inspiration and a task."

Looking at almost day after day of the study of black history and its contributors, Dr. Belton doesn't believe black history should be as relevant as it is today.

"When I was a young man, I was in the school system, and I was in black history classes since integration. There was no excuse," Dr. Belton said. He still believes

as the Jews teach their history in the synagogues, blacks can keep in touch with black culture in their churches.

Dr. Belton remembers attending an assembly where he was initially the only black person to stand with the audience was singing "Black National Anthem."

He had gotten to the point where he was teaching the black students, "If

we'd been singing 'Oh, say can you see, everyone in that building would've stood up immediately.'

Dr. Belton is a former member of several professional and civic organizations. Some of them include the Charlotte Chapter of Commerce, American College Public Relations Association, and Charlotte United Community Service. He has also served as president of the United Negro College Fund.

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