



Montgomery County *Commission for Women*

Montgomery County Women's History Archive



Judith Vaughan-Prather

Judith Vaughan-Prather was appointed as the Executive Director of the Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) in July 2014. The MCW is a 25-member board providing advice on women's issues to the Maryland Department of Human Resources, the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly. Prior to that, she worked for the Montgomery County Commission for Women (CFW) for very nearly 35 years (September 1979 – August 2014), serving as its Executive Director for all but six months of that time. The CFW is a 15-member advisory board providing counsel to the county, state and federal governments on the issues of concern to women. Under her leadership, the Montgomery County CFW conducted successful projects on Single Mothers and Poverty, Educational Equity, Immigrant Women, Sexual Harassment, Pay Equity, Family Equity in the Courts, the Status of Women in Montgomery County, Work and Family Issues, Women and Girls in Technology, and Relationship Violence, among others. The department won several awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for these projects. This work included organizing public events including the annual Women's Legislative Briefing, a conference attended by over 600 individuals and sponsored by 80 community organizations. Under her leadership, the Commission also sponsored the 2010 conference for the National Association of Commissions for Women, including developing private donations and sponsorships to support the 3-day program, and coordinating briefings at the White House and on Capitol Hill.

Ms. Vaughan-Prather holds a Masters Degree in Social Work Administration from the University of Maryland School of Social Work and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Maryland, College Park. Earlier in her career, Ms. Vaughan-Prather supervised a special unit of teenage pregnancy counselors in Baltimore City, supervised the Emergency Shelter and Housing Unit for the Prince George's County Department of Social Services for two years, and was a counselor for pregnant teens for five years in that agency's Single Parent Service. She served as a field instructor for Howard University and the University of Maryland Schools of Social Work for several years. She also taught Sociology for Montgomery College, courses in Social Work for Bowie State College, and has served as a professional training instructor for the Universities of Maryland and Delaware.

Ms. Vaughan-Prather traveled to China in 2013 as a member of the Montgomery County Sister Cities delegation to X'ian. That same year, she served as a Professional Fellow in Turkey in a program sponsored by the American Councils for International Education. She was selected by the Daily Record as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women in 2006 and in 2008 and was honored with the Dorothy Beatty Award for Outstanding Contributions to Women's Rights from the Women's Law Center of Maryland in 2005. She served on the Montgomery County Limited English Proficiency Leadership Team and the County Executive's Senior Sub-cabinet on Vital Aging. She serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Commissions for Women, and the Montgomery College Alumni Association's Board of Governors. On March 15, 2001 she was inducted into the Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame.