

Dear Campus Community,

It with great sadness that I inform you of the death of Cleo "Vickie" Blackston on August 17, 2019 at Lancaster General Hospital Hospice Center. Vickie came to Millersville in 1979 as a Graduate Student and Graduate Assistant for the Resident Life Program and was later employed as a Residence Hall Director and Area Coordinator. She was responsible for multiple aspects of the Housing and Residential Programs Office including the development of staff training initiatives and a grant funded outreach program in the local community that partnered with several local churches to mentor and provide a home-away-from home for minority students as a successful retention effort. She served on numerous campus planning and advisory committees and multiple campus search committees. She was an academic advisor for the Undeclared/Exploratory admit program. In 2008 Vickie was promoted to Managerial Associate Director for Housing and Residential Programs and in 2015 was appointed Interim Director of Housing and Residential Programs. She retired in June of 2016 after 35 years of distinction.

Born in Harrisburg, she was the daughter of the late Aaron Samuel Blackston and Matilda (Green) Blackston and was proud to hail from a very large blended family. She was a graduate of Harrisburg High School where she was distinguished as an award-winning member of the Debate and Oratorical Teams. She received a Bachelor of Science in History degree from Baldwin Wallace University in Berea Ohio where she was a Resident Assistant, President of the Black Student Union, and a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She received a Master of Education – Guidance Counseling from Millersville University.

Vickie is survived by Dana Blackston, brother, husband of Marian; Mark Blackston, brother, husband of Marsha; Lynn Blackston, sister; Constance Davenport, sister, wife of Raymond; and Lorraine Preston, sister, wife of William. She is preceded in death by her brothers Aaron Blackston Jr., Allen Blackston, husband of Janette; Jonathan Blackston, Gomorrah Blackston, Melvin Dennis, husband of Sheryl; and her sisters Aaronette Blackston, Phyllis Williams, wife of Hershel; Joan Lackey, wife of Ben; and Louise Dennis, as well as multiple nieces, nephews and cousins.

Vickie declined to have a formal funeral service and arranged for a private immediate family only pre-cremation observance. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Vickie's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 314 Good Dr, Lancaster, PA 17603 and to the United Negro College Fund, 1805 7th St, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. To send an online condolence, please visit [Snyder Funeral Home](#).

With sadness,

Brian P. Hazlett - Vice President
Student Affairs & Enrollment Management